

#### ARCHER INVESTMENT SERIES TRUST

ARCHER BALANCED FUND – Ticker Symbol – ARCHX
ARCHER INCOME FUND – Ticker Symbol - ARINX
ARCHER STOCK FUND – Ticker Symbol – ARSKX
ARCHER DIVIDEND GROWTH FUND – Ticker Symbol – ARDGX
ARCHER FOCUS FUND – Ticker Symbol – AFOCX
ARCHER MULTI CAP FUND – Ticker Symbol – ALSMX

### STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dated: December 29, 2020

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of the Archer Balanced Fund, the Archer Income Fund, the Archer Stock Fund, the Archer Dividend Growth Fund, the Archer Focus Fund and the Archer Multi Cap Fund dated December 29, 2020. A free copy of the Prospectus or Annual/Semi-Annual Report, when available, can be obtained by writing the transfer agent at Mutual Shareholder Services LLC, 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, OH 44148, or by calling Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC at 1-800-494-2755.

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#### DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND FUNDS

The Archer Investment Series Trust, an Ohio business trust (the "Trust"), is an open-end investment management company established under the laws of Ohio by an Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated October 7, 2009 (the "Trust Agreement"). The Trust Agreement permits the Board of Trustees (the "Board") to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest of separate series. The Trust currently consists of six (6) funds: the Archer Balanced Fund (the "Balanced Fund"), the Archer Income Fund (the "Income Fund"), the Archer Stock Fund (the "Stock Fund"), the Archer Dividend Growth Fund (the "Dividend Growth Fund"), the Archer Focus Fund (the "Focus Fund"), and the Archer Multi Cap Fund (the "Multi Cap Fund").

The investment objective of the Balanced Fund is total return. Total return is comprised of both income and capital appreciation. The Balanced Fund commenced operations on June 11, 2010. Prior to June 11, 2010, the Balanced Fund operated as a series of the Unified Series Trust. The Balanced Fund is a diversified open-end investment company established under the laws of Ohio by an Agreement and Declaration of Trust dated October 17, 2002. The Balanced Fund originally commenced investment operations on September 27, 2005.

The Archer Income Fund and the Archer Stock Fund each commenced investment operations on March 11, 2011 as diversified open-end series. The investment objective of the Income Fund is primarily income generation while secondarily striving for capital appreciation. The investment objective of the Stock Fund is capital appreciation.

The Archer Dividend Growth Fund is a diversified open-end series, management investment which commenced operations on September 1, 2016. The investment objective of the Dividend Growth Fund is to provide income and, as a secondary focus, long-term capital appreciation.

The Archer Focus Fund is an open-end, non-diversified series which commenced operations on December 31, 2019. The investment objective of the Focus Fund is to seek long-term growth of capital.

The Archer Multi Cap Fund is an open-end, non-diversified series which commenced operations on December 31, 2019. The investment objective of the Multi Cap Fund is to seek long-term growth of capital.

The investment advisor to the Funds is Archer Investment Corporation, Inc. (the "Advisor").

The share of each Fund represents an equal proportionate interest in the assets and liabilities belonging to that Fund and is entitled to such dividends and distributions out of income belonging to the Fund as are declared by the Trustees. The share has the same voting and other rights and preferences as any other share of any series of the Trust for matters that affect the Trust as a whole. The Fund may offer additional classes of shares in the future.

The Funds do not issue share certificates. All shares are held in non-certificate form registered on the books of the Fund and the Funds' transfer agent for the account of the shareholder. The shares do not have cumulative voting rights or any preemptive or conversion rights, and the Trustees have the authority from time to time to divide or combine the shares of any series into a greater or lesser number of shares of that series so long as the proportionate beneficial interest in the assets belonging to that series and the rights of shares of any other series are in no way affected. In case of any liquidation of a series, the holders of shares of the series being

liquidated will be entitled to receive as a class a distribution out of the assets, net of the liabilities, belonging to that series. Expenses attributable to any series are borne by that series. Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series are allocated by or under the direction of the Trustees in such manner as the Trustees determine to be fair and equitable. No shareholder is liable to further calls or to assessment by the Trust without his or her express consent.

Any Trustee of the Trust may be removed by vote of the shareholders holding not less than two-thirds of the outstanding shares of the Trust. The Trust does not hold an annual meeting of shareholders. When matters are submitted to shareholders for a vote, the shareholder is entitled to one vote for the whole share he owns and fractional votes for fractional shares he owns. All shares of the Fund have equal voting rights and liquidation rights. The Trust Agreement can be amended by the Trustees, except that certain amendments that could adversely affect the rights of shareholders must be approved by the shareholders affected. All shares of the Fund are subject to involuntary redemption if the Trustees determine to liquidate the Fund. The Fund will provide notice to the shareholders if the Board determines, in its sole judgment, to liquidate the Fund, but the Fund will not be required to obtain shareholder approval prior to such liquidation. An involuntary redemption will create a capital gain or a capital loss, which may have tax consequences about which you should consult your tax advisor.

For information concerning the purchase and redemption of shares of the Fund, see "How to Buy Shares" and "How to Redeem Shares" in the Fund's Prospectus. For a description of the methods used to determine the share price and value of the Fund's assets, see "Determination of Net Asset Value" in the Fund's Prospectus and this SAI.

The Fund may authorize one or more brokers or other intermediaries (an "Intermediary") to receive on its behalf purchase and redemption orders. Such Intermediaries would be authorized to designate others to receive purchase and redemption orders on the Fund's behalf. The Fund will be deemed to have received a purchase or redemption order when an authorized Intermediary or, if applicable, its authorized designee, receives the order.

Customer orders will be priced at the Fund's net asset value next computed after they are received by an authorized Intermediary and accepted by the Fund. The performance of the Fund may be compared in publications to the performance of various indexes and investments for which reliable performance data is available. The performance of the Fund may be compared in publications to averages, performance rankings, or other information prepared by recognized mutual fund statistical services. The Fund's Annual Report contains additional performance information and will be made available to investors upon request and without charge.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT FUNDS INVESTMENT PRACTICES

The Trust's prospectus describes the investment objective and policies of the Funds. The following information is provided for those investors wishing to have more comprehensive information than that contained in the prospectus.

**A.** Equity Securities. Equity securities include common stock and common stock equivalents (such as rights and warrants, and convertible securities). Warrants are options to purchase equity securities at a specified price valid for a specific time period. Rights are similar to warrants, but normally have a short duration and are distributed by the issuer to its shareholders.

- **B.** Common Stock. A common stock represents a proportionate share of the ownership of a company and its value is based on the success of the company's business, any income paid to stockholders, the value of its assets, and general market conditions. In addition to the general risks set forth above, investments in common stocks are subject to the risk that in the event a company in which a Fund invests is liquidated, the holders of preferred stock and creditors of that company will be paid in full before any payments are made to the Fund as a holder of common stock. It is possible that all assets of that company will be exhausted before any payments are made to the Fund.
- C. **<u>Preferred Stock.</u>** Preferred stock has a preference in liquidation (and, generally dividends) over common stock but is subordinated in liquidation to debt. As a general rule the market value of preferred stocks with fixed dividend rates and no conversion rights varies inversely with interest rates and perceived credit risk, with the price determined by the dividend rate. Some preferred stocks are convertible into other securities, (for example, common stock) at a fixed price and ratio or upon the occurrence of certain events. The market price of convertible preferred stocks generally reflects an element of conversion value. Because many preferred stocks lack a fixed maturity date, these securities generally fluctuate substantially in value when interest rates change; such fluctuations often exceed those of long-term bonds of the same issuer. Some preferred stocks pay an adjustable dividend that may be based on an index, formula, auction procedure or other dividend rate reset mechanism. In the absence of credit deterioration, adjustable rate preferred stocks tend to have more stable market values than fixed rate preferred stocks. All preferred stocks are also subject to the same types of credit risks of the issuer as corporate bonds. In addition, because preferred stock is junior to debt securities and other obligations of an issuer, deterioration in the credit rating of the issuer will cause greater changes in the value of a preferred stock than in a more senior debt security with similar yield characteristics. Preferred stocks may be rated by Moody's Investors Services, Inc. ("Moody's") although there is no minimum rating which a preferred stock must have (and a preferred stock may not be rated) to be an eligible investment for the Fund. The Advisor expects, however, that generally the preferred stocks in which the Fund invests will be rated at least Baa by Moody's or, if unrated, of comparable quality in the opinion of the Advisor. Moody's rating with respect to preferred stocks does not purport to indicate the future status of payments of dividends.
- **D.** <u>Depositary Receipts</u>. The Fund may invest in American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"). ADRs are receipts, issued by domestic banks, for shares of a foreign-based company that entitle the holder to dividends and capital gains on the underlying security. Generally, ADRs in registered form are designed for use in the U.S. securities market and ADRs in bearer form are designed for use in securities markets outside the U.S.

Investing abroad also involves different political and economic risks. Foreign investments may be affected by actions of foreign governments adverse to the interests of U.S. investors, including the possibility of expropriation or nationalization of assets, confiscatory taxation, restrictions on U.S. investment or on the ability to repatriate assets or convert currency into U.S. dollars, or other government intervention. There may be a greater possibility of default by foreign governments or foreign government-sponsored enterprises. Investments in foreign countries also involve a risk of local political, economic or social instability, military action or unrest, or adverse diplomatic developments. There is no assurance that the Advisor will be able to anticipate or counter these potential events and their impacts on the Fund's share price.

Prices of ADRs are quoted in U.S. dollars, and ADRs are traded in the U.S. on exchanges or over-the-counter. While ADRs do not eliminate all the risk associated with foreign investments, by investing in ADRs rather than directly in the stock of foreign issuers, the Fund will avoid currency risks during the settlement period

for either purchases or sales. In general, there is a large, liquid market in the U.S. for ADRs quoted on a national securities exchange or on NASDAQ. The information available for ADRs is subject to the accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards of the U.S. market or exchange on which they are traded, which standards are more uniform and more exacting than those to which many foreign issuers may be subject.

To the extent that the Fund acquires ADRs through banks that do not have a contractual relationship with the foreign issuer of the security underlying the ADR to issue and service such ADR, there may be an increased possibility that the Fund would not become aware of and be able to respond to corporate actions such as stock splits or rights offerings involving the foreign issuer in a timely manner.

**E.** <u>Investment Company Securities</u>. Each Fund may invest in shares of other registered investment companies, including exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), money market mutual funds and other mutual funds in pursuit of its investment objective, in accordance with the limitations established under the 1940 Act. This may also include investments in money market mutual funds in connection with a Fund's management of daily cash positions. Investments in the securities of other investment companies may involve duplication of advisory fees and certain other expenses. By investing in another investment company, a Fund becomes a shareholder of that investment company. As a result, Fund shareholders indirectly will bear a Fund's proportionate share of the fees and expenses paid by shareholders of the other investment company, in addition to the fees and expenses Fund shareholders directly bear in connection with the Fund's own operations.

Section 12(d)(1)(A) of the 1940 Act generally prohibits a fund from purchasing (1) more than 3% of the total outstanding voting stock of another fund; (2) securities of another fund having an aggregate value in excess of 5% of the value of the acquiring fund; and (3) securities of the other fund and all other funds having an aggregate value in excess of 10% of the value of the total assets of the acquiring fund. There are some exceptions, however, to these limitations pursuant to various rules promulgated by the SEC.

Exchange-Traded Funds. ETFs are open-end investment companies whose shares are listed on a national securities exchange. An ETF is similar to a traditional mutual fund, but trades at different prices during the day on a security exchange like a stock. Similar to investments in other investment companies discussed above, a Fund's investments in ETFs will involve duplication of advisory fees and other expenses since the Fund will be investing in another investment company. In addition, a Fund's investment in ETFs is also subject to its limitations on investments in investment companies discussed above. To the extent a Fund invests in ETFs which focus on a particular market segment or industry, the Fund will also be subject to the risks associated with investing in those sectors or industries. The shares of the ETFs in which a Fund will invest will be listed on a national securities exchange and the Fund will purchase or sell these shares on the secondary market at its current market price, which may be more or less than its net asset value ("NAV") per share.

As a purchaser of ETF shares on the secondary market, a Fund will be subject to the market risk associated with owning any security whose value is based on market price. ETF shares historically have tended to trade at or near their NAV, but there is no guarantee that they will continue to do so. Unlike traditional mutual funds, shares of an ETF may be purchased and redeemed directly from the ETFs only in large blocks (typically 50,000 shares or more) and only through participating organizations that have entered into contractual agreements with the ETF. The Funds do not expect to enter into such agreements and therefore will not be able to purchase and redeem its ETF shares directly from the ETF.

**F.** Real Estate Investment Trusts and Foreign Real Estate Companies. Each Fund may invest in equity Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") pursuit of its investment objective, in accordance with the limitations established under the 1940 Act. Equity REITs pool investors' funds for investment primarily in commercial real estate properties. REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with several requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Equity REITs generally derive their income from rents on the underlying properties and their value is impacted by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the trusts. REITs are more susceptible to risks associated with the ownership of real estate and the real estate industry in general. REITs are dependent upon specialized management skills, may not be diversified (which may increase the volatility of the REIT's value) and are subject to the risks of financing projects. REITs are also subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers, self-liquidation and the possibility of failing to qualify for tax-free pass-through of income under the Code and to maintain exemption from the 1940 Act. In addition, the Funds indirectly will bear their proportionate share of any expenses paid by REITs in which they invest.

Each Fund may invest in foreign real estate companies pursuit of its investment objective, in accordance with the limitations established under the 1940 Act. Investing in foreign real estate companies makes the Funds susceptible to the risks associated with the ownership of real estate and with the real estate industry in general, as well as risks that relate specifically to the way foreign real estate companies are organized and operated. Foreign real estate companies may be subject to laws, rules and regulations governing those entities and their failure to comply with those laws, rules and regulations could negatively impact the performance of those entities. In addition, foreign real estate companies, like U.S. REITs and mutual funds, have expenses, including management and administration fees, which are paid by their shareholders. As a result, shareholders will absorb their proportional share of duplicate levels of fees when the Funds invest in foreign real estate companies.

- **G.** Fixed Income Securities. The Funds may invest in investment grade fixed income securities. Fixed income securities include corporate debt securities, high yield debt securities, convertible debt securities, municipal securities, U.S. Government securities, mortgage-backed securities, zero coupon bonds, financial industry obligations, repurchase agreements, and participation interests in such securities. Preferred stock and certain common stock equivalents may also be considered to be fixed income securities. Fixed income securities are generally considered to be interest rate sensitive, which means that their value will generally decrease when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. Securities with shorter maturities, while offering lower yields, generally provide greater price stability than longer term securities and are less affected by changes in interest rates. The Advisor considers fixed income securities investment grade quality if they are rated at the time of purchase Baa or higher by Moody's, or if unrated, determined by the Advisor to be of comparable quality. Investment grade municipal securities generally have adequate to strong protection of principal and interest payments. In the lower end of this category, credit quality may be more susceptible to potential future changes in circumstances and the securities have speculative elements.
- 1. <u>Corporate Debt Securities</u>. The Funds may invest in corporate debt securities. These are bonds or notes issued by corporations and other business organizations, including business trusts, in order to finance their credit needs. Corporate debt securities include commercial paper which consists of short term (usually from 1 to 270 days) unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations in order to finance their current operations. Investment grade debt securities generally have adequate to strong protection of principal and interest payments. In the lower end of this category, credit quality may be more susceptible to potential future changes in circumstances and the securities have speculative elements. If the rating of a security drops below investment grade, the Advisor will dispose of the security as soon as practicable (depending on market conditions) unless the

Advisor determines based on its own credit analysis that the security provides the opportunity of meeting the Fund's objective without presenting excessive risk.

2. <u>High Yield Debt Securities ("Junk Bonds")</u>. The Funds may invest up to 5% of its assets (at the time of purchase) in securities that are rated below investment grade. The widespread expansion of government, consumer and corporate debt within the U.S. economy has made the corporate sector, especially cyclically sensitive industries, more vulnerable to economic downturns. An economic downturn could severely disrupt the market for high yield securities and adversely affect the value of outstanding securities and the ability of the issuers to repay principal and interest.

The prices of high yield securities have been found to be more sensitive to adverse economic changes or individual corporate developments. Also, during an economic downturn, highly leveraged issuers may experience financial stress which would adversely affect their ability to service their principal and interest payment obligations, to meet projected business goals, and to obtain additional financing. If the issuer of a security owned by the Funds defaulted, the Funds could incur additional expenses to seek recovery. In addition, periods of economic uncertainty and changes can be expected to result in increased volatility of market prices of high yield securities and the Funds' net asset value. Furthermore, in the case of high yield securities structured as zero coupon or pay-in-kind securities, their market prices are affected to a greater extent by interest rate changes and thereby tend to be more volatile than securities which pay interest periodically and in cash. High yield securities also present risks based on payment expectations. For example, high yield securities may contain redemption or call provisions. If an issuer exercises these provisions in a declining interest rate market, the Funds will have to replace the security with a lower yielding security, resulting in a decreased return for investors. Conversely, a high yield security's value will decrease in a rising interest rate market, as will the value of the Funds' assets. If the Funds experience unexpected net redemptions, this may force it to sell its high yield securities without regard to their investment merits, thereby decreasing the asset base upon which the Funds' expenses can be spread and possibly reducing the Funds' rate of return.

In addition, to the extent that there is no established retail secondary market, there may be thin trading of high yield securities, and this may have an impact on the Funds' ability to accurately value high yield securities and the Funds' assets and on the Funds' ability to dispose of the securities. Adverse publicity and investor perception, whether or not based on fundamental analysis, may decrease the values and liquidity of high yield securities, especially in a thinly traded market.

There are also special tax considerations associated with investing in high yield securities structured as zero coupon or pay-in-kind securities. For example, the Funds report the interest on these securities as income even though it receives no cash interest until the security's maturity or payment date. Also, the shareholders are taxed on this interest even if the Funds do not distribute cash to them. Therefore, in order to pay taxes on this interest, shareholders may have to redeem some of their shares to pay the tax or the Funds may sell some of its assets to distribute cash to shareholders. These actions are likely to reduce the Funds' assets and may thereby increase its expense ratio and decrease its rate of return.

Finally, there are risks involved in applying credit ratings as a method for evaluating high yield securities. For example, credit ratings evaluate the safety of principal and interest payments, not market value risk of high yield securities. Also, since credit rating agencies may fail to timely change the credit ratings to reflect subsequent events, the Funds (in conjunction with the Advisor) will continuously monitor the issuers of high yield

securities to determine if the issuers will have sufficient cash flow and profits to meet required principal and interest payments, and to assure the securities' liquidity so the Funds can meet redemption requests.

- Convertible Securities. The Funds may invest in convertible securities. Convertible 3. securities are securities that may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of the issuer's underlying common shares or the common shares of another company, or that are indexed to an unmanaged market index at the option of the holder during a specified time period. Convertible securities may take the form of convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds or debentures, stock purchase warrants, zero-coupon bonds or liquid-yield option notes, Eurodollar convertible securities, convertible securities of foreign issuers, stock index notes, or a combination of the features of these securities. Prior to conversion, convertible securities have the same general characteristics as non-convertible debt securities and provide a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than those of equity securities of the same or similar issuers. When the market price of a common stock underlying a convertible security increases, the price of the convertible security increasingly reflects the value of the underlying common stock and may rise accordingly. As the market price of the underlying common stock declines, convertible securities tend to trade increasingly on a yield basis and thus may not depreciate to the same extent as the underlying common stock. Convertible securities are ranked senior to common stock on an issuer's capital structure and they are usually of higher quality and normally entail less risk than the issuer's common stock, although the extent to which risk is reduced depends in large measure on the degree to which convertible securities sell above their value as fixed income securities.
- 4. <u>U.S. Government Securities</u>. U.S. Government securities may be backed by the credit of the government as a whole or only by the issuing agency. U.S. Treasury bonds, notes, and bills and some agency securities, such as those issued by the Federal Housing Administration and the Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA), are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government as to payment of principal and interest and are the highest quality government securities. Other securities issued by U.S. Government agencies or instrumentalities, such as securities issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, are supported only by the credit of the agency that issued them, and not by the U.S. Government. Securities issued by the Federal Farm Credit System, the Federal Land Banks, and the Federal Home Loan Banks are supported by the agency's right to borrow money from the U.S. Treasury under certain circumstances, but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government.
- 5. Mortgage-Backed Securities and Asset-Backed Securities. Mortgage-backed securities represent direct or indirect participations in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans secured by real property, and include single- and multi-class pass-through securities and collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs"). Such securities may be issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government agencies or instrumentalities, such as the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), commonly known as "Ginnie Mae," Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA"), commonly known as "Fannie Mae," Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC"), commonly known as "Freddie Mae," or by private issuers, generally originators and investors in mortgage loans, including savings associations, mortgage bankers, commercial banks, investment bankers and special purpose entities (collectively, "private lenders").

Mortgage-backed securities issued by private lenders may be supported by pools of mortgage loans or other mortgage-backed securities that are guaranteed, directly or indirectly, by the U.S. Government or one of its agencies or instrumentalities, or they may be issued without any governmental guarantee of the underlying mortgage assets but with some form of non-governmental credit enhancement. Until recently, FNMA and

FHLMC were government-sponsored corporations owned entirely by private stockholders. In September 2008, at the direction of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, FNMA and FHLMC were placed into conservatorship under the FHFA. The U.S. Government also took steps to provide additional financial support to FNMA and FHLMC. No assurance can be given that the U.S. Treasury initiatives with respect to FNMA and FHLMC will be successful.

Asset-backed debt obligations represent direct or indirect participation in, or are secured by and payable from, assets such as motor vehicle installment sales contracts, other installment loan contracts, home equity loans, leases of various types of property and receivables from credit card or other revolving credit arrangements. The credit quality of most asset-backed securities depends primarily on the credit quality of the assets underlying such securities, how well the entity issuing the security is insulated from the credit risk and bankruptcy of the originator or any other affiliated entities and the amount and quality of any credit enhancement of the securities. Payments or distributions of principal and interest on asset-backed debt obligations may be supported by non-governmental credit enhancements including letters of credit, reserve funds, over-collateralization and guarantees by third parties.

The rate of principal payment on mortgage- and asset-backed securities generally depends on the rate of principal payments received on the underlying assets, which in turn may be affected by a variety of economic and other factors. As a result, the yield on any mortgage- or asset-backed security is difficult to predict with precision and actual yield to maturity may be more or less than the anticipated yield to maturity. The yield characteristics of mortgage- and asset-backed debt obligations differ from those of traditional debt obligations. Among the principal differences are that interest and principal payments are made more frequently on mortgage- and asset-backed debt obligations, usually monthly, and that principal may be prepaid at any time because the underlying assets generally may be prepaid at any time. As a result, if these debt obligations or securities are purchased at a premium, a prepayment rate that is faster than expected will reduce yield to maturity, while a prepayment rate that is slower than expected will have the opposite effect of increasing the yield to maturity. Conversely, if these debt obligations or securities are purchased at a discount, a prepayment rate that is faster than expected will increase yield to maturity, while a prepayment rate that is slower than expected will reduce yield to maturity. Mortgage-backed securities available for reinvestment by the Funds are likely to be greater during a period of declining interest rates and, as a result, are likely to be reinvested at lower interest rates than during a period of rising interest rates. Accelerated prepayments on debt obligations or securities purchased at a premium also impose a risk of loss of principal because the premium may not have been fully amortized at the time the principal is prepaid in full. The market for privately issued mortgage-backed securities is smaller and less liquid than the market for government-sponsored mortgage-backed securities.

While asset-backed securities may be issued with only one class of security, many asset-backed securities are issued in more than one class, each with different payment terms. Mortgage-backed securities may be issued with either a single class of security or multiple classes, which are commonly referred to as a CMO. Multiple class mortgage- and asset-backed securities are issued for two main reasons. First, multiple classes may be used as a method of providing selective credit support. This is accomplished typically through creation of one or more classes whose right to payments on the asset-backed security is made subordinate to the right to such payments of the remaining class or classes. Second, multiple classes may permit the issuance of securities with payment terms, interest rates or other characteristics differing both from those of each other and from those of the underlying assets. Examples include separate trading of registered interest and principal of securities ("STRIPS") (mortgage- and asset-backed securities entitling the holder to disproportionate interests

with respect to the allocation of interest and principal of the assets backing the security), and securities with class or classes having characteristics that mimic the characteristics of non-asset-backed securities, such as floating interest rates (i.e., interest rates that adjust as a specified benchmark changes) or scheduled amortization of principal.

The Fund may invest in stripped mortgage-backed securities, which receive differing proportions of the interest and principal payments from the underlying assets, including interest-only ("IO") and principal-only ("PO") securities. IO and PO mortgage-backed securities may be illiquid. The market value of such securities generally is more sensitive to changes in prepayment and interest rates than is the case with traditional mortgage-backed securities, and in some cases such market value may be extremely volatile.

Mortgage- and asset-backed securities, other than as described above, or in which the payment streams on the underlying assets are allocated in a manner different than those described above may be issued in the future. The Funds may invest in such mortgage- and asset-backed securities if such investment is otherwise consistent with its investment objective and policies and with the investment restrictions of the Funds.

If the Funds purchase mortgage- or asset-backed securities that are "subordinated" to other interests in the same mortgage pool, the Funds as a holder of those securities may only receive payments after the pool's obligations to other investors have been satisfied. An unexpectedly high rate of defaults on the mortgages held by a mortgage pool may substantially limit the pool's ability to make payments of principal or interest to the Funds as a holder of such subordinated securities, reducing the values of those securities or in some cases rendering them worthless. The risk of such defaults is generally higher in the case of mortgage pools that include so called "subprime" mortgages. An unexpectedly high or low rate of prepayments on a pool's underlying mortgages may have a similar effect on subordinated securities. A mortgage pool may issue securities subject to various levels of subordination, and the risk of non-payment affects securities at each level, although the risk is greater in the case of more highly subordinated securities.

6. Zero Coupon and Pay-in-Kind Bonds. Corporate debt securities and municipal obligations include so-called "zero coupon" bonds and "pay-in-kind" bonds. Zero coupon bonds do not make regular interest payments. Instead, they are sold at a deep discount from their face value. The Funds will accrue income on such bonds for tax and accounting purposes, in accordance with applicable law. This income will be distributed to shareholders. Because no cash is received at the time such income is accrued, the Funds may be required to liquidate other portfolio securities to satisfy its distribution obligations. Because a zero-coupon bond does not pay current income, its price can be very volatile when interest rates change. In calculating its dividend, the Fund takes into account as income a portion of the difference between a zero-coupon bond's purchase price and its face value.

Zero coupon bonds may be issued by municipalities, including states, territories and possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia and their political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities and authorities, as well as other qualifying issuers (including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam). The income from municipal securities typically is exempt from regular federal income tax and alternative minimum tax. Municipal securities are issued to obtain funds to construct, repair or improve various public facilities such as airports, bridges, highways, hospitals, housing, schools, streets and water and sewer works, to pay general operating expenses or to refinance outstanding debts. They also may be issued to finance various private activities, including the lending of funds to public or private institutions for construction of housing, educational or medical

facilities or the financing of privately owned or operated facilities. In order to be tax-exempt, municipal securities must meet certain legal requirements. Failure to meet such requirements may cause the interest received and distributed by the Fund to shareholders to be taxable. Changes or proposed changes in federal tax laws may also cause the prices of municipal securities to fall.

The Federal Reserve creates STRIPS (Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities) by separating the coupon payments and the principal payment from an outstanding Treasury security and selling them as individual securities. A broker-dealer creates a derivative zero by depositing a Treasury security with a custodian for safekeeping and then selling the coupon payments and principal payment that will be generated by this security separately. Examples are Certificates of Accrual on Treasury Securities (CATs), Treasury Investment Growth Receipts (TIGRs) and generic Treasury Receipts (TRs). These derivative zero coupon obligations are not considered to be government securities unless they are part of the STRIPS program. Original issue zeros are zero coupon securities issued directly by the U.S. Government, a government agency or by a corporation.

Pay-in-kind bonds allow the issuer, at its option, to make current interest payments on the bonds either in cash or in additional bonds. The value of zero coupon bonds and pay-in-kind bonds is subject to greater fluctuation in response to changes in market interest rates than bonds which make regular payments of interest. Both of these types of bonds allow an issuer to avoid the need to generate cash to meet current interest payments. Accordingly, such bonds may involve greater credit risks than bonds which make regular payment of interest. Even though zero coupon bonds and pay-in-kind bonds do not pay current interest in cash, the Funds are required to accrue interest income on such investments and to distribute such amounts at least annually to shareholders. Thus, the Funds could be required at times to liquidate other investments in order to satisfy its dividend requirements.

- **H.** <u>Financial Service Industry Obligations</u>. Financial service industry obligations include among others, the following:
- 1. <u>Certificates of Deposit</u>. Certificates of deposit (CDs) are negotiable certificates evidencing the indebtedness of a commercial bank or a savings and loan association to repay funds deposited with it for a definite period of time (usually from 14 days to 1 year) at a stated or variable interest rate. However, the Funds may also invest in CDs that require a third party, such as a dealer or bank, to repurchase the CD for its face value upon demand. The Fund treats such CDs as short-term securities, even though their stated maturity may extend beyond one year.
- 2. <u>Time Deposits</u>. Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in a banking institution or a savings and loan association for a specified period of time at a stated interest rate. Time deposits are considered to be illiquid prior to their maturity.
- 3. <u>Bankers' Acceptances</u>. Bankers' acceptances are credit instruments evidencing the obligation of a bank to pay a draft which has been drawn on it by a customer, which instruments reflect the obligation both of the bank and of the drawer to pay the face amount of the instrument upon maturity.
- **I.** Repurchase Agreements. The Fund may invest in repurchase agreements fully collateralized by obligations issued by the U.S. Government or by agencies of the U.S. Government ("U.S. Government

Obligations"). A repurchase agreement is a short-term investment in which the purchaser (i.e., the Funds) acquires ownership of a U.S. Government Obligation (which may be of any maturity) and the seller agrees to repurchase the obligation at a future time at a set price, thereby determining the yield during the purchaser's holding period (usually not more than 7 days from the date of purchase). The repurchase price exceeds the sale price, reflecting the Funds' return on the transaction. This return is unrelated to the interest rate on the underlying security. Any repurchase transaction in which the Funds engage will require full collateralization of the seller's obligation during the entire term of the repurchase agreement. In the event of a bankruptcy or other default of the seller, the Funds could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying security and losses in value. However, the Funds intend to enter into repurchase agreements only with the Trust's custodian, other banks with assets of \$1 billion or more and registered securities dealers determined by the Advisor to be creditworthy.

The Trust's custodian will take possession of the Funds' securities subject to repurchase agreements. The Advisor or custodian will monitor the value of the underlying security the day to ensure that the value of the security always equals or exceeds the repurchase price. Repurchase agreements are also subject to credit risks.

J. **Foreign Securities.** The Funds may invest in foreign securities directly, or indirectly through depository receipts. Investment in securities of foreign issuers (whether directly or through depository receipts) involves somewhat different investment risks from those affecting securities of domestic issuers. In addition to credit and market risk, investments in foreign securities involve sovereign risk, which includes fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, future political and economic developments, and the possible imposition of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions. In addition, with respect to certain countries, there is the possibility of expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxation, political or social instability or diplomatic developments that could adversely affect investments in those countries. There may be less publicly available information about a foreign company than about a U.S. company, and accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements may not be comparable. Securities of many foreign companies are less liquid and their prices more volatile than securities of comparable U.S. companies. Transaction costs of investing in foreign securities markets are generally higher than in the U.S. and there is generally less governmental supervision and regulation of exchanges, brokers and issuers than there is in the U.S. The Funds might have greater difficulty taking appropriate legal action in foreign courts. Dividend and interest income from foreign securities will generally be subject to withholding taxes by the country in which the issuer is located and may not be recoverable by the Fund or the investor. There is no assurance that the Advisor will be able to anticipate or counter these potential events and their impacts on the Funds' share price. Certain foreign securities may be denominated in U.S. dollars and trade on domestic stock exchanges. Where securities of foreign companies are denominated in foreign currencies, exchange rate fluctuations may reduce or eliminate gains or create losses.

**K.** Emerging Markets Securities. The Funds, or underlying funds in which they invest, may invest in emerging markets. Investing in emerging market securities imposes risks different from, or greater than, risks of investing in foreign developed countries. These risks include: smaller market capitalization of securities markets, which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; possible repatriation of investment income and capital. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by the Funds. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

Additional risks of emerging markets securities may include: greater social, economic and political uncertainty and instability; more substantial governmental involvement in the economy; less governmental supervision and regulation; unavailability of currency hedging techniques; companies that are newly organized and small; differences in auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; and less developed legal systems. In addition, emerging securities markets may have different clearance and settlement procedures, which may be unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions or otherwise make it difficult to engage in such transactions. Settlement problems may cause the Funds to miss attractive investment opportunities, hold a portion of its assets in cash pending investment, or be delayed in disposing of a portfolio security. Such a delay could result in possible liability to a purchaser of the security.

**L.** Options, Futures and Other Derivatives Risks. General. The Funds may use certain options (both traded on an exchange and over-the-counter ("OTC")), futures contracts (sometimes referred to as "futures") and options on futures contracts (collectively, "Derivative Instruments") as a substitute for a comparable market position in the underlying security, to attempt to hedge or limit the exposure of the Funds' position, to create a synthetic money market position, for certain tax-related purposes and to effect closing transactions.

The use of Derivative Instruments is subject to applicable regulations of the SEC, the several exchanges upon which they are traded and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC"). In addition, the Funds' ability to use Derivative Instruments will be limited by tax considerations. Pursuant to a claim for exemption filed with the National Futures Association on behalf of the Funds, the Funds are not deemed to be a commodity pool operator or a commodity pool under the Commodity Exchange Act and is not subject to registration or regulation as such under the Commodity Exchange Act. In addition to the instruments, strategies and risks described below and in the Prospectus, the Funds' Advisor may discover additional opportunities in connection with Derivative Instruments and other similar or related techniques. These new opportunities may become available as the Advisor develops new techniques, as regulatory authorities broaden the range of permitted transactions and as new Derivative Instruments or other techniques are developed. The Advisor may utilize these opportunities to the extent that they are consistent with the Funds'; investment objective and permitted by the Fund's investment limitations and applicable regulatory authorities. The Prospectus or this SAI will be supplemented to the extent that new products or techniques involve materially different risks than those described below or in the Prospectus.

Special Risks. The use of Derivative Instruments involves special considerations and risks, certain of which are described below. Risks pertaining to particular Derivative Instruments are described in the sections that follow.

(1) Successful use of most Derivative Instruments depends upon the Advisor's ability to predict movements of the overall securities markets, which requires different skills than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. The ordinary spreads between prices in the cash and futures markets, due to the differences in the natures of those markets, are subject to distortion. Due to the possibility of distortion, a correct forecast of stock market trends by the Advisor may still not result in a successful transaction. The Advisor may be incorrect in its expectations as to the extent of market movements or the time span within which the movements take place, which, thus, may result in the strategy being unsuccessful.

- (2) Options and futures prices can diverge from the prices of their underlying instruments. Options and futures prices are affected by such factors as current and anticipated short-term interest rates, changes in volatility of the underlying instrument and the time remaining until expiration of the contract, which may not affect security prices the same way. Imperfect or no correlation also may result from differing levels of demand in the options and futures markets and the securities markets, from structural differences in how options and futures are traded, and from imposition of daily price fluctuation limits or trading halts.
- (3) As described below, the Funds might be required to maintain assets as "cover," maintain segregated accounts or make margin payments when it takes positions in Derivative Instruments involving obligations to third parties (e.g., Financial Instruments other than purchased options). If the Funds were unable to close out its positions in such Financial Instruments, it might be required to continue to maintain such assets or accounts or make such payments until the position expired or matured. These requirements might impair the Fund's ability to sell a portfolio security or make an investment when it would otherwise be favorable to do so or require that the Fund sell a portfolio security at a disadvantageous time. The Funds' ability to close out a position in a Derivative Instrument prior to expiration or maturity depends on the existence of a liquid secondary market or, in the absence of such a market, the ability and willingness of the other party to the transaction (the "counter-party") to enter into a transaction closing out the position. Therefore, there is no assurance that any position can be closed out at a time and price that is favorable to the Funds.
- (4) Losses may arise due to unanticipated market price movements, lack of a liquid secondary market for any particular instrument at a particular time or due to losses from premiums paid by the Funds on options transactions.

Cover. Transactions using Derivative Instruments, other than purchased options, expose the Funds to an obligation to another party. The Funds will not enter into any such transactions unless it owns either (1) an offsetting ("covered") position in securities or other options or futures contracts or (2) cash and liquid assets with a value, marked-to-market daily, sufficient to cover its potential obligations to the extent not covered as provided in (1) above. The Funds will comply with SEC guidelines regarding cover for these instruments and will, if the guidelines so require, set aside cash or liquid assets in an account with its custodian, Huntington National Bank (the "Custodian"), or another approved custodian, in the prescribed amount as determined daily.

Assets used as cover or held in an account cannot be sold while the position in the corresponding Derivative Instrument is open, unless they are replaced with other appropriate assets. As a result, the commitment of a large portion of the Fund's assets to cover accounts could impede portfolio management or the Fund's ability to meet redemption requests or other current obligations.

Options. The value of an option position will reflect, among other things, the current market value of the underlying investment, the time remaining until expiration, the relationship of the exercise price to the market price of the underlying investment and general market conditions. Options that expire unexercised have no value. Options currently are traded on the Chicago Board Options Exchange ("CBOE"), the American Stock and Options Exchange ("AMEX") and other exchanges, as well as the OTC markets.

By buying a call option on a security, the Funds have the right, in return for the premium paid, to buy the security underlying the option at the exercise price. By writing (selling) a call option and receiving a premium, the Funds become obligated during the term of the option to deliver securities underlying

the option at the exercise price if the option is exercised. By buying a put option, the Funds have the right, in return for the premium, to sell the security underlying the option at the exercise price. By writing a put option, the Funds become obligated during the term of the option to purchase the securities underlying the option at the exercise price.

Because options premiums paid or received by the Funds are small in relation to the market value of the investments underlying the options, buying and selling put and call options can be more speculative than investing directly in securities.

The Funds may effectively terminate their right or obligation under an option by entering into a closing transaction. For example, the Funds may terminate their obligation under a call or put option that it had written by purchasing an identical call or put option. This is known as a closing purchase transaction. Conversely, the Fund may terminate a position in a put or call option it had purchased by writing an identical put or call option. This is known as a closing sale transaction. Closing transactions permit the Funds to realize profits or limit losses on an option position prior to its exercise or expiration.

Risks of Options on Securities. Exchange-traded options in the United States are issued by a clearing organization affiliated with the exchange on which the option is listed that, in effect, guarantees completion of every exchange-traded option transaction. In contrast, OTC options are contracts between the Funds and their counter-party (usually a securities dealer or a bank) with no clearing organization guarantee. Thus, when the Funds purchase an OTC option, it relies on the counter-party from whom it purchased the option to make or take delivery of the underlying investment upon exercise of the option. Failure by the counter-party to do so would result in the loss of any premium paid by the Funds as well as the loss of any expected benefit of the transaction.

The Funds' ability to establish and close out positions in exchange-traded options depends on the existence of a liquid market. However, there can be no assurance that such a market will exist at any particular time. Closing transactions can be made for OTC options only by negotiating directly with the counterparty or by a transaction in the secondary market if any such market exists. There can be no assurance that the Funds will in fact be able to close out an OTC option position at a favorable price prior to expiration. In the event of insolvency of the counter-party, the Funds might be unable to close out an OTC option position at any time prior to its expiration.

If the Funds were unable to affect a closing transaction for an option it had purchased, it would have to exercise the option to realize any profit. The inability to enter into a closing purchase transaction for a covered call option written by the Funds could cause material losses because the Funds would be unable to sell the investment used as cover for the written option until the option expires or is exercised.

Options on Indices. An index fluctuates with changes in the market values of the securities included in the index. Options on indices give the holder the right to receive an amount of cash upon exercise of the option. Receipt of this cash amount will depend upon the closing level of the index upon which the option is based being greater than (in the case of a call) or less than (in the case of put) the exercise price of the option. Some stock index options are based on a broad market index such as the NYSE Composite Index or the AMEX Major Market Index or on a narrower index such as the Philadelphia Stock Exchange Over-the-Counter Index.

The governing Boards of the exchanges has established limitations governing the maximum number of call or put options on the same index that may be bought or written by a single investor, whether acting alone or in concert with others (regardless of whether such options are written on the same or different exchanges or are held or written on one or more accounts or through one or more brokers). Under these limitations, option positions of all investment companies advised by the Advisor are combined for purposes of these limits. Pursuant to these limitations, an exchange may order the liquidation of positions and may impose other sanctions or restrictions. These position limits may restrict the number of listed options that the Funds may buy or sell.

Puts and calls on indices are similar to puts and calls on securities or futures contracts except that all settlements are in cash and gain or loss depends on changes in the index in question rather than on price movements in individual securities or futures contracts. When the Funds write a call on an index, it receives a premium and agrees that, prior to the expiration date, the purchaser of the call, upon exercise of the call, will receive from the Funds an amount of cash if the closing level of the index upon which the call is based is greater than the exercise price of the call. The amount of cash is equal to the difference between the closing price of the index and the exercise price of the call times a specified multiple ("multiplier"), which determines the total value for the point of such difference. When the Funds buy a call on an index, it pays a premium and has the same rights to such call as are indicated above. When the Funds buy a put on an index, it pays a premium and has the right, prior to the expiration date, to require the seller of the put, upon the Funds' exercise of the put, to deliver to the Funds an amount of cash if the closing level of the index upon which the put is based is less than the exercise price of the put, which amount of cash is determined by the multiplier, as described above for calls. When the Funds writes a put on an index, it receives a premium and the purchaser of the put has the right, prior to the expiration date, to require the Funds to deliver to it an amount of cash equal to the difference between the closing level of the index and the exercise price times the multiplier if the closing level is less than the exercise price.

Risks of Options on Indices. If the Funds have purchased an index option and exercises it before the closing index value for that day is available, it runs the risk that the level of the underlying index may subsequently change. If such a change causes the exercised option to fall out-of-the-money, the Funds will be required to pay the difference between the closing index value and the exercise price of the option (times the applicable multiplier) to the assigned writer.

OTC Options. Unlike exchange-traded options, which are standardized with respect to the underlying instrument, expiration date, contract size and strike price, the terms of OTC options (options not traded on exchanges) generally are established through negotiation with the other party to the option contract. While this type of arrangement allows the Funds great flexibility to tailor the option to its needs, OTC options generally involve greater risk than exchange-traded options, which are guaranteed by the clearing organization of the exchanges where they are traded.

Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts. A futures contract obligates the seller to deliver (and the purchaser to take delivery of) the specified security on the expiration date of the contract. An index futures contract obligates the seller to deliver (and the purchaser to take) an amount of cash equal to a specific dollar amount times the difference between the value of a specific index at the close of the last trading day of the contract and the price at which the agreement is made. No physical delivery of the underlying securities in the index is made.

When the Funds write an option on a futures contract, it becomes obligated, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in the futures contract at a specified exercise price at any time during the term of the option. If the Funds write a call, it assumes a short futures position. If it writes a put, it assumes a long futures position. When the Funds purchase an option on a futures contract, it acquires the right in return for the premium it pays to assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put).

Whether the Funds realize a gain or loss from futures activities depends upon movements in the underlying security or index. The extent of the Funds' loss from an unhedged short position in futures contracts or from writing unhedged call options on futures contracts is potentially unlimited. The Funds only purchase and sell futures contracts and options on futures contracts that are traded on a U.S. exchange or board of trade.

No price is paid upon entering into a futures contract. Instead, at the inception of a futures contract the Fund is required to deposit "initial margin" in an amount generally equal to 10% or less of the contract value. Margin also must be deposited when writing a call or put option on a futures contract, in accordance with applicable exchange rules. Unlike margin in securities transactions, initial margin does not represent a borrowing, but rather is in the nature of a performance bond or good-faith deposit that is returned to the Funds at the termination of the transaction if all contractual obligations have been satisfied. Under certain circumstances, such as periods of high volatility, the Funds may be required by an exchange to increase the level of its initial margin payment, and initial margin requirements might be increased generally in the future by regulatory action.

Subsequent "variation margin" payments are made to and from the futures commission merchant daily as the value of the futures position varies, a process known as "marking-to-market." Variation margin does not involve borrowing, but rather represents a daily settlement of the Funds' obligations to or from a futures commission merchant. When the Fund purchases an option on a futures contract, the premium paid plus transaction costs is all that is at risk. In contrast, when the Funds purchase or sell a futures contract or writes a call or put option thereon, it is subject to daily variation margin calls that could be substantial in the event of adverse price movements. If the Funds have insufficient cash to meet daily variation margin requirements, it might need to sell securities at a time when such sales are disadvantageous.

Purchasers and sellers of futures contracts and options on futures can enter into offsetting closing transactions, similar to closing transactions in options, by selling or purchasing, respectively, an instrument identical to the instrument purchased or sold. Positions in futures and options on futures contracts may be closed only on an exchange or board of trade that provides a secondary market. However, there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for a particular contract at a particular time. In such event, it may not be possible to close a futures contract or options position.

Under certain circumstances, futures exchanges may establish daily limits on the amount that the price of a futures contract or an option on a futures contract can vary from the previous day's settlement price. Once that limit is reached, no trades may be made that day at a price beyond the limit. Daily price limits do not limit potential losses because prices could move to the daily limit for several consecutive days with little or no trading, thereby preventing liquidation of unfavorable positions.

If the Funds were unable to liquidate a futures contract or an option on a futures position due to the absence of a liquid secondary market or the imposition of price limits, it could incur substantial losses. The Funds would continue to be subject to market risk with respect to the position. In addition, except in the case of purchased options, the Funds would continue to be required to make daily variation margin payments and might be required to maintain cash or liquid assets in an account.

Risks of Futures Contracts and Options Thereon. The ordinary spreads between prices in the cash and futures markets (including the options on futures markets), due to differences in the natures of those markets, are subject to the following factors, which may create distortions. First, all participants in the futures market are subject to margin deposit and maintenance requirements. Rather than meeting additional margin deposit requirements, investors may close futures contracts through offsetting transactions, which could distort the normal relationships between the cash and futures markets. Second, the liquidity of the futures market depends on participants entering into offsetting transactions rather than making or taking delivery. To the extent participants decide to make or take delivery, liquidity in the futures market could be reduced, thus producing distortion. Third, from the point of view of speculators, the deposit requirements in the futures market are less onerous than margin requirements in the securities market. Therefore, increased participation by speculators in the futures market may cause temporary price distortions.

Combined Positions. The Funds may purchase and write options in combination with the other. For example, the Funds may purchase a put option and write a call option on the same underlying instrument, in order to construct a combined position whose risk and return characteristics are similar to selling a futures contract. Another possible combined position would involve writing a call option at one strike price and buying a call option at a lower price, in order to reduce the risk of the written call option in the event of a substantial price increase. Because combined options positions involve multiple trades, they result in higher transaction costs and may be more difficult to open and close out.

M. Rights and Warrants. Each Fund may invest in rights and warrants pursuant to its investment strategies. Warrants are in effect longer-term call options. They give the holder the right to purchase a given number of shares of a particular company at specified prices within certain periods of time. Rights are similar to warrants except that they have a substantially shorter term. The purchaser of a warrant expects that the market price of the security will exceed the purchase price of the warrant plus the exercise price of the warrant, thus giving him a profit. Of course, since the market price may never exceed the exercise price before the expiration date of the warrant, the purchaser of the warrant risks the loss of the entire purchase price of the warrant. Warrants generally trade in the open market and may be sold rather than exercised.

Warrants are sometimes sold in unit form with other securities of an issuer. Units of warrants and common stock may be employed in financing young, unseasoned companies. The purchase price of a warrant varies with the exercise price of the warrant, the current market value of the underlying security, the life of the warrant and various other investment factors. Rights and warrants may be considered more speculative and less liquid than certain other types of investments in that they do not entitle a holder to dividends or voting rights with respect to the underlying securities nor do they represent any rights in the assets of the issuing company and may lack a secondary market.

**N.** When Issued Securities and Forward Commitments. The Focus Fund may buy and sell securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis, with payment and delivery taking place at a future date. The price

and interest rate that will be received on the securities are each fixed at the time the buyer enters into the commitment. The Fund may enter into such forward commitments if it holds, and maintains until the settlement date in a separate account at the Fund's Custodian, cash or U.S. Government securities in an amount sufficient to meet the purchase price. The Fund will not invest more than 25% of its total assets in forward commitments. Forward commitments involve a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines prior to the settlement date. Any change in value could increase fluctuations in the Fund's share price and yield. Although the Fund will generally enter into forward commitments with the intention of acquiring securities for its portfolio, a Fund may dispose of a commitment prior to the settlement if the Adviser deems it appropriate to do so.

O. Special Situations. The Funds may invest in special situations. A special situation arises when the Adviser believes that the securities of an issuer will be recognized and appreciate in value due to a specific development with respect to that issuer. Developments creating a special situation might include significant changes in a company's allocation of its existing capital, a restructuring of assets, a redirection of free cash flows, a new product or process, a technological breakthrough, a management change or other extraordinary corporate event or a difference in market supply and demand for the security. The Funds' performance could suffer if the anticipated development in a "special situation" investment does not occur or does not attract the expected attention.

**P.** Cybersecurity. As the use of technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Funds have become potentially more susceptible to operational and financial risks through breaches in cybersecurity. These risks include theft, loss, misuse, improper release, corruption and destruction of, or unauthorized access to, confidential or highly restricted data relating to a Fund and its shareholders; and compromises or failures to systems, networks, devices and applications relating to the operations of a Fund and its service providers. Cybersecurity issues may result in, among other things, financial losses to a Fund and its shareholders; the inability of a Fund to transact business with its shareholders or to engage in portfolio transactions; delays or mistakes in the calculation of a Fund's NAV or other materials provided to shareholders; the inability to process transactions with shareholders or other parties; violations of privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties and reputational damage; and compliance and remediation costs, legal fees and other expenses. A Fund's service providers, financial intermediaries, companies in which a Fund invests and parties with which a Fund engages in portfolio or other transactions also may be adversely impacted by cybersecurity risks, resulting in losses to a Fund or its shareholders. There can be no guarantee that any risk management systems established to address to reduce cybersecurity risks will succeed, and the Funds cannot control such systems put in place by service providers, issuers or other third parties whose operations may affect the Funds and/or their shareholders.

### **INVESTMENT LIMITATIONS**

A. <u>Fundamental</u>. The investment limitations described below have been adopted by the Trust with respect to each Fund and are fundamental ("Fundamental"), i.e., they may not be changed without the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of each Fund. As used in the Prospectus and this SAI, the term "majority of the outstanding shares" of the Fund means the lesser of (1) 67% or more of the outstanding shares of each Fund present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of each Fund are present or represented at such meeting; or (2) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of each Fund. Other investment practices which may be changed by the Board of Trustees without the approval of shareholders to the extent permitted by applicable law, regulation or regulatory policy are considered non-fundamental ("Non-Fundamental").

- 1. Borrowing Money. The Funds will not 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 Funds; 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 Funds' total assets at the time when the borrowing is made. This limitation does not preclude the Funds from entering into reverse repurchase transactions, provided that the Funds have an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings and repurchase commitments of the Funds pursuant to reverse repurchase transactions.
- 2. Senior Securities. The Funds will not issue senior securities. This limitation is not applicable to activities that may be deemed to involve the issuance or sale of a senior security by the Funds, provided that the Funds' engagement in such activities is consistent with or permitted by the 1940 Act, the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder or interpretations of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or its staff.
- **3. Underwriting**. The Funds will not act as underwriter of securities issued by other persons. This limitation is not applicable to the extent that, in connection with the disposition of portfolio securities (including restricted securities), the Funds may be deemed an underwriter under certain federal securities laws.
- **4. Real Estate**. The Funds will not purchase or sell real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities which are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude the Funds 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 real estate investment trusts).
- **5. Commodities.** The Funds will not purchase or sell commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments. This limitation does not preclude the Funds from purchasing or selling options or futures contracts, from investing in securities or other instruments backed by commodities or from investing in companies which are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities.
- **6. Loans**. The Funds will not make loans to other persons, except (a) by loaning portfolio securities, (b) by engaging in repurchase agreements, or (c) by purchasing nonpublicly offered debt securities. 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. Concentration.** The Funds will not invest 25% or more of its total assets in a particular industry or group of industries. 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.
- **8. Diversification**. As to the each of the Archer Balanced Fund, Archer Income Fund, Archer Stock Fund and Archer Dividend Growth Fund, with respect to 75% of its total assets, the Fund will not purchase securities issued by any one issuer (other than cash, cash items, or securities issued or guaranteed by the government of the United States or its agencies or instrumentalities) if, as a result at the time of such purchase, more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets would be invested in the securities of that issuer, or if it would own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of that issuer.

With respect to the percentages adopted by the Trust as maximum limitations on its investment policies and limitations, an excess above the fixed percentage will not be a violation of the policy or limitation unless the excess results immediately and directly from the acquisition of any security or the action taken. This paragraph does not apply to the borrowing policy set forth in paragraph #1 above.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing limitations, any investment company, whether organized as a trust, association or corporation, or a personal holding company, may be merged or consolidated with or acquired by the Trust, provided that if such merger, consolidation or acquisition results in an investment in the securities of any issuer prohibited by said paragraphs, the Trust shall, within ninety days after the consummation of such merger, consolidation or acquisition, dispose of all of the securities of such issuer so acquired or such portion thereof as shall bring the total investment therein within the limitations imposed by said paragraphs above as of the date of consummation.

- **B.** Non-Fundamental. The following limitations have been adopted by the Trust with respect to the Funds and are Non-Fundamental (see "Investment Limitations Fundamental" above).
- 1. Pledging. The Funds will not mortgage, pledge, hypothecate or in any manner transfer, as security for indebtedness, any assets of the Fund except as may be necessary in connection with borrowings described in Fundamental limitation (1) above. Margin deposits, security interests, liens and collateral arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investments and techniques are not deemed to be a mortgage, pledge or hypothecation of assets for purposes of this limitation.
- **2. Margin Purchases.** The Funds will not purchase securities or evidences of interest thereon on "margin." This limitation is not applicable to short-term credit obtained by the Funds for the clearance of purchases and sales or redemption of securities, or to arrangements with respect to transactions involving options, futures contracts, short sales and other permitted investments and techniques.
  - 3. Loans of Portfolio Securities. The Funds will not make loans of portfolio securities.

#### INVESTMENT ADVISOR

The Advisor of each of the Archer Funds is the Archer Investment Corporation. Archer Investment Corporation has also been the investment Advisor of the Archer Balanced Fund and its Predecessor Fund since the inception of that fund on September 27, 2005. The Funds' primary portfolio manager, Troy Patton, is the principal shareholder of the Advisor who has served as the primary portfolio manager of the Archer Balanced Fund and its Predecessor Fund since its inception in 2005.

Under the terms of the management agreement (the "Agreement"), the Advisor manages the Funds' investments subject to approval of the Board of Trustees. As compensation for its management services, each Fund is obligated to pay the Advisor a fee computed and accrued daily and paid monthly at an annual rate of 0.50% of the average daily net assets of each Fund, respectively. The Advisor contractually has agreed to waive its fee and/or reimburse certain Fund operating expenses, but only to the extent necessary so that the Fund's total operating expenses, excluding brokerage fees and commissions, any 12b-1 fees, borrowing costs (such as interest

and dividend expenses on securities sold short), taxes, extraordinary expenses and any indirect expenses (such as Fees and Expenses of Acquired Funds), do not exceed, 1.20% of its average daily net assets as to the Archer Balanced Fund, 0.96% of its average daily net assets as to the Archer Income Fund, 1.23% of its average daily net assets as to the Archer Dividend Growth Fund, 1.20% of its average daily net assets as to the Archer Focus Fund, and 0.95% of its daily net assets as to the Archer Multi Cap Fund. The contractual agreement is in effect through December 31, 2023. The waiver or reimbursement by the advisor is subject to repayment by each Fund within the three (3) fiscal years following the fiscal year in which the particular waiver or expense was incurred; provided that the current year's expense ratio is less than the prior year contractual expense cap that was in place when such prior year expenses were waived.

The following table describes the advisory fees paid to the Advisor by the Archer Balanced Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

| Fiscal Year Ended | Advisory Fees<br>Accrued | Total Fees<br>Waived and/or<br>Expenses Reimbursed | Net Advisory<br>Fees Paid<br>(Reimbursed) |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| August 31, 2018   | \$261,359                | \$145,092  | \$116,267                                 |
| August 31, 2019   | \$263,570                | \$144,915  | \$118,655                                 |
| August 31, 2020   | \$194,927                | \$63,223   | \$131,704                                 |

The following table describes the advisory fees paid to the Advisor by the Archer Income Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

| Fiscal Year Ended | Advisory Fees<br>Accrued | Total Fees<br>Waived and/or<br>Expenses Reimbursed | Net Advisory<br>Fees Paid<br>(Reimbursed) |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| August 31, 2018   | \$59,653                 | \$85,337   | (\$25,684)                                |
| August 31, 2019   | \$59,262                 | \$85,623   | (\$26,361)                                |
| August 31, 2020   | \$57,947                 | \$87,409   | (\$29,462)                                |

The following table describes the advisory fees paid to the Advisor by the Archer Stock Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

| Fiscal Year Ended | Advisory Fees | Total Fees          | Net Advisory |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                   | Accrued       | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid    |
|                   |               | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed) |
| August 31, 2018   | \$120,075     | \$77,426            | \$42,649     |
| August 31, 2019   | \$126,414     | \$86,777            | \$39,637     |
| August 31, 2020   | \$95,492      | \$45,043            | \$50,449     |

The following table describes the advisory fees paid to the Advisor by the Archer Dividend Growth Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

| Fiscal Year Ended | Advisory Fees | Total Fees    | Net Advisory |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                   | Accrued       | Waived and/or | Fees Paid    |

|                 |           | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed) |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|
| August 31, 2018 | \$110,340 | \$126,345           | (\$16,005)   |
| August 31, 2019 | \$125,687 | \$124,435           | \$1,252      |
| August 31, 2020 | \$90,255  | \$91,827            | (\$1,572)    |

The following table describes the advisory fees paid to the Advisor by the Archer Focus Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

| Fiscal Year Ended | Advisory Fees | Total Fees          | Net Advisory |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                   | Accrued       | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid    |
|                   |               | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed) |
| August 31, 2020   | \$5,431       | \$37,960            | \$32,529     |

The following table describes the advisory fees paid to the Advisor by the Archer Multi Cap Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

| Fiscal Year Ended | Advisory Fees | Total Fees          | Net Advisory |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                   | Accrued       | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid    |
|                   |               | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed) |
| August 31, 2020   | \$8,221       | \$34,482            | \$26,261     |

The Advisor may make payments to banks or other financial institutions that provide shareholder services and administer shareholder accounts. If a bank or other financial institution were prohibited from continuing to perform all or a part of such services, management of the Fund believes that there would be no material impact on the Fund or its shareholders. Banks and other financial institutions may charge their customers fees for offering these services to the extent permitted by applicable regulatory authorities, and the overall return to those shareholders availing themselves of the bank services may be lower than to those shareholders who do not. The Fund may from time to time purchase securities issued by banks and other financial institutions which provide such services; however, in selecting investments for the Fund, no preference will be shown for such securities.

# **About the Portfolio Manager**

Messrs. Troy C. Patton, Steven Demas and John Rosebrough have day-to-day responsibility for managing the Funds' portfolio. The investment decisions for the Funds typically are made jointly by Mr. Patton, Mr. Demas and Mr. Rosebrough, although Mr. Patton has ultimate decision-making authority with respect to such decisions.

Troy C. Patton, Managing Director of the Advisor, serves as the portfolio manager of the Funds and has primary responsibility for making investment decisions for the Funds ("Portfolio Manager"). As of August 31, 2020, the Portfolio Manager was responsible for the management of the following types of accounts in addition to the Fund:

| Portfolio<br>Manager | Total Accounts By Type   | Total Assets By<br>Account Type | Number of Accounts<br>by Type Subject to a<br>Performance Fee | Total Assets By<br>Account Type<br>Subject to a<br>Performance Fee |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Troy C. Patton       | Investment Companies: 0 Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0 Other Accounts: 2000 | N/A<br>N/A<br>\$300 million     | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A   | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A  |

Mr. Patton is entitled to receive a share of the net profits, if any, of the Advisor's operations, as determined from time to time by the Advisor. As of August 31, 2020, Mr. Patton beneficially owned shares of the Fund as follows:

| Name of Portfolio Manager | Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund (None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001-\$500,000, \$500,001-\$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000) |                     |  |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|--|
|                           | Archer Balanced Fund  | \$100,001-\$500,000 |  |
|                           | Archer Income Fund  | None                |  |
| Troy C. Dotton            | Archer Stock Fund   | \$50,001-\$100,000  |  |
| Troy C. Patton            | Archer Dividend Growth Fund   | \$100,001-\$500,000 |  |
|                           | Archer Focus Fund   | \$10,001-\$50,000   |  |
|                           | Archer Multi Cap Fund   | \$100,001-\$500,000 |  |

As of August 31, 2020, Mr. Demas, jointly responsible for the Funds' portfolio management, was also responsible for the management of the following types of accounts, in addition to the Funds:

| Portfolio<br>Manager | Number of Accounts by<br>Account Type                                     | Total Assets By<br>Account Type | Number of Accounts<br>by Type Subject to a<br>Performance Fee | Total Assets By<br>Account Type<br>Subject to a<br>Performance Fee |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Steven Demas         | Investment Companies: 0 Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0 Other Accounts: 154 | N/A<br>N/A<br>\$25 million      | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A   | N/A<br>N/A<br>N/A  |

Mr. Demas is entitled to receive a share of the net profits, if any, of the Advisor's operations, as determined from time to time by the Advisor. As of August 31, 2020, Mr. Demas beneficially owned shares of the Fund as follows:

| Name of Portfolio Manager | Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund (None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001-\$500,000, \$500,001-\$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000) |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Steven Demas              | Archer Balanced Fund<br>Archer Dividend Growth Fund<br>Archer Stock Fund<br>Archer Income Fund  | \$10,001 - \$50,000<br>\$10,001 - \$50,000<br>\$10,001 - \$50,000<br>None |
|                           | Archer Focus Fund Archer Multi Cap Fund   | None<br>None  |

As of August 31, 2020, Mr. Rosebrough, is jointly responsible for the Funds' portfolio management, was also responsible for the management of the following types of accounts.

| Portfolio<br>Manager | Number of Accounts by<br>Account Type | Total Assets By<br>Account Type | Number of Accounts<br>by Type Subject to a<br>Performance Fee | Total Assets By<br>Account Type<br>Subject to a<br>Performance Fee |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
|                      | Investment Companies: 0               | N/A                             | N/A   | N/A  |
| John<br>Rosebrough   | Pooled Investment Vehicles: 0         | N/A                             | N/A   | N/A  |
| rescorough           | Other Accounts: 14                    | \$21,000,000                    | N/A   | N/A  |
|                      |                                       |                                 |   |  |

Mr. Rosebrough is entitled to receive a share of the net profits, if any, of the Advisor's operations, as determined from time to time by the Advisor. As of August 31, 2020, Mr. Rosebrough the Portfolio Managers beneficially owned shares of the Fund as follows:

| Name of Portfolio Manager | Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund (None, \$1-\$10,000, \$10,001-\$50,000, \$50,001-\$100,000, \$100,001-\$500,000, \$500,001-\$1,000,000, Over \$1,000,000) |                      |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|
|                           | Archer Balanced Fund  | \$100,001- \$500,000 |
|                           | Archer Income Fund  | \$100,001- \$500,000 |
| John Rosebrough           | Archer Stock Fund   | \$100,001- \$500,000 |
| John Rosebrough           | Archer Dividend Growth Fund   | \$100,001- \$500,000 |
|                           | Archer Focus Fund   | \$100,001- \$500,000 |
|                           | Archer Multi Cap Fund   | None                 |

As set forth above, the Portfolio Managers provides investment advisory and other services to clients other than the Funds. In addition, the Portfolio Managers may carry on investment activities for their own account(s) and/or the accounts of immediate family members. The Funds have no interest in these activities. As a result of the foregoing, the Portfolio Managers are engaged in activities other than on behalf of the Funds. Conflicts may arise as a result of the Portfolio Managers' differing economic interests in respect of such activities, such as with respect to allocating investment opportunities. For example, the Portfolio Managers may manage such other accounts on terms that are more favorable than the terms on which the Advisor manages the Funds, such as in cases where the Advisor receives higher fees from the other accounts than the management fee received from the Funds.

There may be circumstances under which the Portfolio Managers will cause one or more other accounts to commit a larger percentage of their assets to an investment opportunity than the percentage of the Funds' assets that the Portfolio Managers commit to such investment. There also may be circumstances under which the Portfolio Managers purchase or sell an investment for the other accounts and do not purchase or sell the same investment for the Funds, or purchase or sell an investment for the Funds and do not purchase or sell the same investment for the other accounts.

It is generally the Advisor's policy that investment decisions for all accounts managed by the Portfolio Managers be made based on a consideration of the accounts' respective investment objectives and policies, and other needs and requirements affecting the accounts; and that investment transactions and opportunities be fairly allocated among the Funds and other accounts. For example, the Advisor has written policies and procedures with respect to allocation of block trades and/or investment opportunities among the Funds and other clients of the Advisor. When feasible, the Portfolio Managers will group or block various orders to more efficiently execute orders and reduce commissions in order to benefit the Funds and other client accounts. In the event that the Advisor wants to purchase or sell the same security for the Funds and multiple client accounts on a given date and limited quantities are available, the purchases and sales will normally be made on a pro rata, average price per share basis. To the extent that the Funds and another of the Advisor's clients seek to acquire the same security at the same time, the Funds may not be able to acquire as large a position in such security as it desires or it may have to pay a higher price for the security. Similarly, the Funds may not be able to obtain as large an execution of an order to sell or as high a price for any particular portfolio security if the other client desires to sell the same portfolio security at the same time. Pursuant to the Code of Ethics adopted by the of the Trust and the Advisor, the Portfolio Managers are prohibited from effecting transactions for their personal accounts which are contrary to recommendations being made to the Funds. In addition, the Portfolio Managers are prohibited from competing with the Fund in connection with such transactions.

# MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT APPROVAL

Archer Investment Corporation ("AIC" or "Advisor") is retained to manage the investments comprising the portfolios of the following series (each may be referred to herein as a "Fund" or collectively as the "Funds") of the Archer Investment Series Trust (the "Trust"): the Archer Balanced Fund (the "Balanced Fund"), the Archer Stock Fund (the "Stock Fund"), the Archer Income Fund (the "Income Fund"), the Archer Dividend Growth Fund (the "Dividend Growth Fund"), the Archer Focus Fund (the "Focus Fund") and the Archer Multi Cap Fund (the "Multi Cap Fund"), (collectively hereinafter referred to as the "Funds") pursuant to the Management Service Agreement and Expense Limitation Agreement (the "Agreements") between the Advisor and the Trust with respect to the Funds. At the in-person regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Trust that was held on August 20, 2020, the Independent Trustees, trustees who are not parties to the Agreements or interested persons of any party to any of the Agreements (the "Independent Trustees") as such are defined under the Investment Company Act of 1940, after a lengthy discussion of the continuation of the Agreements between AIC and the Trust on behalf of its respective Funds, unanimously approved the renewal of the Agreements for another one year term. It was noted that the current Management Services Agreement had recently been amended to add the two (2) new Archer Funds, the Archer Focus Fund and Archer Multi Cap Fund, and this amendment was approved by the Board.

With the assistance and advice of legal counsel, the Trustees had requested and received information from the Advisor, in advance of the meeting, that they deemed relevant or necessary to consider in the engagement process. In addition, each Trustee received a memorandum from counsel discussing, among other things, their fiduciary duties, and responsibilities in reviewing and considering the agreement's renewal. Each Trustee reviewed and discussed the foregoing information during the Board Meeting and in a private session with their counsel. Legal counsel also reviewed with the Trustees the types of information and factors that they should take into consideration in making their decision regarding the continued engagement. In particular, legal counsel discussed the following material factors which the Trustees should consider in order to make an informed decision regarding the approval of the continuation of the Agreement: (i) the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided by AIC; (ii) the investment performance of each Fund; (iii) the costs of the services to be provided and profits to be realized by AIC from the relationship with each Fund; (iv) the extent to which economies of scale are realized if the Funds grow and whether the advisory fee levels reflect those economies of scale for the benefit of the Funds' investors; and (v) AIC's practices regarding possible conflicts of interest. Throughout the process the Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions, and answers to their questions were considered along with the other materials provided.

In assessing these factors and reaching their decision, the Independent Trustees took into consideration information furnished for the Board's review and consideration throughout the year at regular Board meetings, as well as information specifically prepared and presented pursuant to their request in connection with the annual renewal process. The Board requested and was provided information and reports relevant to the annual renewal of the Agreement, including: (i) reports regarding the services and organizational support provided to the Funds and their shareholders by AIC; (ii) quarterly assessments of the investment performance of the Funds by personnel of AIC; (iii) commentary on each Fund's performance; (iv) presentations by the Funds' portfolio manager addressing AIC's investment philosophy, investment strategy, and its personnel and operations; (v) the Funds and AIC compliance and audit reports; (vi) disclosure information contained in the registration statement of the Trust and the Form ADV of AIC; and (vii) a memorandum from the Trust's legal counsel, that summarized the fiduciary duties and responsibilities of the Board in reviewing and approving Fund's Agreement, including the material factors set forth above and the types of information included in each factor. The Board also requested and received various informational materials prepared by AIC ("AIC 15(c) Response"), including, without limitation: (i) documents containing information about AIC and its financial condition; (ii) a description of personnel and the services provided to each Fund; (iii) information on investment advice, performance; (iv) summaries of each Fund's expenses, compliance program, current legal matters, and other general information; (v) comparative expense and performance information with other mutual funds with strategies similar to the Funds; (vi) the effect of each Fund's size on its performance and expenses; (vii) benefits to be realized by AIC from its relationship with the Funds; (viii) the Advisor's practices regarding possible conflicts of interest; and (ix) AIC's efforts to promote and market the Funds. In their deliberations, the Independent Trustee did not identify any single piece of information that was most relevant to its consideration to approve the continuation of the Fund's Management Services Agreement and each Independent Trustee may have afforded different weight to the various factors that are specifically required to be considered.

<u>Nature, Extent and Quality of the Services Provided by AIC.</u> In considering the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided by AIC, the Trustees reviewed the responsibilities of AIC under each Agreement. The Trustees reviewed the services being provided by AIC to each Archer Fund including, without limitation: the quality of AIC investment advisory services (including research and recommendations with respect to portfolio securities) and assuring compliance with each Fund's investment objectives and limitations, as well as for

ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements; its coordination of services for the Funds among the service providers and the Independent Trustees; and its efforts to promote the Funds and grow each Fund's assets. The Trustees noted AIC's continued cooperation with the Independent Trustees, the chief compliance officer, and Legal Counsel for the Funds. The Trustees noted that the principal of the AIC is also the Principal Executive Officer and President for the Trust, and he served the Trust without additional compensation. The Trustees noted the continued efforts of AIC in marketing the Funds and its continued desire to expand its reach through advisor representatives and the Archer brand. After reviewing the foregoing information and further information in the materials provided by AIC (including AIC's Form ADV), the Board concluded that the nature, extent, and quality of the services provided by AIC were of high quality, reasonable and consistent with the Board's expectations and those set forth in the current and proposed Management Services Agreement.

Investment Performance of the Funds and AIC. In considering the investment performance of each Fund, the Trustees compared the short and long-term performance of each Fund. The Trustees also considered the consistency of AIC's management of the Funds with the investment objectives and policies along with the overall performance of each Archer Fund under the Trust along with the materials which the Board had reviewed at each quarterly Board meeting throughout the fiscal year. With respect to the Archer Focus Fund and Archer Multi Cap Fund, the Board noted the Funds' short operational history considering whether each Fund had operated within its investment objective which each had.

Overall, the Trustees concluded that the performance of each Fund was acceptable, although the Trustees will continue to monitor each Fund's performance against its benchmark and peer group.

Costs of the Services to be provided and Profits to be Realized by AIC. In considering the costs of the services to be provided and profits to be realized by AIC from the relationship with the Funds, the Trustees considered: (1) AIC's financial condition (as reported by the company) and the level of commitment to the Funds by the principals of AIC; (2) the increasing asset levels of the Funds; (3) the overall expenses of the Funds; and (4) the nature and frequency of advisory fee payments. The Trustees also considered potential benefits for AIC in managing the Funds. The Trustees noted that AIC is profitable regarding its relationship with the Funds. The Trustees noted that AIC reduced its fee to 50 basis points for each Fund. AIC's desire to remain competitive is reflected in its desire and willingness to continue reduce its fees to the shareholders. The Trustees noted AIC's continued efforts to manage the expenses of the Funds. The Trustees concluded that although Fund expenses were higher than peer averages in some cases, such expenses were justified and unavoidable given the complex regulatory requirements, and most importantly, the relatively small levels of assets in each of the Funds. Based on the foregoing, the Board concluded that the fees to be paid to AIC by the Funds and the profits to be realized by AIC, considering all the facts and circumstances, were fair and reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of the services provided by AIC.

Economies of Scale. The Trustees, including the Independent Trustees, also considered whether AIC has been able to benefit from any economies of scale with respect to its management of the Archer Funds and whether there is potential for realization of any further economies of scale having multiple funds for which the Advisor manages. In doing so, the Board considered the potential benefits for the Advisor in managing multiple series under the Archer Investment Series Trust, including promotion of the Advisor's name and the ability for the Advisor to place small accounts into one of the Archer Funds. After comparing the fees under the Management Services Agreement with those paid by comparable funds and considering all the foregoing, the Board concluded

that the management fees to be paid to the Advisor by each Fund were fair and reasonable in relation to the nature and quality of the services provided by AIC.

Advisor's Practices Regarding Possible Conflicts of Interest and Benefits to the Advisor. In considering AIC's practices regarding conflicts of interest, the Trustees evaluated the potential for conflicts of interest and considered such matters as the experience and ability of the advisory personnel assigned to the Funds; the basis of decisions to buy or sell securities for the Funds and/or AIC's other accounts; and the substance and administration of AIC's code of ethics. The Trustees also noted that AIC may enjoy some enhanced status as an investment Advisor to a larger family of registered mutual funds. Based on the foregoing, the Board determined that AIC's standards and practices relating to the identification and mitigation of possible conflicts of interest were satisfactory.

<u>Conclusion.</u> The Board of Trustees, including Independent Trustees, having requested and received such information from the Advisor as they determined to be reasonably necessary to evaluate the renewal of the Management Services Agreement, and as assisted by the advice of legal counsel, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, concluded that the overall arrangement provided under the terms of the Management Services Agreement are a reasonable business arrangement and that renewal of the Management Services Agreement was in the best interests of the Trust and each Fund's shareholders.

### TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The management and affairs of the Fund are supervised by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees consists of three (3) individuals. The Trustees are fiduciaries for the Fund's shareholders and are governed by the laws of the State of Ohio in this regard. The Board of Trustees establishes policies for the operation of the Fund and appoints the officers who conduct the daily business of the Fund. The Trustee serves as a trustee until termination of the Trust unless the Trustee dies, resigns, retires, or is removed.

### **BOARD LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE**

The Trust is a series trust comprised of individual series, or mutual funds, managed by unaffiliated investment Advisors. The Board of Trustees is comprised of two (2) Independent Trustees: Mr. Donald Orzeske and Mr. David Miller and one Interested Trustee, Mr. Troy C. Patton. The Trust's Chairman, Mr. Orzeske, is a disinterested person.

The Board of Trustees has established three standing committees – the Audit Committee, the Fair Value Committee, and the Nominating Committee. All Independent Trustees are members of the Audit Committee, Fair Value Committee, and the Nominating Committee. Inclusion of all Independent Trustees as members of the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee allows all such Trustees to participate in the full range of the Board of Trustees' oversight duties, including oversight of risk management processes.

In accordance with the fund governance standards prescribed by the SEC under the 1940 Act, the Independent Trustees on the Nominating Committee select and nominate all candidates for Independent Trustee positions. The Trustee was appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees because of his experience, qualifications, attributes and/or skills as set forth in the subsection "Director Qualifications" below. The Board of Trustees reviews its leadership structure regularly. The Board of Trustees believes that its leadership structure is

appropriate given the characteristics and circumstances of the Trust, including: the unaffiliated nature of the investment Advisor and the fund(s) managed by such Advisor; the number of funds that comprise the Trust; the variety of asset classes that those funds reflect; the net assets of the Trust; the committee structure of the Trust; and the independent distribution arrangements of the of the Trust's underlying funds.

The Board of Trustee's role is one of oversight rather than day-to-day management of any of the Trust's underlying funds. The Trust's Audit Committee assists with this oversight function. The Board of Trustee's oversight extends to the Trust's risk management processes. Those processes are overseen by Trust officers, including the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"), who regularly report to the Board of Trustees on a variety of matters at Board meetings.

The Investment Advisor managing the Trust's underlying fund report to the Board of Trustees, on a regular and as-needed basis, on actual and possible risks affecting the Trust's underlying fund. The investment Advisor reports to the Board of Trustees on various elements of risk, including investment, credit, liquidity, valuation, operational and compliance risks, as well as any overall business risks that could impact the Trust's underlying funds.

The Board of Trustees has appointed Brandon Pokersnik, the CCO, who reports directly to the Board of Trustees and who participates in its regular meetings. In addition, the CCO presents an annual report to the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Trust's compliance policies and procedures. The CCO, together with the Trust's Treasurer and Secretary, regularly discusses risk issues affecting the Trust and its underlying funds during Board of Trustee meetings. The CCO also provides updates to the Board of Trustees on the operation of the Trust's compliance policies and procedures and on how these procedures are designed to mitigate risk. The CCO and/or other officers of the Trust report to the Board of Trustees, including the independent board members, which members are also members of the Audit and Compliance Committee, if any material risk issues arise in between Board meetings. 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 following table provides information regarding the Trustees who are not "interested persons" of the Trust, as defined in the 1940 Act ("Independent Trustees").

| Name, Address and Age  | Position(s) Held<br>with Fund | Term of Office and<br>Length of Time<br>Served | Principal<br>Occupation(s)<br>During Past 5<br>Years     | Number of<br>Portfolios in Fund<br>Complex Overseen<br>by Director | Other<br>Directorships Held<br>by Director |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Independent Trustees   | S                             |  |  |  |  |
| David Miller<br>11711 North College<br>Avenue, #200,<br>Carmel, IN 46032 | Trustee                       | Indefinite Term;<br>Since January 2010         | General Securities<br>Corp. – President;<br>1982-Present | Four   | None                                       |
| (DOB – 08/04/47)   |                               |  |  |  |  |

Donald G. Orzeske, Trustee Esq. 50 East 91st Street, Suite 104 Indianapolis, IN 46240 Indefinite Term; Since January 2010 ORZESKE - Four BLACKWELL, P.C. - Attorney at Law – Shareholder - 2000-Present None

(DOB - 5/18/55)

<sup>\*</sup> The Trust currently consists of six (6) series.

The following table provides information regarding the Trustee who is an "interested person" of the Trust, and the officers of the Trust.

| Name, Address and Age   | Position(s) Held<br>with Fund  | Term of Office and Length of<br>Time Served        | Principal<br>Occupation(s)<br>During Past 5<br>Years   | Number<br>of<br>Portfolios<br>in Fund<br>Complex<br>Overseen<br>by<br>Director | Other<br>Directorships<br>Held by<br>Director |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Interested Trustee and Officers   |                                |  |  |  |   |
| Troy Patton<br>11711 North College Avenue,<br>#200, Carmel, IN 46032<br>DOB: 4/10/1969                    | President & Trustee            | Indefinite Term; since January 2010                | Archer Investment Corporation, Inc. – President. (July 2005 – Present) Patton and Associates, LLC – Managing Partner. (January 2005 – Present)   | Three  | None  |
| Charles R. Ropka, Esq.<br>215 Fries Mill Road,<br>Turnersville, NJ 08012                                  | Secretary                      | Indefinite Term;<br>since September 2010           | Attorney, Ropka<br>Law, LLC, since<br>2008   | N/A  | N/A   |
| DOB: 10/21/1963   |                                |  |  |  |   |
| Brandon Pokersnik<br>8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite<br>400, Broadview Heights, OH<br>44147<br>DOB: 1978    | Chief<br>Compliance<br>Officer | Indefinite Term;<br>since November 2017 to present | Accountant,<br>Mutual<br>Shareholder<br>Services, LLC,<br>since 2008,<br>Attorney, Mutual<br>Shareholder<br>Services, LLC,<br>since June 2016,<br>Owner/President,<br>Empirical<br>Administration,<br>LLC, since<br>September 2012 | N/A  | N/A   |
| Umberto Anastasi<br>8000 Town Centre Drive, Ste.<br>400, Broadview Heights, OH<br>44147<br>DOB: 9/27/1974 | Treasurer                      | Indefinite Term; since September 2010 to present   | From 1999 to<br>present, Vice<br>President, Mutual<br>Shareholder<br>Services, LLC   | N/A  | N/A   |

<sup>\*</sup> The Trust currently consists of six (6) series.

# **Trustee Qualifications**

The following is a brief discussion of the experience, qualifications, attributes and/or skills that led to the Board of Trustees' conclusion that the individual identified above is qualified to serve as a Trustee of the Trust.

Mr. Orzeske is an attorney admitted to practice law in the State of Indiana. Mr. Orzeske, among other areas of legal practice, is an experienced civil litigator with experience in corporate matters. His legal and business experience provides the Board with insight into the corporate industry and their duties and standards of care as well as legal procedures related to the Board's responsibilities.

Mr. Miller has significant professional experience in the financial industry and in particular, operating a broker-dealer which has provided him with tremendous insight into the corporate governance and financial aspects of the securities industry.

Messrs. Orzeske and Miller possess an understanding of accounting principles and financial statements as well as the internal controls and procedures for financial reporting. They have experience in preparing analyzing and evaluating financial statements and are therefore qualified to handle the breadth and complexity of issues that can reasonably expected to be raised by the Fund's financial statements.

# **Trustee Ownership of Fund Shares**

| (1)             | (2)                         |                      | (3)  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Name of Trustee | Dollar Range of Equity Sec  | curities in the Fund | Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies |
| Troy C. Patton  | Archer Balanced Fund        | \$100,001-\$500,000  | \$100,001-\$500,000  |
|                 | Archer Income Fund          | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Stock Fund           | \$50,001-\$100,000   |  |
|                 | Archer Dividend Growth Fund | \$100,001-\$500,000  |  |
|                 | Archer Focus Fund           | \$10,001-\$50,000    |  |
|                 | Archer Multi Cap Fund       | \$100,001-\$500,000  |  |
| David Miller    | Archer Balanced Fund        | None                 | None   |
|                 | Archer Income Fund          | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Stock Fund           | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Dividend Growth Fund | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Focus Fund           | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Multi Cap Fund       | None                 |  |
| Donald Orzeske  | Archer Balanced Fund        | None                 | None   |
|                 | Archer Income Fund          | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Stock Fund           | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Dividend Growth Fund | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Focus Fund           | None                 |  |
|                 | Archer Multi Cap Fund       | None                 |  |

### **Board Committees**

Audit Committee. Messrs. Miller and Orzeske serve on the Board's Audit Committee. The Board's Audit Committee is a standing independent committee with a separate chair. Mr. Miller serves as chair of the Audit Committee. The primary function of the Audit Committee, which also serves as the Trust's Legal Compliance Committee, is to assist the full Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities to the shareholders and the investment community relating to fund accounting, reporting practices and the quality and integrity of the financial reports. To satisfy these responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviews with the independent auditors, the audit plan and results and recommendations following independent audits, reviews the performance of the independent auditors and recommends engagement or discharge of the auditors to the full Board, reviews the independence of the independent auditors, reviews the adequacy of the Funds' internal controls and prepares and submits Committee meeting minutes and supporting documentation to the full Board. The Committee met four (4) times throughout the fiscal year ended August 31, 2020.

*Nominating Committee*. The Trust has a Nominating Committee, which is comprised of the independent members of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Orzeske and Mr. Miller. The Nominating Committee is responsible for seeking and reviewing candidates for consideration as nominees for the position of trustees and meets only as necessary.

The Nominating Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders for vacancies on the Board of Trustees. Recommendations for consideration by the Nominating Committee should be sent to the President of the Trust in writing together with the appropriate biographical information concerning the such proposed nominee, and such recommendation must comply with the notice provisions set forth in the Trust's By-Laws. In general, to comply with such procedures, such nominations, together with all required information, must be delivered to and received by the Secretary of the Trust at the principal executive office of the Trust not later than 60 days prior to the shareholder meeting at which any such nominee would be voted on. Shareholder recommendations for nominations to the Board of Trustees will be accepted on an ongoing basis and such recommendations will be kept on file for consideration when there is a vacancy on the Board of Trustees. The Nominating Committee's procedures with respect to reviewing shareholder nominations will be disclosed as required by applicable securities laws. The Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ending August 31, 2020.

Fair Value Committee. The Trust has a Fair Value Committee. The Fair Value Committee is responsible for the following: (1) monitoring the valuation of Fund securities and other investments; and (2) as required, when the Board of Trustees is not in session, determining the fair value of illiquid securities and other holdings after consideration of all relevant factors, which determinations are reported to the Board. The Fair Value Committee is currently comprised of Mr. Orzeske and Mr. Miller, who the serve as an officer of the Trust. The Fair Value Committee meets as necessary when a price for a portfolio security is not readily available. The Committee did not meet during the fiscal year ending August 31, 2020.

# **Compensation of the Board of Trustees**

Set forth below are estimates of the annual compensation to be paid to the Trustees and officers by the Fund on an individual basis and by the Trust on an aggregate basis. Trustees' and officers' fees and expenses are Trust expenses and the Fund incurs its pro rata share of expenses based on the number of existing series in the Trust. As a result, the amount paid by the Fund will increase or decrease as new series are added or removed from the Trust.

| Independent Trustees                | Aggregate<br>Compensation<br>from Fund | Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued As Part of Funds Expenses | Estimated Annual<br>Benefits Upon<br>Retirement | Total Compensation<br>From Fund and Fund<br>Complex <sup>1</sup> Paid to<br>Directors |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| David Miller, Trustee               | \$6,000                                | \$0  | \$0   | \$6,000   |
| Donald G. Orzeske,                  | \$6,000                                | \$0  | \$0   | \$6,000   |
| Trustee                             |  |  |   |   |
| Interested Trustees<br>and Officers | Aggregate<br>Compensation<br>from Fund | Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued As Part of Funds Expenses | Estimated Annual<br>Benefits Upon<br>Retirement | Total Compensation<br>From Fund and Fund<br>Complex Paid to<br>Directors              |
| Troy C. Patton, Trustee             | \$0                                    | \$0  | \$0   | \$0   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The Trust currently consists of six (6) series.

The following officers and trustees own greater than 1% of the securities of the Archer Funds as indicated.

### ARCHER BALANCED FUND

| Name and Address                 | % Ownership | Type of Ownership    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Troy C. Patton, CPA/ABV, Trustee | 1%          | Individual and Joint |
| ARCHER STOCK FUND                |             |                      |

| Name and Address                 | % Ownership | Type of Ownership    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Troy C. Patton, CPA/ABV, Trustee | 1%          | Individual and Joint |

#### ARCHER INCOME FUND

| Name and Address                 | % Ownership | Type of Ownership    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Troy C. Patton, CPA/ABV, Trustee | 1%          | Individual and Joint |

# ARCHER DIVIDEND GROWTH FUND

| Name and Address                 | % Ownership | Type of Ownership    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Troy C. Patton, CPA/ABV, Trustee | 1%          | Individual and Joint |

# ARCHER MULTI CAP FUND

| Name and Address                 | % Ownership | Type of Ownership    |
|----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Troy C. Patton, CPA/ABV, Trustee | 13%         | Individual and Joint |

### CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

A principal shareholder is any person who owns (either of record or beneficially) 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. A control person is one who owns, either directly or indirectly, more than 25% of the voting securities of the Fund or acknowledges the existence of such control. As a controlling shareholder, these persons could control the outcome of any proposal submitted to the shareholders for approval, including changes to the Fund's fundamental policies or the terms of the management agreement with the Advisor.

As of December 1, 2020, the following shareholders were considered to be principal shareholders of the Fund:

# **ARCHER BALANCED FUND**

| Name and Address   | % Ownership | Type of Ownership |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| FIRST CLEARING, LLC<br>2801 MARKET STREET<br>SAINT LOUIS, IL 63103                         | 33.17%1     | Beneficial        |
| NFS, LLC<br>200 LIBERTY STREET<br>NEW YORK, NY 10281                                       | 18.13%      | Beneficial        |
| WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES,<br>LLC<br>ONE NORTH JEFFERSON AVENUE<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63103 | 21.25%      | Beneficial        |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>To the Fund's knowledge, no underlying shareholder at First Clearing, LLC is a control person (as defined above).

## **ARCHER INCOME FUND**

| Name and Address   | % Ownership | Type of Ownership |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| FIRST CLEARING, LLC<br>2801 MARKET STREET<br>SAINT LOUIS, IL 63103                         | 33.59%1     | Beneficial        |
| NFS, LLC<br>200 LIBERTY STREET<br>NEW YORK, NY 10281                                       | 22.15%      | Beneficial        |
| WELLS FARGO CLEARING SERVICES,<br>LLC<br>ONE NORTH JEFFERSON AVENUE<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63103 | 27.13%1     | Beneficial        |

<sup>1</sup>To the Fund's knowledge, no underlying shareholder at First Clearing, LLC or Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC is a control person (as defined above).

# **ARCHER STOCK FUND**

| Name and Address   | % Ownership         | Type of Ownership |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| FIRST CLEARING, LLC<br>2801 MARKET STREET<br>SAINT LOUIS, IL 63103                         | 41.71%1             | Beneficial        |
| NFS, LLC<br>200 LIBERTY STREET<br>NEW YORK, NY 10281                                       | 17.93% <sup>1</sup> | Beneficial        |
| MG TRUST COMPANY<br>717 17TH STREET, STE 1300<br>DENVER, CO 80202                          | 8.35%               | Beneficial        |
| WELLS FARGO CLEARING<br>SERVICES, LLC<br>ONE NORTH JEFFERSON AVENUE<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63103 | 18.51%              | Beneficial        |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>To the Fund's knowledge, only one underlying shareholder at First Clearing, LLC or NFS, LLC is a principal shareholder having a beneficial ownership of more than 5%, but less than 10%, of the portfolio (as defined above). To the Fund's knowledge, no underlying shareholder at First Clearing, LLC is a control person (as defined above).

# ARCHER DIVIDEND GROWTH FUND

| Name and Address   | % Ownership | Type of Ownership |
|--|-------------|-------------------|
| FIRST CLEARING, LLC<br>2801 MARKET STREET<br>SAINT LOUIS, IL 63103                         | 38.09%1     | Beneficial        |
| NFS, LLC<br>200 LIBERTY STREET<br>NEW YORK, NY 10281                                       | 27.37%1     | Beneficial        |
| WELLS FARGO CLEARING<br>SERVICES, LLC<br>ONE NORTH JEFFERSON AVENUE<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63103 | 31.33%1     | Beneficial        |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>To the Fund's knowledge, no underlying shareholder at First Clearing, LLC, MFS, LLC or Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC is a control person (as defined above).

## **ARCHER FOCUS FUND**

| Name and Address  | % Ownership | Type of Ownership |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| NFS, LLC<br>200 LIBERTY STREET<br>NEW YORK, NY 10281  | 30.90%1     | Beneficial        |
| WELLS FARGO CLEARING<br>SERVICES, LLC<br>ONE NORTH JEFFERSON<br>AVENUE<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63103 | 68.26%1     | Beneficial        |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>To the Fund's knowledge, no underlying shareholder at NFS, LLC or Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC is a control person (as defined above).

### **ARCHER MULTI CAP FUND**

| Name and Address  | % Ownership | Type of Ownership |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| WELLS FARGO CLEARING<br>SERVICES, LLC<br>ONE NORTH JEFFERSON<br>AVENUE<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63103 | 89.27%1     | Beneficial        |
| MG TRUST COMPANY<br>717 17TH STREET, STE 1300<br>DENVER, CO 80202                             | 8.55%       | Beneficial        |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>To the Fund's knowledge, no underlying shareholder at Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC is a control person (as defined above).

#### ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

Customer identification and verification is part of the Fund's overall obligation to prevent money laundering under federal law. The Trust has, on behalf of the Funds, adopted an anti-money laundering compliance program designed to prevent the Fund from being used for money laundering or financing of terrorist activities (the "AML Compliance Program"). The Trust has delegated the responsibility to implement the AML Compliance Program to the Fund's transfer agent, Mutual Shareholders Services, LLC, subject to oversight by the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer and, ultimately, by the Board of Trustees.

When you open an account with the Funds, the Funds' transfer agent will request that you provide your name, physical address, date of birth, and Social Security number or tax identification number. You may also be asked for other information that, in the transfer agent's discretion, will allow the Funds to verify your identity. Entities are also required to provide additional documentation. This information will be verified to ensure the identity of all persons opening an account with the Funds. The Funds reserve the right to (i) refuse, cancel or rescind any purchase or exchange order, (ii) freeze any account and/or suspend account activities, or (iii)

involuntarily redeem your account in cases of threatening conduct or suspected fraudulent or illegal activity. These actions will be taken when, in the sole discretion of the Funds' transfer agent, they are deemed to be in the best interest of the Funds, or in cases where the Funds are requested or compelled to do so by governmental or law enforcement authority.

#### PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The portfolio turnover rate of the Funds is defined by the SEC as the ratio of the lesser of annual sales or purchases to the monthly average of the portfolio, excluding from both the numerator and the denominator securities with the maturities at the time of acquisition of one year or less. The Funds may sell portfolio securities without regard to the length of time they have been held when, in the opinion of the Advisor, investment considerations warrant such action. Each Fund's portfolio turnover rate is the percentage of its portfolio that is bought and sold to exchange for other securities and is expressed as a percentage of its total assets. Portfolio turnover generally involves some expense to a Fund, including brokerage commissions or dealer mark-ups and other transaction costs on the sale of securities and reinvestment in other securities. A high rate of portfolio turnover (100% or more) generally leads to higher transaction costs and may result in a greater number of taxable transactions

### PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS AND BROKERAGE

Subject to policies established by the Board of Trustees of the Trust, the Advisor is responsible for the Funds' portfolio decisions and the placing of the Funds' portfolio transactions. In placing portfolio transactions (including with the Advisor's affiliates), the Advisor seeks the best qualitative execution for the Funds, taking into account such factors as price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), the execution capability, financial responsibility and responsiveness of the broker or dealer and the brokerage and research services provided by the broker or dealer. The Advisor generally seeks favorable prices and commission rates that are reasonable in relation to the benefits received.

The Advisor is specifically authorized to select brokers or dealers who also provide brokerage and research services to the Fund and/or the other accounts over which the Advisor exercises investment discretion and to pay such brokers or dealers a commission in excess of the commission another broker or dealer would charge if the Advisor determines in good faith that the commission is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided. The determination may be viewed in terms of a particular transaction or the Advisor's overall responsibilities with respect to the Funds and to other accounts over which it exercises investment discretion. Research services include supplemental research, securities and economic analyses, statistical services and information with respect to the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities and analyses of reports concerning performance of accounts.

The research services and other information furnished by brokers through whom the Funds effect securities transactions may also be used by the Advisor in servicing all of its accounts. Similarly, research and information provided by brokers or dealers serving other clients may be useful to the Advisor in connection with its services to the Funds.

Over-the-counter transactions may be placed with broker-dealers if the Advisor is able to obtain best execution (including commissions and price). Over-the-counter transactions may also be placed directly with

principal market makers. Fixed income securities are normally purchased directly from the issuer, an underwriter or a market maker. Purchases include a concession paid by the issuer to the underwriter and the purchase price paid to a market maker may include the spread between the bid and asked prices.

### POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to more than one fund or other accounts. More specifically, portfolio managers who manage multiple funds are presented with the following potential conflicts:

The management of multiple accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each account. The management of multiple funds and accounts also may give rise to potential conflicts of interest if the Funds and accounts have different objectives, benchmarks, time horizons, and fees as the portfolio manager must allocate his time and investment ideas across multiple funds and accounts.

- With respect to securities transactions for the Funds, the Advisor determines which broker to use to execute each order, consistent with the duty to seek best execution of the transaction. The portfolio manager may execute transactions for another fund or account that may adversely impact the value of securities held by the Funds. Securities selected for funds or accounts other than the Fund may outperform the securities selected for the Funds.
- The appearance of a conflict of interest may arise where the Advisor has an incentive, such as a performance-based management fee. The management of personal accounts may give rise to potential conflicts of interest; there is no assurance that the Funds' code of ethics will adequately address such conflicts. One of the portfolio manager's numerous responsibilities is to assist in the sale of Fund shares. Because the portfolio manager's compensation is indirectly linked to the sale of Fund shares, they may have an incentive to devote time to marketing efforts designed to increase sales of Fund shares.
- Although the portfolio manager generally does not trade securities in their own personal account, the Fund has adopted a code of ethics that, among other things, permits personal trading by employees under conditions where it has been determined that such trades would not adversely impact client accounts. Nevertheless, the management of personal accounts may give rise to potential conflicts of interest, and there is no assurance that these codes of ethics will adequately address such conflicts.

To the extent, the Advisor and the Funds have adopted certain compliance procedures which are designed to address these types of conflicts. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures adopted will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

The Trust, the Advisor and the Funds' Distributor have adopted a Code of Ethics (the "Codes") pursuant to Rule 17j-1(c) of the 1940 Act, and the Advisor's Code of Ethics also conforms to Rule 204A-1 under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, as amended. The personnel subject to the Codes are permitted to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the Funds. You may obtain a copy of the Codes

from the Trust, the Advisor or the Distributor, free of charge, by calling Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC at 1-800-494-2755. You may also obtain copies of the Trust's Code from documents filed with SEC and available on the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov.

### DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The Funds are required to include a schedule of portfolio holdings in its annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders, which is sent to shareholders within 60 days of the end of the second and fourth fiscal quarters and which is filed with the SEC on Form N-CSR within 70 days of the end of the second and fourth fiscal quarters. The Funds also are required to file a schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC on Form N-Q within 60 days of the end of the first and third fiscal quarters. The Funds must provide a copy of the complete schedule of portfolio holdings as filed with the SEC to any shareholder of the Funds, upon request, free of charge. This policy is applied uniformly to all shareholders of the Funds without regard to the type of requesting shareholder (i.e., regardless of whether the shareholder is an individual or institutional investor).

Pursuant to policies adopted by the Board, the Advisor is authorized to release Fund portfolio holdings to third party servicing agents on a daily basis in order for those parties to perform their duties on behalf of the Funds. These third-party servicing agents include the Advisor, Distributor, Transfer Agent, Fund Accounting Agent, Administrator and Custodian. Fund portfolio holdings also may be disclosed, as needed, to auditors, legal counsel, proxy voting services (if applicable), printers, pricing services, parties to merger and reorganization agreements and their agents, and prospective or newly hired investment advisors or sub-advisors. The lag between the date of the information and the date on which the information is disclosed will vary based on the identity of the party to whom the information is disclosed. For instance, the information may be provided to auditors within days of the end of an annual period, while the information may be given to legal counsel or prospective subadvisors at any time. This information is disclosed to all such third parties under conditions of confidentiality. "Conditions of confidentiality" include (i) confidentiality clauses in written agreements, (ii) confidentiality implied by the nature of the relationship (e.g., attorney-client relationship), (iii) confidentiality required by fiduciary or regulatory principles (e.g., custody relationships) or (iv) understandings or expectations between the parties that the information will be kept confidential. Third party servicing agents generally are subject to an independent obligation not to trade on confidential information under their code of ethics and/or as a result of common law precedents; however, the Fund does not require an independent confirmation from the third parties that they will not trade on the confidential information.

Additionally, the Funds may enter into ongoing arrangements to release portfolio holdings to Morningstar, Inc., Lipper, Inc., Bloomberg, Standard & Poor's, Thompson Financial and Vickers-Stock ("Rating Agencies") in order for those organizations to assign a rating or ranking to the Funds. In these instances, portfolio holdings will be supplied within approximately 25 days after the end of the month. The Rating Agencies may make the Funds' top portfolio holdings available on their websites and may make the Funds' complete portfolio holdings available to their subscribers for a fee. Neither the Funds, the Advisor nor any of their affiliates receive any portion of this fee. Information released to Rating Agencies is not released under conditions of confidentiality nor is it subject to prohibitions on trading based on the information. The Funds also may post their complete portfolio holdings to its website within approximately 25 days after the end of the month. The information will remain posted on the website until replaced by the information for the succeeding month. The Funds' website is at www.thearcherfunds.com. If the Funds' website is for some reason inoperable, the information will be supplied no more frequently than quarterly and on a delayed basis.

Except as described above, the Funds are prohibited from entering into any arrangements with any person to make available information about the Funds' portfolio holdings without the prior authorization of the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"). The Advisor must submit any proposed arrangement pursuant to which the Advisor intends to disclose the Funds' portfolio holdings to the CCO, who will review such arrangement to determine whether the arrangement is in the best interests of Fund shareholders. Additionally, the Advisor, and any affiliated persons of the Advisor, are prohibited from receiving compensation or other consideration, for themselves or on behalf of the Funds, as a result of disclosing the Funds' portfolio holdings. Finally, the Funds will not disclose portfolio holdings as described above to third parties that the Funds know will use the information for personal securities transactions.

The following table describes the brokerage commissions paid by the Archer Balanced Fund for the fiscal periods indicated.

| Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 31, 2018   | August 31, 2019   | August 31, 2020   |
| \$2,489           | \$237             | \$338             |

The following table describes the brokerage commissions paid by the Archer Income Fund for the fiscal periods indicated.

| Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 31, 2018   | August 31, 2019   | August 31, 2020   |
| \$85              | \$0               | \$18              |

The following table describes the brokerage commissions paid by the Archer Stock Fund for the fiscal periods indicated.

| Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 31, 2018   | August 31, 2019   | August 31, 2020   |
| \$3,292           | \$2,154           | \$565             |

The following table describes the brokerage commissions paid by the Archer Dividend Growth Fund for the fiscal periods indicated.

| Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 31, 2018   | August 31, 2019   | August 31, 2020   |
| \$6,942           | \$636             | \$917             |

The following table describes the brokerage commissions paid by the Archer Focus Fund for the fiscal periods indicated.

| Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 31, 2018   | August 31, 2019   | August 31, 2020   |
| n/a               | n/a               | \$1,065           |

The following table describes the brokerage commissions paid by the Archer Multi Cap Fund for the fiscal periods indicated.

| Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended | Fiscal Year Ended |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| August 31, 2018   | August 31, 2019   | August 31, 2020   |
| n/a               | n/a               | \$1,211           |

#### PROXY VOTING POLICY

The Trust and the Funds' Advisor have adopted proxy voting policies and procedures reasonably designed to ensure that proxies are voted in shareholders' best interests. As a brief summary, the Trust's policy delegates responsibility regarding proxy voting to the Advisor, subject to the Advisor's proxy voting policy and the supervision of the Board of Trustees.

The Advisor's policy provides that the Advisor generally will vote in favor of routine corporate housekeeping proposals, including election of directors (where no corporate governance issues are implicated), selection of auditors, and increases in or reclassification of common stock. The Advisor will vote against proposals that make it more difficult to replace members of the issuer's board of directors, including proposals to stagger the board, cause management to be overrepresented on the board, introduce cumulative voting, introduce unequal voting rights, and create supermajority voting. For other proposals, the Advisor will determine whether a proposal is in the best interest of its clients and may take into account the following factors, among others: (i) whether the proposal was recommended by management and the Advisor's opinion of management; (ii) whether the proposal acts to entrench existing management; and (iii) whether the proposal fairly compensates management for past and future performance.

The Trust's policy provides that, if a conflict of interest between the Advisor or its affiliates and the Funds arises with respect to any proxy, the Advisor must fully disclose the conflict to the Board of Trustees and vote the proxy in accordance with the Board's instructions. The Board shall make the proxy voting decision that in its judgment, after reviewing the recommendation of the Advisor, is most consistent with the Advisor's proxy voting policies and in the best interests of Fund shareholders. When the Board is required to make a proxy voting decision, only the Trustees without a conflict of interest with regard to the security in question or the matter to be voted upon shall be permitted to participate in the decision of how the Funds' vote will be cast.

You may obtain a copy of the Trust's and the Advisor's proxy voting policy by calling Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC at 1-800-494-2755 or by writing to Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC, the Fund's transfer agent, at 11711 North College Avenue, #200, Carmel IN 46032, Attn: Archer Investment Series Trust Chief Compliance Officer. A copy of the policies will be mailed to you within three (3) days of receipt of your request. You also may obtain a copy of the policies from Fund documents filed with the SEC, which are available on the SEC's web site at <a href="https://www.sec.gov">www.sec.gov</a>. A copy of the votes cast by the Fund with respect to portfolio securities during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30th will be filed by the Fund with the SEC on Form N-PX. The Fund's proxy voting record will be available to shareholders free of charge upon request by calling or writing the Fund as described above or from the SEC's web site.

### **DETERMINATION OF NET ASSET VALUE**

The price (net asset value) of the shares of the Funds is determined as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on the day the Trust is open for business and on any other day on which there is sufficient trading in the Fund's securities to materially affect the net asset value. The Trust is open for business on every day on which the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open for trading. The NYSE is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For a description of the methods used to determine the net asset value (share price), see "Determination of Net Asset Value" in the Prospectus.

Equity securities generally are valued by using market quotations furnished by a pricing service when the Advisor believes such prices accurately reflect the fair market value of such securities. Securities that are traded on any stock exchange are generally valued by the pricing service at the last quoted sale price. Lacking a last sale price, an exchange traded security is generally valued by the pricing service at its last bid price. Securities traded in the NASDAQ over-the-counter market are generally valued by the pricing service at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. When market quotations are not readily available, when the Advisor determines that the market quotation or the price provided by the pricing service does not accurately reflect the current market value or when restricted or illiquid securities are being valued, such securities are valued at a fair price as determined by the Advisor in good faith according to guidelines established by the Board of Trustees. Investments in foreign securities and junk bonds are more likely to trigger fair valuation than other securities. The Board of Trustees annually approves the pricing services used by the fund accounting agent. The Trust's fund accounting agent maintains a pricing review committee, which consults with an Independent Trustee who is a member of the Pricing Committee as fair valuation issues arise. Fair valued securities held by the Fund (if any) are reviewed by the Board of Trustees on a quarterly basis.

Fixed income securities generally are valued by using market quotations, but may be valued on the basis of prices furnished by a pricing service when the Advisor believes such prices accurately reflect the fair market value of such securities. A pricing service utilizes electronic data processing techniques based on yield spreads relating to securities with similar characteristics to determine prices for normal institutional-size trading units of debt securities without regard to sale or bid prices. If the Advisor decides that a price provided by the pricing service does not accurately reflect the fair market value of the securities, when prices are not readily available from a pricing service, or when restricted or illiquid securities are being valued, securities are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Advisor, in conformity with guidelines adopted by and subject to review of the Board of Trustees. Short term investments in fixed income securities with maturities of less than 60 days when acquired, or which subsequently are within 60 days of maturity, are valued by using the amortized cost method of valuation, which the Board has determined will represent fair value.

The Funds' net asset value per share is computed by dividing the value of the securities held by the Funds plus any cash or other assets (including interest and dividends accrued but not yet received) minus all liabilities (including accrued expenses) by the total number of shares in the Funds outstanding at such time, as shown below:

An example of how the Balanced Fund calculated its net asset value per share as of the last day of its last fiscal period is as follows:

$$\frac{\$41,621,434}{2,980,580}$$
 = \$13.96

### **REDEMPTION IN-KIND**

The Funds do not intend to redeem shares in any form except cash. However, if the amount you are redeeming is over the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the Funds' net asset value, pursuant to a Rule 18f-1 plan filed by the Trust on behalf of the Funds, the Funds have the right to redeem your shares by giving you the amount that exceeds the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the Funds' net asset value in securities instead of cash. In the event that an in-kind distribution is made, a shareholder may incur additional expenses, such as the payment of brokerage commissions, on the sale or other disposition of the securities received from the Funds.

## DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAX MATTERS

#### **Dividends and Distributions**

The following discussion of dividends and distributions should be read in connection with the applicable sections in the Prospectus.

All dividends and distributions will be automatically reinvested in additional shares of the same Funds (hereinafter, the Funds) unless the shareholder has requested in writing to receive such dividends and distributions in cash or that they be invested in shares of another Archer Fund, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Prospectus under the caption "Purchasing Shares." Such dividends and distributions will be reinvested at the net asset value per share determined on the ex-dividend date.

The Funds calculate income dividends and capital gain distributions the same way for each Fund. The amount of any income dividends per share will differ, however, generally due to any differences in the distribution and service (Rule 12b-1) fees applicable to the Funds.

### **Tax Matters**

The following is a summary of certain additional tax considerations generally affecting a Fund and its shareholders that are not described in the Prospectus. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of a Fund or its shareholders, and the discussion here and in the Prospectus is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning.

This "Tax Matters" section is based on the Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") and applicable regulations in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative, regulatory or administrative changes, including provisions of current law that sunset and thereafter no longer apply, or court decisions may significantly change the tax rules applicable to a Fund and its shareholders. Any of these changes or court decisions may have a retroactive effect.

This is for general information only and not tax advice. All investors should consult their own tax advisors as to the federal, state, local and foreign tax provisions applicable to them.

**Taxation of the Fund**. Each Archer Fund has elected and intends to qualify (or, if newly organized, intends to elect and qualify) each year as a "regulated investment company" (sometimes referred to as a regulated investment company, RIC or fund) under Subchapter M of the Code. If a Fund qualifies, a Fund will not be subject to federal income tax on the portion of its investment company taxable income (i.e., generally, taxable interest, dividends, net short-term capital gains and other taxable ordinary income net of expenses without regard to the deduction for dividends paid) and net capital gain (i.e., the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses) that it distributes to shareholders.

Qualification as a regulated investment company. In order to qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, a Fund must satisfy the following requirements:

- Distribution Requirement—a Fund must distribute an amount equal to the sum of at least 90% of its investment company taxable income and 90% of its net tax-exempt income, if any, for the tax year (certain distributions made by the Fund after the close of its tax year are considered distributions attributable to the previous tax year for purposes of satisfying this requirement).
- Income Requirement—a Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, and gains from the sale or other disposition of stock, securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived from its business of investing in such stock, securities or currencies and net income derived from qualified publicly traded partnerships (QPTPs).
- Asset Diversification Test—a Fund must satisfy the following asset diversification test at the close of each quarter of the Fund's tax year: (1) at least 50% of the value of the Fund's assets must consist of cash and cash items, U.S. Government securities, securities of other regulated investment companies, and securities of other issuers (as to which a Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of the Fund's total assets in securities of an issuer and as to which the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer); and (2) no more than 25% of the value of the Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of any one issuer (other than U.S. Government securities or securities of other regulated investment companies) or of two or more issuers which the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or, collectively, in the securities of OPTPs.

In some circumstances, the character and timing of income realized by a Fund for purposes of the Income Requirement or the identification of the issuer for purposes of the Asset Diversification Test is uncertain under current law with respect to a particular investment, and an adverse determination or future guidance by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) with respect to such type of investment may adversely affect a Fund's ability to satisfy these requirements. See "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions" with respect to the application of these requirements to certain types of investments. In other circumstances, a Fund may be required to sell portfolio holdings in order to meet the Income Requirement, Distribution Requirement, or Asset Diversification Test, which may have a negative impact on the Fund's income and performance. In lieu of potential disqualification,

the Fund is permitted to pay a tax for certain failures to satisfy the Asset Diversification Test or Income Requirement, which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect.

Each Fund may use "equalization accounting" (in lieu of making some cash distributions) in determining the portion of its income and gains that has been distributed. If a Fund uses equalization accounting, it will allocate a portion of its undistributed investment company taxable income and net capital gain to redemptions of Fund shares and will correspondingly reduce the amount of such income and gains that it distributes in cash. However, each Fund intends to make cash distributions for each taxable year in an aggregate amount that is sufficient to satisfy the Distribution Requirement without taking into account its use of equalization accounting. If the IRS determines that the Funds' allocation is improper and that the Fund has under-distributed its income and gain for any taxable year, the Funds may be liable for federal income and/or excise tax.

If for any taxable year the Funds do not qualify as a regulated investment company, all of its taxable income (including its net capital gain) would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for dividends paid to shareholders, and the dividends would be taxable to the shareholders as ordinary income (or possibly as qualified dividend income) to the extent of the Funds' current and accumulated earnings and profits. Failure to qualify as a regulated investment company thus would have a negative impact on the Funds' income and performance. Subject to savings provisions for certain inadvertent failures to satisfy the Income Requirement or Asset Diversification Test which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect, it is possible that the Funds will not qualify as a regulated investment company in any given tax year. Even if such savings provisions apply, the Funds may be subject to a monetary sanction of \$50,000 or more. Moreover, the Board reserves the right not to maintain the qualification of the Fund as a regulated investment company if it determines such a course of action to be beneficial to shareholders.

Portfolio turnover. For investors that hold their Fund shares in a taxable account, a high portfolio turnover rate may result in higher taxes. This is because a fund with a high turnover rate may accelerate the recognition of capital gains and more of such gains are likely to be taxable as short-term rather than long-term capital gains in contrast to a comparable fund with a low turnover rate. Any such higher taxes would reduce the Funds' after-tax performance. See "Taxation of Fund Distributions—Capital gain dividends" below. For non-U.S. investors, any such acceleration of the recognition of capital gains that results in more short-term and less long-term capital gains being recognized by the Fund may cause such investors to be subject to increased U.S. withholding taxes. See "Foreign Shareholders—U.S. withholding tax at the source" below.

Capital loss carryovers. The capital losses of the Funds, if any, do not flow through to shareholders. Rather, the Funds may use their capital losses, subject to applicable limitations, to offset its capital gains without being required to pay taxes on or distribute to shareholders such gains that are offset by the losses. If the Funds have a "net capital loss" (that is, capital losses in excess of capital gains), the excess (if any) of the Funds' net short-term capital losses over its net long-term capital gains is treated as a short-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Funds' next taxable year, and the excess (if any) of the Funds' net long-term capital losses over its net short-term capital gains is treated as a long-term capital loss arising on the first day of the Funds's next taxable year. Any such net capital losses of the Funds that are not used to offset capital gains may be carried forward indefinitely to reduce any future capital gains realized by the Funds in succeeding taxable years. The amount of capital losses that can be carried forward and used in any single year is subject to an annual limitation if there is a more than 50% "change in ownership" of the Funds. An ownership change generally results when shareholders owning 5% or more of the Funds increase their aggregate holdings by more than 50% over a three-

year look-back period. An ownership change could result in capital loss carryovers being used at a slower rate, thereby reducing the Funds' ability to offset capital gains with those losses. An increase in the amount of taxable gains distributed to the Funds' shareholders could result from an ownership change. The Funds undertake no obligation to avoid or prevent an ownership change, which can occur in the normal course of shareholder purchases and redemptions or as a result of engaging in a tax-free reorganization with another fund. Moreover, because of circumstances beyond the Funds' control, there can be no assurance that the Funds will not experience, or has not already experienced, an ownership change.

Deferral of late year losses. The Funds may elect to treat part or all of any "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year in determining the Funds' taxable income, net capital gain, net short-term capital gain, and earnings and profits. The effect of this election is to treat any such "qualified late year loss" as if it had been incurred in the succeeding taxable year, which may change the timing, amount, or characterization of Fund distributions (see "Taxation of Fund Distributions—Capital gain dividends" below).

# A "qualified late year loss" includes:

- (i) any net capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, or, if there is no such loss, any net long-term capital loss or any net short-term capital loss incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year (post-October capital losses), and
- (ii) the sum of (1) the excess, if any, of (a) specified losses incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year, over (b) specified gains incurred after October 31 of the current taxable year and (2) the excess, if any, of (a) ordinary losses incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year, over (b) the ordinary income incurred after December 31 of the current taxable year.

The terms "specified losses" and "specified gains" mean ordinary losses and gains from the sale, exchange, or other disposition of property (including the termination of a position with respect to such property), foreign currency losses and gains, and losses and gains resulting from holding stock in a passive foreign investment company (PFIC) for which a mark-to-market election is in effect. The terms "ordinary losses" and "ordinary income" mean other ordinary losses and income that are not described in the preceding sentence. Special rules apply to a fund with a fiscal year ending in November or December that elects to use its taxable year for determining its capital gain net income for excise tax purposes.

Undistributed capital gains. The Funds may retain or distribute to shareholders their net capital gain for each taxable year. The Funds currently intend to distribute net capital gains. If the Funds elect to retain its net capital gain, the Funds will be taxed thereon (except to the extent of any available capital loss carryovers) at the highest corporate tax rate (currently 35%). If the Funds elect to retain its net capital gain, it is expected that the Funds also will elect to have shareholders treated as if each received a distribution of its pro rata share of such gain, with the result that each shareholder will be required to report its pro rata share of such gain on its tax return as long-term capital gain, will receive a refundable tax credit for its pro rata share of tax paid by the Funds on the gain and will increase the tax basis for its shares by an amount equal to the deemed distribution less the tax credit.

Federal excise tax. To avoid a 4% non-deductible excise tax, the Funds must distribute by December 31 of each year an amount equal to at least: (1) 98% of its ordinary income for the calendar year, (2) 98.2% of capital gain net income (the excess of the gains from sales or exchanges of capital assets over the losses from such sales

or exchanges) for the one-year period ended on October 31 of such calendar year (or, at the election of a regulated investment company having a taxable year ending November 30 or December 31, for its taxable year), and (3) any prior year undistributed ordinary income and capital gain net income. The Funds may elect to defer to the following year any net ordinary loss incurred for the portion of the calendar year which is after the beginning of the Funds' taxable year. Also, the Funds will defer any "specified gain" or "specified loss" which would be properly taken into account for the portion of the calendar after October 31. Any net ordinary loss, specified gain, or specified loss deferred shall be treated as arising on January 1 of the following calendar year. Generally, the Funds may make sufficient distributions to avoid liability for federal income and excise tax, but can give no assurances that all or a portion of such liability will be avoided. In addition, under certain circumstances temporary timing or permanent differences in the realization of income and expense for book and tax purposes can result in the Fund having to pay an excise tax.

Foreign income tax. Investment income received by the Funds from sources within foreign countries may be subject to foreign income tax withheld at the source, and the amount of tax withheld generally will be treated as an expense of the Funds. The United States has entered into tax treaties with many foreign countries that entitle the Funds to a reduced rate of, or exemption from, tax on such income. Some countries require the filing of a tax reclaim or other forms to receive the benefit of the reduced tax rate; whether or when the Funds will receive the tax reclaim is within the control of the individual country. Information required on these forms may not be available such as shareholder information; therefore, the Funds may not receive the reduced treaty rates or potential reclaims. Other countries have conflicting and changing instructions and restrictive timing requirements which may cause the Funds not to receive the reduced treaty rates or potential reclaims. Other countries may subject capital gains realized by the Funds on sale or disposition of securities of that country to taxation. It is impossible to determine the effective rate of foreign tax in advance since the amount of the Funds' assets to be invested in various countries is not known. Under certain circumstances, the Funds may elect to pass-through foreign taxes paid by the Funds to shareholders, although it reserves the right not to do so. If the Funds make such an election and obtains a refund of foreign taxes paid by the Funds in a prior year, the Funds may be eligible to reduce the amount of foreign taxes reported by the Funds to their shareholders, generally by the amount of the foreign taxes refunded, for the year in which the refund is received.

**Taxation of Fund Distributions.** The Funds anticipate distributing substantially all of its investment company taxable income and net capital gain for each taxable year. Distributions by the Funds will be treated in the manner described regardless of whether such distributions are paid in cash or reinvested in additional shares of the Funds (or of another Fund). The Funds will send you information annually as to the federal income tax consequences of distributions made (or deemed made) during the year.

Distributions of ordinary income. The Funds receive income generally in the form of dividends and/or interest on its investments. The Funds may also recognize ordinary income from other sources, including, but not limited to, certain gains on foreign currency-related transactions. The Funds also may distribute to you any market discount and net short-term capital gains from the sale of its portfolio securities. This income, less expenses incurred in the operation of the Funds, constitutes the Funds' net investment income from which dividends may be paid to you. If you are a taxable investor, distributions of net investment income generally are taxable as ordinary income to the extent of the Fund's earnings and profits. In the case of a Fund whose strategy includes investing in stocks of corporations, a portion of the income dividends paid to you may be qualified dividends eligible to be taxed at reduced rates.

Capital gain dividends. Taxes on distributions of capital gains are determined by how long the Funds owned the investments that generated them, rather than how long a shareholder has owned his or her shares. In general, the Funds will recognize long-term capital gain or loss on the sale or other disposition of assets it has owned for more than one year, and short-term capital gain or loss on investments it has owned for one year or less. Distributions of net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) that are properly reported by the Funds to shareholders as capital gain dividends generally will be taxable to a shareholder receiving such distributions as long-term capital gain. Long-term capital gain rates applicable to individuals are taxed at the maximum rate of 15% (20% for certain high income taxpayers) or 25% depending on the nature of the capital gain. Distributions of net short-term capital gains for a taxable year in excess of net long-term capital losses for such taxable year generally will be taxable to a shareholder receiving such distributions as ordinary income.

Qualified dividend income for individuals. Because the income of the Funds primarily is derived from investments earning interest rather than dividend income, generally none of the Funds' income dividends will be qualified dividend income eligible for taxation at capital gain rates.

Corporate dividends received deduction. Because the income of the Funds primarily is derived from investments earning interest rather than dividend income, generally none of the Funds' income dividends will be eligible for the corporate dividends-received deduction.

Return of capital distributions. Distributions by the Funds that are not paid from earnings and profits will be treated as a return of capital to the extent of (and in reduction of) the shareholder's tax basis in his shares; any excess will be treated as gain from the sale of his shares. Thus, the portion of a distribution that constitutes a return of capital will decrease the shareholder's tax basis in his Fund shares (but not below zero), and will result in an increase in the amount of gain (or decrease in the amount of loss) that will be recognized by the shareholder for tax purposes on the later sale of such Fund shares. Return of capital distributions can occur for a number of reasons including, among others, the Funds overestimate the income to be received from certain investments.

Impact of realized but undistributed income and gains, and net unrealized appreciation of portfolio securities. At the time of your purchase of shares (except in a money market fund that maintains a stable net asset value), the Funds' net asset value may reflect undistributed income, undistributed capital gains, or net unrealized appreciation of portfolio securities held by the Funds. A subsequent distribution to you of such amounts, although constituting a return of your investment, would be taxable and would be taxed as either ordinary income (some portion of which may be taxed as qualified dividend income) or capital gain unless you are investing through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. The Funds may be able to reduce the amount of such distributions by utilizing its capital loss carryovers, if any.

Tax credit bonds. If the Funds hold, directly or indirectly, one or more "tax credit bonds" (including build America bonds, clean renewable energy bonds and qualified tax credit bonds) on one or more applicable dates during a taxable year, the Funds may elect to permit its shareholders to claim a tax credit on their income tax returns equal to each shareholder's proportionate share of tax credits from the applicable bonds that otherwise would be allowed to the Funds. In such a case, shareholders must include in gross income (as interest) their proportionate share of the income attributable to their proportionate share of those offsetting tax credits. A shareholder's ability to claim a tax credit associated with one or more tax credit bonds may be subject to certain

limitations imposed by the Code. Even if the Funds are eligible to pass-through tax credits to shareholders, the Fund may choose not to do so.

*U.S. Government interest.* Income earned on certain U.S. Government obligations is exempt from state and local personal income taxes if earned directly by you. States also grant tax-free status to dividends paid to you from interest earned on direct obligations of the U.S. Government, subject in some states to minimum investment or reporting requirements that must be met by the Funds. Income on investments by the Funds in certain other obligations, such as repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Government obligations, commercial paper and federal agency-backed obligations (e.g., GNMA or FNMA obligations), generally does not qualify for tax-free treatment. The rules on exclusion of this income are different for corporations.

Dividends declared in December and paid in January. Ordinarily, shareholders are required to take distributions by the Fund into account in the year in which the distributions are made. However, dividends declared in October, November or December of any year and payable to shareholders of record on a specified date in such a month will be deemed to have been received by the shareholders (and made by the Funds) on December 31 of such calendar year if such dividends are actually paid in January of the following year. Shareholders will be advised annually as to the U.S. federal income tax consequences of distributions made (or deemed made) during the year in accordance with the guidance that has been provided by the IRS.

Medicare tax. A 3.8% Medicare tax is imposed on net investment income earned by certain individuals, estates and trusts. "Net investment income," for these purposes, means investment income, including ordinary dividends and capital gain distributions received from the Funds and net gains from redemptions or other taxable dispositions of Fund shares, reduced by the deductions properly allocable to such income. In the case of an individual, the tax will be imposed on the lesser of (1) the shareholder's net investment income or (2) the amount by which the shareholder's modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$250,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing jointly or a surviving spouse), \$125,000 (if the shareholder is married and filing separately) or \$200,000 (in any other case). This Medicare tax, if applicable, is reported by you on, and paid with, your federal income tax return. Net investment income does not include exempt-interest dividends.

**Sale or Redemption of Fund Shares.** A shareholder will recognize gain or loss on the sale or redemption of shares of the Funds in an amount equal to the difference between the proceeds of the sale or redemption and the shareholder's adjusted tax basis in the shares. If you owned your shares as a capital asset, any gain or loss that you realize will be considered capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares were held for longer than one year. Capital losses in any year are deductible only to the extent of capital gains plus, in the case of a noncorporate taxpayer, \$3,000 of ordinary income.

Tax basis information. The Funds are required to report to you and the IRS annually on Form 1099-B the cost basis of shares where the cost basis of the shares is known by the Funds (referred to as "covered shares") and which are disposed of after that date. However, cost basis reporting is not required for certain shareholders, including shareholders investing in the Fund through a tax-advantaged retirement account, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account, or shareholders investing in a money market fund that maintains a stable net asset value. When required to report cost basis, the Funds will calculate it using the Funds' default method of average cost, unless you instruct the Funds to use a different calculation method. In general, average cost is the total cost basis of all your shares in an account divided by the total number of shares in the account. To determine whether short-term or long-term capital gains taxes apply, the IRS presumes you redeem your oldest shares first.

The IRS permits the use of several methods to determine the cost basis of mutual fund shares. The method used will determine which specific shares are deemed to be sold when there are multiple purchases on different dates at differing share prices, and the entire position is not sold at one time. The Funds do not recommend any particular method of determining cost basis, and the use of other methods may result in more favorable tax consequences for some shareholders. It is important that you consult with your tax advisor to determine which method is best for you and then notify the Funds if you intend to utilize a method other than average cost for covered shares.

In addition to the Funds' default method of average cost, other cost basis methods offered by Archer, which you may elect to apply to covered shares, include:

- First-In, First-Out—shares acquired first in the account are the first shares depleted.
- Last-In, First-Out—shares acquired last in the account are the first shares depleted.
- High Cost—shares acquired with the highest cost per share are the first shares depleted.
- Low Cost—shares acquired with the lowest cost per share are the first shares depleted.
- Loss/Gain Utilization—depletes shares with losses before gains, consistent with the objective of minimizing taxes. For shares that yield a loss, shares owned one year or less (short-term) will be depleted ahead of shares owned more than one year (long-term). For gains, long-term shares will be depleted ahead of short-term gains.
- Specific Lot Identification—shareholder selects which lots to deplete at time of each disposition. Transaction amount must be in shares. If insufficient shares are identified at the time of disposition, then a secondary default method of first-in, first-out will be applied.

You may elect any of the available methods detailed above for your covered shares. If you do not notify the Funds of your elected cost basis method, the default method of average cost will be applied to your covered shares upon redemption. The cost basis for covered shares will be calculated separately from any shares for which cost basis information is not known by the Funds (noncovered shares) you may own. You may change or revoke the use of the average cost method and revert to another cost basis method if you notify the Funds by the date of the first sale, exchange, or other disposition of your covered shares. In addition, you may change to another cost basis method at any time by notifying the Funds, but only for shares acquired after the date of the change (the change is prospective). The basis of the shares that were averaged before the change will remain averaged after the date of the change.

With the exception of the specific lot identification method, Archer first depletes noncovered shares in first-in, first-out order before applying your elected method to your remaining covered shares. If you want to deplete your shares in a different order then you must elect specific lot identification and choose the lots you wish to deplete first. Shareholders that use the average cost method for noncovered shares must make the election to

use the average cost method for these shares on their federal income tax returns in accordance with Treasury regulations. This election for noncovered shares cannot be made by notifying the Funds.

The Funds will compute and report the cost basis of your Fund shares sold or exchanged by taking into account all of the applicable adjustments to cost basis and holding periods as required by the Code and Treasury regulations for purposes of reporting these amounts to you and, in the case of covered shares, to the IRS. However, the Funds is not required to, and in many cases the Funds do not possess the information to, take all possible basis, holding period or other adjustments into account in reporting cost basis information to you. Therefore, shareholders should carefully review the cost basis information provided by the Funds and make any additional basis, holding period or other adjustments that are required by the Code and Treasury regulations when reporting these amounts on their federal income tax returns. Shareholders remain solely responsible for complying with all federal income tax laws when filing their federal income tax returns.

If you hold your Fund shares through a broker (or other nominee), please contact that broker (nominee) with respect to the reporting of cost basis and available elections for your account.

Wash sale rule. All or a portion of any loss so recognized may be deferred under the wash sale rules if the shareholder purchases other shares of the Funds within 30 days before or after the sale or redemption.

Sales at a loss within six months of purchase. Any capital loss arising from the sale or redemption of shares held for six months or less will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of the amount of capital gain dividends received on such shares.

Deferral of basis – any class that bears a front-end sales load. If a shareholder (a) incurs a sales load in acquiring shares of the Funds, (b) disposes of such shares less than 91 days after they are acquired, and (c) subsequently acquires shares of the Funds or another Fund by January 31 of the calendar year following the calendar year in which the disposition of the original shares occurred at a reduced sales load pursuant to a right to reinvest at such reduced sales load acquired in connection with the acquisition of the shares disposed of, then the sales load on the shares disposed of (to the extent of the reduction in the sales load on the shares subsequently acquired) shall not be taken into account in determining gain or loss on the shares disposed of, but shall be treated as incurred on the acquisition of the shares subsequently acquired. The wash sale rules may also limit the amount of loss that may be taken into account on disposition after such adjustment.

Exchange of shares of the Funds for shares of another Fund. The exchange of shares in one Fund for shares of another Fund is taxable for federal income tax purposes and the exchange will be reported as a taxable sale. An exchange occurs when the purchase of shares of a Fund is made using the proceeds from a redemption of shares of another Fund and is effectuated on the same day as the redemption. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the state and local tax consequences of an exchange of shares.

Reportable transactions. Under Treasury regulations, if a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to the Fund's shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder (or certain greater amounts over a combination of years), the shareholder must file with the IRS a disclosure statement on Form 8886. The fact that a loss is reportable under these regulations does not affect the legal determination of whether the taxpayer's treatment of the loss is proper. Shareholders should consult their tax advisors to determine the applicability of these regulations in light of their individual circumstances.

**Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions**. Set forth below is a general description of the tax treatment of certain types of securities, investment techniques and transactions that may apply to a fund. This section should be read in conjunction with the discussion under "Description of the Funds and their Investments and Risks — Investment Strategies and Risks" for a detailed description of the various types of securities and investment techniques that apply to a Fund.

In general. In general, gain or loss recognized by a fund on the sale or other disposition of portfolio investments will be a capital gain or loss. Such capital gain and loss may be long-term or short-term depending, in general, upon the length of time a particular investment position is maintained and, in some cases, upon the nature of the transaction. Property held for more than one year generally will be eligible for long-term capital gain or loss treatment. The application of certain rules described below may serve to alter the manner in which the holding period for a security is determined or may otherwise affect the characterization as long-term or short-term, and also the timing of the realization and/or character, of certain gains or losses.

Certain fixed-income investments. Gain recognized on the disposition of a debt obligation purchased by a fund at a market discount (generally, at a price less than its principal amount) will be treated as ordinary income to the extent of the portion of the market discount that accrued during the period of time the fund held the debt obligation unless the fund made a current inclusion election to accrue market discount into income as it accrues. If a fund purchases a debt obligation (such as a zero coupon security or pay-in-kind security) that was originally issued at a discount, the fund generally is required to include in gross income each year the portion of the original issue discount that accrues during such year. Therefore, a fund's investment in such securities may cause the fund to recognize income and make distributions to shareholders before it receives any cash payments on the securities. To generate cash to satisfy those distribution requirements, a fund may have to sell portfolio securities that it otherwise might have continued to hold or to use cash flows from other sources such as the sale of fund shares.

Investments in debt obligations that are at risk of or in default present tax issues for a fund. Tax rules are not entirely clear about issues such as whether and to what extent a fund should recognize market discount on a debt obligation, when a fund may cease to accrue interest, original issue discount or market discount, when and to what extent a fund may take deductions for bad debts or worthless securities and how a fund should allocate payments received on obligations in default between principal and income. These and other related issues will be addressed by a fund in order to ensure that it distributes sufficient income to preserve its status as a regulated investment company.

Options, futures, forward contracts, swap agreements and hedging transactions. In general, option premiums received by a fund are not immediately included in the income of the fund. Instead, the premiums are recognized when the option contract expires, the option is exercised by the holder, or the fund transfers or otherwise terminates the option (e.g., through a closing transaction). If an option written by a fund is exercised and the fund sells or delivers the underlying stock, the fund generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to (a) the sum of the strike price and the option premium received by the fund minus (b) the fund's basis in the stock. Such gain or loss generally will be short-term or long-term depending upon the holding period of the underlying stock. If securities are purchased by a fund pursuant to the exercise of a put option written by it, the fund generally will subtract the premium received from its cost basis in the securities purchased. The gain or loss with respect to any termination of a fund's obligation under an option other than through the exercise of the option and related sale or delivery of the underlying stock generally will be short-term gain or loss depending on whether the

premium income received by the fund is greater or less than the amount paid by the fund (if any) in terminating the transaction. Thus, for example, if an option written by a fund expires unexercised, the fund generally will recognize short-term gain equal to the premium received.

The tax treatment of certain futures contracts entered into by a fund as well as listed non-equity options written or purchased by the fund on U.S. exchanges (including options on futures contracts, broad-based equity indices and debt securities) may be governed by section 1256 of the Code (section 1256 contracts). Gains or losses on section 1256 contracts generally are considered 60% long-term and 40% short-term capital gains or losses (60/40), although certain foreign currency gains and losses from such contracts may be treated as ordinary in character. Also, any section 1256 contracts held by a fund at the end of each taxable year (and, for purposes of the 4% excise tax, on certain other dates as prescribed under the Code) are "marked-to-market" with the result that unrealized gains or losses are treated as though they were realized and the resulting gain or loss is treated as ordinary or 60/40 gain or loss, as applicable. Section 1256 contracts do not include any interest rate swap, currency swap, basis swap, interest rate cap, interest rate floor, commodity swap, equity swap, equity index swap, credit default swap, or similar agreement.

In addition to the special rules described above in respect of options and futures transactions, a fund's transactions in other derivative instruments (including options, forward contracts and swap agreements) as well as its other hedging, short sale, or similar transactions, may be subject to one or more special tax rules (including the constructive sale, notional principal contract, straddle, wash sale and short sale rules). These rules may affect whether gains and losses recognized by a fund are treated as ordinary or capital or as short-term or long-term, accelerate the recognition of income or gains to the fund, defer losses to the fund, and cause adjustments in the holding periods of the fund's securities. These rules, therefore, could affect the amount, timing and/or character of distributions to shareholders. Moreover, because the tax rules applicable to derivative financial instruments are in some cases uncertain under current law, an adverse determination or future guidance by the IRS with respect to these rules (which determination or guidance could be retroactive) may affect whether a fund has made sufficient distributions and otherwise satisfied the relevant requirements to maintain its qualification as a regulated investment company and avoid a fund-level tax.

Certain of a fund's investments in derivatives and foreign currency-denominated instruments, and the fund's transactions in foreign currencies and hedging activities, may produce a difference between its book income and its taxable income. If a fund's book income is less than the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any), the fund could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company. If a fund's book income exceeds the sum of its taxable income and net tax-exempt income (if any), the distribution of any such excess will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the fund's remaining earnings and profits (including current earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income, reduced by related deductions), (ii) thereafter, as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient's basis in the shares, and (iii) thereafter, as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset.

Foreign currency transactions. A fund's transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt obligations and certain foreign currency options, futures contracts and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency concerned. This treatment could increase or decrease a fund's ordinary income distributions to you, and may cause some or all of the fund's previously distributed income to be classified as a return of capital. In certain cases, a fund may make an election to treat such gain or loss as capital.

PFIC investments. A fund may invest in securities of foreign companies that may be classified under the Code as PFICs. In general, a foreign company is classified as a PFIC if at least one-half of its assets constitute investment-type assets or 75% or more of its gross income is investment-type income. When investing in PFIC securities, a fund intends to mark-to-market these securities under certain provisions of the Code and recognize any unrealized gains as ordinary income at the end of the fund's fiscal and excise tax years. Deductions for losses are allowable only to the extent of any current or previously recognized gains. These gains (reduced by allowable losses) are treated as ordinary income that a fund is required to distribute, even though it has not sold or received dividends from these securities. You should also be aware that the designation of a foreign security as a PFIC security will cause its income dividends to fall outside of the definition of qualified foreign corporation dividends. These dividends generally will not qualify for the reduced rate of taxation on qualified dividends when distributed to you by a fund. Foreign companies are not required to identify themselves as PFICs. Due to various complexities in identifying PFICs, a fund can give no assurances that it will be able to identify portfolio securities in foreign corporations that are PFICs in time for the fund to make a mark-to-market election. If a fund is unable to identify an investment as a PFIC and thus does not make a mark-to-market election, the fund may be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a portion of any "excess distribution" or gain from the disposition of such shares even if such income is distributed as a taxable dividend by the fund to its shareholders. Additional charges in the nature of interest may be imposed on a fund in respect of deferred taxes arising from such distributions or gains.

Investments in non-U.S. REITs. While non-U.S. REITs often use complex acquisition structures that seek to minimize taxation in the source country, an investment by a fund in a non-U.S. REIT may subject the fund, directly or indirectly, to corporate taxes, withholding taxes, transfer taxes and other indirect taxes in the country in which the real estate acquired by the non-U.S. REIT is located. The fund's pro rata share of any such taxes will reduce the fund's return on its investment. A fund's investment in a non-U.S. REIT may be considered an investment in a PFIC, as discussed above in "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions — PFIC investments." Additionally, foreign withholding taxes on distributions from the non-U.S. REIT may be reduced or eliminated under certain tax treaties, as discussed above in "Taxation of the Fund — Foreign income tax." Also, the fund in certain limited circumstances may be required to file an income tax return in the source country and pay tax on any gain realized from its investment in the non-U.S. REIT under rules similar to those in the United States which tax foreign persons on gain realized from dispositions of interests in U.S. real estate.

Investments in U.S. REITs. A U.S. REIT is not subject to federal income tax on the income and gains it distributes to shareholders. Dividends paid by a U.S. REIT, other than capital gain distributions, will be taxable as ordinary income up to the amount of the U.S. REIT's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Capital gain dividends paid by a U.S. REIT to a fund will be treated as long-term capital gains by the fund and, in turn, may be distributed by the fund to its shareholders as a capital gain distribution. Because of certain noncash expenses, such as property depreciation, an equity U.S. REIT's cash flow may exceed its taxable income. The equity U.S. REIT, and in turn a fund, may distribute this excess cash to shareholders in the form of a return of capital distribution. However, if a U.S. REIT is operated in a manner that fails to qualify as a REIT, an investment in the U.S. REIT would become subject to double taxation, meaning the taxable income of the U.S. REIT would be subject to federal income tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for dividends paid to shareholders and the dividends would be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income (or possibly as qualified dividend income) to the extent of the U.S. REIT's current and accumulated earnings and profits. Also, see "Tax Treatment of Portfolio Transactions — Investment in taxable mortgage pools (excess inclusion income)" and "Foreign

Shareholders — U.S. withholding tax at the source" with respect to certain other tax aspects of investing in U.S. REITs.

Investment in taxable mortgage pools (excess inclusion income). Under a Notice issued by the IRS, the Code and Treasury regulations to be issued, a portion of a fund's income from a U.S. REIT that is attributable to the REIT's residual interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit (REMIC) or equity interests in a "taxable mortgage pool" (referred to in the Code as an excess inclusion) will be subject to federal income tax in all events. The excess inclusion income of a regulated investment company, such as a fund, will be allocated to shareholders of the regulated investment company in proportion to the dividends received by such shareholders, with the same consequences as if the shareholders held the related REMIC residual interest or, if applicable, taxable mortgage pool directly. In general, excess inclusion income allocated to shareholders (i) cannot be offset by net operating losses (subject to a limited exception for certain thrift institutions), (ii) will constitute unrelated business taxable income (UBTI) to entities (including qualified pension plans, individual retirement accounts, 401(k) plans, Keogh plans or other tax-exempt entities) subject to tax on UBTI, thereby potentially requiring such an entity that is allocated excess inclusion income, and otherwise might not be required to file a tax return, to file a tax return and pay tax on such income, and (iii) in the case of a foreign stockholder, will not qualify for any reduction in U.S. federal withholding tax. In addition, if at any time during any taxable year a "disqualified organization" (which generally includes certain cooperatives, governmental entities, and tax-exempt organizations not subject to UBTI) is a record holder of a share in a regulated investment company, then the regulated investment company will be subject to a tax equal to that portion of its excess inclusion income for the taxable year that is allocable to the disqualified organization, multiplied by the highest federal income tax rate imposed on corporations. The Notice imposes certain reporting requirements upon regulated investment companies that have excess inclusion income. There can be no assurance that a fund will not allocate to shareholders excess inclusion income.

These rules are potentially applicable to a fund with respect to any income it receives from the equity interests of certain mortgage pooling vehicles, either directly or, as is more likely, through an investment in a U.S. REIT. It is unlikely that these rules will apply to a fund that has a non-REIT strategy.

Investments in partnerships and OPTPs. For purposes of the Income Requirement, income derived by a fund from a partnership that is not a QPTP will be treated as qualifying income only to the extent such income is attributable to items of income of the partnership that would be qualifying income if realized directly by the fund. While the rules are not entirely clear with respect to a fund investing in a partnership outside a master-feeder structure, for purposes of testing whether a fund satisfies the Asset Diversification Test, the fund generally is treated as owning a pro rata share of the underlying assets of a partnership. See "Taxation of the Fund — Qualification as a regulated investment company." In contrast, different rules apply to a partnership that is a QPTP. A QPTP is a partnership (a) the interests in which are traded on an established securities market, (b) that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, and (c) that derives less than 90% of its income from sources that satisfy the Income Requirement (e.g., because it invests in commodities). All of the net income derived by a fund from an interest in a QPTP will be treated as qualifying income but the fund may not invest more than 25% of its total assets in one or more QPTPs. However, there can be no assurance that a partnership classified as a QPTP in one year will qualify as a QPTP in the next year. Any such failure to annually qualify as a QPTP might, in turn, cause a fund to fail to qualify as a regulated investment company. Although, in general, the passive loss rules of the Code do not apply to RICs, such rules do apply to a fund with respect to items attributable to an interest in a QPTP. Fund investments in partnerships, including in QPTPs, may result in the fund being subject to state, local or foreign income, franchise or withholding tax liabilities.

If an MLP is treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes (whether or not a QPTP), all or portion of the dividends received by a fund from the MLP likely will be treated as a return of capital for U.S. federal income tax purposes because of accelerated deductions available with respect to the activities of such MLPs. Further, because of these accelerated deductions, on the disposition of interests in such an MLP, a fund likely will realize taxable income in excess of economic gain with respect to those MLP interests (or if the fund does not dispose of the MLP, the fund could realize taxable income in excess of cash flow with respect to the MLP in a later period), and the fund must take such income into account in determining whether the fund has satisfied its Distribution Requirement. A fund may have to borrow or liquidate securities to satisfy its Distribution Requirement and to meet its redemption requests, even though investment considerations might otherwise make it undesirable for the fund to sell securities or borrow money at such time. In addition, any gain recognized, either upon the sale of a fund's MLP interest or sale by the MLP of property held by it, including in excess of economic gain thereon, treated as so-called "recapture income," will be treated as ordinary income. Therefore, to the extent a fund invests in MLPs, fund shareholders might receive greater amounts of distributions from the fund taxable as ordinary income than they otherwise would in the absence of such MLP investments.

Although MLPs are generally expected to be treated as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, some MLPs may be treated as PFICs or "regular" corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The treatment of particular MLPs for U.S. federal income tax purposes will affect the extent to which a fund can invest in MLPs and will impact the amount, character, and timing of income recognized by the Fund.

Investments in commodities — structured notes, corporate subsidiary and certain ETFs. Gains from the disposition of commodities, including precious metals, will neither be considered qualifying income for purposes of satisfying the Income Requirement nor qualifying assets for purposes of satisfying the Asset Diversification Test. See "Taxation of the Fund — Qualification as a regulated investment company." Also, the IRS has issued a revenue ruling which holds that income derived from commodity-linked swaps is not qualifying income for purposes of the Income Requirement. In a subsequent revenue ruling, as well as in a number of follow-on private letter rulings (upon which only the fund that received the private letter ruling may rely), the IRS provides that income from certain alternative investments which create commodity exposure, such as certain commodity-linked or structured notes or a corporate subsidiary that invests in commodities, may be considered qualifying income under the Code. However, as of the date of this SAI, the IRS suspended the issuance of any further private letter rulings pending a review of its position. Should the IRS issue guidance, or Congress enact legislation, that adversely affects the tax treatment of a fund's use of commodity-linked notes, or a corporate subsidiary, the fund may no longer be able to utilize commodity-linked notes or a corporate subsidiary to gain commodity exposure. In addition, a fund may gain exposure to commodities through investment in QPTPs such as an exchange-traded fund or ETF that is classified as a partnership and which invests in commodities. Accordingly, the extent to which a fund invests in commodities or commodity-linked derivatives may be limited by the Income Requirement and the Asset Diversification Test, which the fund must continue to satisfy to maintain its status as a regulated investment company. A fund also may be limited in its ability to sell its investments in commodities, commoditylinked derivatives, and certain ETFs or be forced to sell other investments to generate income due to the Income Requirement. If a fund does not appropriately limit such investments or if such investments (or the income earned on such investments) were to be recharacterized for U.S. tax purposes, the fund could fail to qualify as a regulated investment company. In lieu of potential disqualification, a fund is permitted to pay a tax for certain failures to satisfy the Asset Diversification Test or Income Requirement, which, in general, are limited to those due to reasonable cause and not willful neglect.

Securities lending. While securities are loaned out by a fund, the fund generally will receive from the borrower amounts equal to any dividends or interest paid on the borrowed securities. For federal income tax purposes, payments made "in lieu of" dividends are not considered dividend income. These distributions will neither qualify for the reduced rate of taxation for individuals on qualified dividends nor the 70% dividends received deduction for corporations. Also, any foreign tax withheld on payments made "in lieu of" dividends or interest will not qualify for the pass-through of foreign tax credits to shareholders. Additionally, in the case of a fund with a strategy of investing in tax-exempt securities, any payments made "in lieu of" tax-exempt interest will be considered taxable income to the fund, and thus, to the investors, even though such interest may be tax-exempt when paid to the borrower.

Investments in convertible securities. Convertible debt is ordinarily treated as a "single property" consisting of a pure debt interest until conversion, after which the investment becomes an equity interest. If the security is issued at a premium (i.e., for cash in excess of the face amount payable on retirement), the creditorholder may amortize the premium over the life of the bond. If the security is issued for cash at a price below its face amount, the creditor-holder must accrue original issue discount in income over the life of the debt. The creditor-holder's exercise of the conversion privilege is treated as a nontaxable event. Mandatorily convertible debt (e.g., an exchange-traded note or ETN issued in the form of an unsecured obligation that pays a return based on the performance of a specified market index, exchange currency, or commodity) is often, but not always, treated as a contract to buy or sell the reference property rather than debt. Similarly, convertible preferred stock with a mandatory conversion feature is ordinarily, but not always, treated as equity rather than debt. Dividends received generally are qualified dividend income and eligible for the corporate dividends received deduction. In general, conversion of preferred stock for common stock of the same corporation is tax-free. Conversion of preferred stock for cash is a taxable redemption. Any redemption premium for preferred stock that is redeemable by the issuing company might be required to be amortized under original issue discount principles. A change in the conversion ratio or conversion price of a convertible security on account of a dividend paid to the issuer's other shareholders may result in a deemed distribution of stock to the holders of the convertible security equal to the value of their increased interest in the equity of the issuer. Thus, an increase in the conversion ratio of a convertible security can be treated as a taxable distribution of stock to a holder of the convertible security (without a corresponding receipt of cash by the holder) before the holder has converted the security.

**Tax Certification and Backup Withholding.** Tax certification and backup withholding tax laws may require that you certify your tax information when you become an investor in the Fund. For U.S. citizens and resident aliens, this certification is made on IRS Form W-9. Under these laws, the Fund must withhold a portion of your taxable distributions and sales proceeds unless you:

- provide your correct Social Security or taxpayer identification number,
- certify that this number is correct,
- certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, and
- certify that you are a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien).

The Funds also must withhold if the IRS instructs it to do so. When withholding is required, the amount will be 28% of any distributions or proceeds paid. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld may be credited against the shareholder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the appropriate information is furnished to the IRS. Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding and information reporting.

Non-U.S. investors have special U.S. tax certification requirements. See "Foreign Shareholders - Tax certification and backup withholding."

**Foreign Shareholders.** Shareholders who, as to the United States, are nonresident alien individuals, foreign trusts or estates, foreign corporations, or foreign partnerships (foreign shareholder), may be subject to U.S. withholding and estate tax and are subject to special U.S. tax certification requirements.

Taxation of a foreign shareholder depends on whether the income from the Fund is "effectively connected" with a U.S. trade or business carried on by such shareholder.

*U.S.* withholding tax at the source. If the income from the Funds is not effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by a foreign shareholder, distributions to such shareholder will be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate) upon the gross amount of the distribution, subject to certain exemptions including those for dividends reported by the Funds to shareholders as:

- exempt-interest dividends paid by the Funds from its net interest income earned on municipal securities;
- capital gain dividends paid by the Funds from its net long-term capital gains (other than those from disposition of a U.S. real property interest), unless you are a nonresident alien present in the United States for a period or periods aggregating 183 days or more during the calendar year; and
- interest-related dividends paid by the Funds from its qualified net interest income from U.S. sources and short-term capital gain dividends.

However, the Funds do not intend to utilize the exemptions for interest-related dividends paid and short-term capital gain dividends paid. Moreover, notwithstanding such exemptions from U.S. withholding at the source, any dividends and distributions of income and capital gains, including the proceeds from the sale of your Fund shares, will be subject to backup withholding at a rate of 28% if you fail to properly certify that you are not a U.S. person.

Foreign shareholders may be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 30% on the income resulting from an election to pass-through foreign tax credits to shareholders, but may not be able to claim a credit or deduction with respect to the withholding tax for the foreign tax treated as having been paid by them.

Amounts reported by the Funds to shareholders as capital gain dividends (a) that are attributable to certain capital gain dividends received from a qualified investment entity (QIE) (generally defined as either (i) a U.S. REIT or (ii) a RIC classified as a "U.S. real property holding corporation" or which would be if the exceptions

for holding 5% or less of a class of publicly traded shares or an interest in a domestically controlled QIE did not apply), or (b) that are realized by the Funds on the sale of a "U.S. real property interest" (including gain realized on the sale of shares in a QIE other than one that is domestically controlled), will not be exempt from U.S. federal income tax and may be subject to U.S. withholding tax at the rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate) if the Funds by reason of having a REIT strategy is classified as a QIE. If a Fund is so classified, foreign shareholders owning more than 5% of the Fund's shares may be treated as realizing gain from the disposition of a U.S. real property interest, causing Fund distributions to be subject to U.S. withholding tax at a rate of 35%, and requiring the filing of a nonresident U.S. income tax return. In addition, if the Fund is classified as a QIE, anti-avoidance rules apply to certain wash sale transactions. Namely, if the Funds are a domestically-controlled QIE and a foreign shareholder disposes of the Funds' shares prior to the Funds paying a distribution attributable to the disposition of a U.S. real property interest and the foreign shareholder later acquires an identical stock interest in a wash sale transaction, the foreign shareholder may still be required to pay U.S. tax on the Funds' distribution. Also, the sale of shares of the Funds, if classified as a "U.S. real property holding corporation," could also be considered a sale of a U.S. real property interest with any resulting gain from such sale being subject to U.S. tax as income "effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business."

Income effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. If the income from the Funds is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business carried on by a foreign shareholder, then ordinary income dividends, capital gain dividends and any gains realized upon the sale or redemption of shares of the Funds will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the rates applicable to U.S. citizens or domestic corporations and require the filing of a nonresident U.S. income tax return.

Tax certification and backup withholding. Foreign shareholders may have special U.S. tax certification requirements to avoid backup withholding (at a rate of 28%) and, if applicable, to obtain the benefit of any income tax treaty between the foreign shareholder's country of residence and the United States. To claim these tax benefits, the foreign shareholder must provide a properly completed Form W-8BEN (or other Form W-8, where applicable, or their substitute forms) to establish his or her status as a non-U.S. investor, to claim beneficial ownership over the assets in the account, and to claim, if applicable, a reduced rate of or exemption from withholding tax under the applicable treaty. A Form W-8BEN provided without a U.S. taxpayer identification number remains in effect for a period of three years beginning on the date that it is signed and ending on the last day of the third succeeding calendar year. However, non-U.S. investors must advise the Fund of any changes of circumstances that would render the information given on the form incorrect, and must then provide a new W-8BEN to avoid the prospective application of backup withholding. Forms W-8BEN with U.S. taxpayer identification numbers remain valid indefinitely, or until the investor has a change of circumstances that renders the form incorrect and necessitates a new form and tax certification. Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). Under FATCA, the Funds will be required to withhold a 30% tax on the following payments or distributions made by the Fund to certain foreign entities, referred to as foreign financial institutions (FFI) or non-financial foreign entities (NFFE): (a) income dividends and (b) after December 31, 2018, certain capital gain distributions, return of capital distributions and the proceeds arising from the sale of Fund shares. The FATCA withholding tax generally can be avoided: (a) by an FFI, if it reports certain direct and indirect ownership of foreign financial accounts held by U.S. persons with the FFI and (b) by an NFFE, if it: (i) certifies that it has no substantial U.S. persons as owners or (ii) if it does have such owners, reporting information relating to them. The U.S. Treasury has negotiated intergovernmental agreements (IGA) with certain

countries and is in various stages of negotiations with a number of other foreign countries with respect to one or more alternative approaches to implement FATCA.

An FFI can avoid FATCA withholding if it is deemed compliant or by becoming a "participating FFI," which requires the FFI to enter into a U.S. tax compliance agreement with the IRS under section 1471(b) of the Code (FFI agreement) under which it agrees to verify, report and disclose certain of its U.S. accountholders and meet certain other specified requirements. The FFI will either report the specified information about the U.S. accounts to the IRS, or, to the government of the FFI's country of residence (pursuant to the terms and conditions of applicable law and an applicable IGA entered into between the U.S. and the FFI's country of residence), which will, in turn, report the specified information to the IRS. An FFI that is resident in a country that has entered into an IGA with the U.S. to implement FATCA will be exempt from FATCA withholding provided that the FFI shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of such agreement.

An NFFE that is the beneficial owner of a payment from the Fund can avoid the FATCA withholding tax generally by certifying that it does not have any substantial U.S. owners or by providing the name, address and taxpayer identification number of each substantial U.S. owner. The NFFE will report the information to the Fund or other applicable withholding agent, which will, in turn, report the information to the IRS.

Such foreign shareholders also may fall into certain exempt, excepted or deemed compliant categories as established by U.S. Treasury regulations, IGAs, and other guidance regarding FATCA. An FFI or NFFE that invests in the Fund will need to provide the Fund with documentation properly certifying the entity's status under FATCA in order to avoid FATCA withholding. Non-U.S. investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the impact of these requirements on their investment in the Fund. The requirements imposed by FATCA are different from, and in addition to, the U.S. tax certification rules to avoid backup withholding described above. Shareholders are urged to consult their tax advisors regarding the application of these requirements to their own situation.

*U.S. estate tax.* Transfers by gift of shares of the Fund by a foreign shareholder who is a nonresident alien individual will not be subject to U.S. federal gift tax. An individual who, at the time of death, is a foreign shareholder will nevertheless be subject to U.S. federal estate tax with respect to shares at the graduated rates applicable to U.S. citizens and residents, unless a treaty exemption applies. If a treaty exemption is available, a decedent's estate may nonetheless need to file a U.S. estate tax return to claim the exemption in order to obtain a U.S. federal transfer certificate. The transfer certificate will identify the property (i.e., Fund shares) as to which the U.S. federal estate tax lien has been released. In the absence of a treaty, there is a \$13,000 statutory estate tax credit (equivalent to an estate with assets of \$60,000).

**Local Tax Considerations**. Rules of state and local taxation of ordinary income, qualified dividend income and capital gain dividends may differ from the rules for U.S. federal income taxation described above. Distributions may also be subject to additional state, local and foreign taxes depending on each shareholder's particular situation.

Please be aware that the U.S. tax information contained in this Statement of Additional Information is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of avoiding U.S. tax penalties.

### **CUSTODIAN**

Huntington National Bank, 41 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, is Custodian of the Funds' investments. The Custodian acts as the Funds' depository; safe keeps its portfolio securities, collects all income and other payments with respect thereto, disburses funds at the Funds' request and maintains records in connection with its duties

For its custodial services, the Custodian receives a monthly fee from the Funds based on the market value of the assets under custody. The monthly fee is equal to an annual rate of 0.0125% of the first \$75 million of market value; 0.0100% of the next \$75 million of market value; and 0.0075% of market value in excess of \$150 million. The Custodian also receives various transaction-based fees. The fees paid to the Custodian by the Funds are subject to a \$250 monthly minimum fee per account.

### **FUND SERVICES**

Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC ("MSS"), 8000 Town Centre Drive, Suite 400, Broadview Heights, OH 44148, acts as the Funds' transfer agent, fund accountant and dividend disbursing agent. Certain officers of the Trust are officers, employees, and/or members of management of MSS.

MSS maintains the records of the shareholder's account, answers shareholders' inquiries concerning their accounts, processes purchases and redemptions of the Funds' shares, acts as dividend and distribution disbursing agent and performs other transfer agent and shareholder service functions.

In addition, MSS provides the Funds with fund accounting and transfer agency services, which include certain monthly reports, record-keeping and other management-related services. For its services as fund accountant and fund transfer agent, MSS receives a monthly fee from each Fund calculated on the total net assets and the total number of shareholders. MSS will also receive reimbursement from the fund for all reasonably incurred out-of-pocket expenses it incurs in conjunction with the performance of these services.

Archer Investment Corporation ("Archer") provides the Funds with administrative services, including all regulatory reporting and necessary office equipment, personnel and facilities. Archer receives a monthly fee from the Funds equal to an annual rate of 0.50% of the Funds' average daily net assets under \$50 million, 0.07% of the Funds' average daily net assets from \$50 million to \$100 million, 0.05% of the Funds' average daily net assets from \$100 million to \$150 million, and 0.03% of the Funds' average daily net assets over \$150 million (subject to a minimum fee of \$2,500 per month).

The following table describes the administrative fees paid to the Administrator by the Archer Balanced Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

| Fiscal Year Ended | Administration | Total Fees          | Net Administration |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                   | Fees           | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid          |
|                   | Accrued        | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed)       |
| August 31, 2018   | \$174,239      | \$0                 | \$174,239          |
| August 31, 2019   | \$175,713      | \$0                 | \$175,713          |
| August 31, 2020   | \$194,927      | \$0                 | \$194,927          |

The following table describes the administrative fees paid to the Administrator by the Archer Income Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

|                   | Administration | Total Fees          | Net Administration |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ended | Fees           | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid          |
|                   | Accrued        | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed)       |
| August 31, 2018   | \$59,653       | \$0                 | \$59,653           |
| August 31, 2019   | \$59,262       | \$0                 | \$59,262           |
| August 31, 2020   | \$57,948       | \$0                 | \$57,948           |

The following table describes the administrative fees paid to the Administrator by the Archer Stock Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

|                   | Administration | Total Fees          | Net Administration |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ended | Fees           | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid          |
|                   | Accrued        | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed)       |
| August 31, 2018   | \$80,050       | \$0                 | \$80,050           |
| August 31, 2019   | \$84,276       | \$0                 | \$84,276           |
| August 31, 2020   | \$95,492       | \$0                 | \$95,492           |

The following table describes the administrative fees paid to the Administrator by the Archer Dividend Growth Fund during the fiscal periods indicated:

|                   | Administration | Total Fees          | Net Administration |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ended | Fees           | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid          |
|                   | Accrued        | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed)       |
| August 31, 2018   | \$73,560       | \$0                 | \$73,560           |
| August 31, 2019   | \$83,791       | \$0                 | \$83,791           |
| August 31, 2020   | \$90,255       | \$0                 | \$90,255           |

The following table describes the administrative fees paid to the Administrator by the Archer Focus Fund during the fiscal period indicated:

|                   | Administration | Total Fees          | Net Administration |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ended | Fees           | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid          |
|                   | Accrued        | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed)       |
| August 31, 2020   | \$20,249       | \$0                 | \$20,249           |

The following table describes the administrative fees paid to the Administrator by the Archer Multi Cap Fund during the fiscal period indicated:

|                   | Administration | Total Fees          | Net Administration |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ended | Fees           | Waived and/or       | Fees Paid          |
|                   | Accrued        | Expenses Reimbursed | (Reimbursed)       |
| August 31, 2020   | \$20,250       | \$0                 | \$20,250           |

#### INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The firm of Sanville & Company having its business address of 1514 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001-2607 has been the Funds' independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2011 to present. Sanville & Company performs an annual audit of the Funds' financial statements and provides financial, tax and accounting consulting services as requested.

### **COMPLIANCE SERVICES**

Empirical Administration, LLC ("Empirical"), an affiliate of Mutual Shareholder Services, LLC and the distributor, Arbor Court Capital, LLC, provides a Chief Compliance Officer to the Trust as well as related compliance services pursuant to a consulting agreement between Empirical and the Trust. Empirical'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 Funds, the Funds pay Empirical a fee of \$500 per month.

### LEGAL COUNSEL

Ropka Law, LLC, 215 Fries Mill Road, Turnersville, New Jersey 08012, serves as counsel for the Trust and the independent Trustees.

#### **DISTRIBUTOR**

The Funds' Distributor is Arbor Court Capital, LLC (the "Distributor"), located at 2000 Auburn Drive, Suite 120, Beachwood, Ohio 44122. The Distributor is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and each state's securities laws and is be a member of FINRA. The offering of the Funds' shares is continuous. The Underwriting Agreement provides that the Distributor, as agent in connection with the distribution of Fund shares, uses its best efforts to distribute the Funds' shares.

The Underwriting 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 Trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust or of the Distributor by vote cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The Underwriting Agreement may be terminated by the Funds at any time, without the payment of any penalty, by vote of a majority of the entire Board of the Trust or by vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Funds on 60 days' written notice to the Distributor, or by the Distributor at any time, without the payment of any penalty, on 60 days' written notice to the Funds. The Underwriting Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment.

### **DISTRIBUTION (12B-1) PLAN**

The Funds have adopted a Distribution Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. The Plan was approved by a majority of the Board of Trustees of the Trust, including a majority of the Trustees who are not interested persons of the Trust or the Funds, and who have no direct or indirect financial interest in the operation of the Plan or in any other Rule 12b-1 agreement, cast, in person, at a meeting on January 28, 2010 called for the purpose of, among other things, voting on such Plan.

The Plan provides that the Funds will pay the Advisor and/or any registered securities dealer, financial institution or any other person (the "Recipient") a shareholder servicing fee of up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Funds in connection with the promotion and distribution of Fund shares or the provision of personal services to shareholders, including, but not necessarily limited to, advertising, compensation to underwriters, dealers and selling personnel, the printing and mailing of prospectuses to other than current Fund shareholders, the printing and mailing of sales literature and servicing shareholder accounts ("12b-1 Expenses"). The Fund or Advisor may pay all or a portion of these fees to any Recipient who renders assistance in distributing or promoting the sale of shares, or who provides certain shareholder services, pursuant to a written agreement. The Plan is a compensation plan, which means that compensation is provided regardless of 12b-1 Expenses actually incurred. It is anticipated that the Plan will benefit shareholders because an effective sales program typically is necessary in order for the Funds to reach and maintain a sufficient size to achieve efficiently its investment objectives and to realize economies of scale. The Plan is not currently activated.

While the Rule 12b-1 Plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees and approved by the majority of the shareholders of the Archer Balanced Fund, Archer Stock Fund and the Archer Income Fund, but not the Archer Dividend Growth Fund, Archer Focus Fund or Archer Multi Cap Fund, the Plan was never implemented by the Board of Trustees. Effective August 7, 2018, the Board terminated each Distribution Plan ("Plan") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 of the 1940 Act for on behalf of the Archer Balanced Fund, Archer Stock Fund and the Archer Income Fund. At this time, no Archer Fund has a Rule 12b-1 Plan.

## **Additional Payments To Financial Intermediaries**

A Fund may pay to financial intermediaries; the Advisor and their affiliates may pay out of their own resources and reasonable profits amounts (including items of material value) to certain financial intermediaries. While Financial Industry Regulatory ("FINRA") regulations limit the sales charges that you may bear as a Fund shareholder, there are no limits with regard to the amounts that the Distributor, the Advisor and its affiliates may pay out of their own resources and reasonable profits. You can ask your financial intermediary for information about any payments it receives from the Distributor, the Advisor and their affiliates for any service the financial intermediary provides.

The following examples illustrate the types of instances in which the Distributor, the Advisor and their affiliates may make additional payments to a financial intermediary.

## **Supplemental Payments**

Financial intermediaries may be paid fees out of the assets of the Advisor and their affiliates (but not out of Fund assets).

Financial intermediaries may receive fees for providing distribution-related, recordkeeping or shareholder services such as sponsoring sales, providing sales literature, conducting training seminars for employees, and engineering sales-related computer software programs and systems. Also, financial intermediaries may be paid cash or promotional incentives, such as reimbursement of certain expenses relating to attendance at informational meetings about the Funds or other special events at recreational-type facilities, or items of material value. These payments will be based upon the amount of Shares the financial intermediary sells or may sell and/or upon the type and nature of sales or marketing support furnished by the financial intermediary.

# **Processing Support Payments**

The Advisor and their affiliates may make payments to financial intermediaries that sell Fund Shares to help offset their costs associated with client account maintenance support, statement processing and transaction processing. The types of payments that they may make under this category include: payment of ticket charges on a per transaction basis; payment of networking fees; and payment for ancillary services such as setting up funds on the financial intermediaries' mutual fund trading system.

## **Retirement Plan Program Servicing Payments.**

The Advisor and their affiliates may make payments to certain financial intermediaries who sell Fund Shares through retirement plan programs. A financial intermediary may perform retirement plan program services itself or may arrange with a third party to perform retirement plan program services. In addition to participant recordkeeping, reporting, or transaction processing, retirement plan program services may include services rendered to a plan in connection with fund/investment selection and monitoring; employee enrollment and education; plan balance rollover or separation, or other similar services.

## **Other Benefits to Financial Intermediaries**

From time to time, the Advisor and their affiliates, at their expense, may provide additional compensation to financial intermediaries that sell or arrange for the sale of Shares. Such compensation may include financial assistance to financial intermediaries that enable the Advisor and their affiliates to participate in or present at conferences or seminars, sales or training programs for invited employees, client and investor events and other financial intermediary-sponsored events.

The Advisor and their affiliates also may hold or sponsor, at their expense, sales events, conferences and programs for employees or associated persons of financial intermediaries and may pay the travel and lodging expenses of attendees. The Advisor and their affiliates also may provide, at their expense, meals and entertainment in conjunction with meetings with financial intermediaries. Other compensation may be offered to the extent not prohibited by applicable laws, regulations or the rules of any self-regulatory agency, such as FINRA.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A copy of each Fund's Annual Report may be obtained upon request and without charge, on the Funds' website (www.thearcherfunds.com) or by calling the Funds at the toll-free number listed on the cover page of this Statement of Additional Information. The 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 August 31, 2020.