

FLEXSHARES® TRUST

FLEXSHARES® US QUALITY LOW VOLATILITY INDEX FUND, FLEXSHARES® DEVELOPED MARKETS EX-US QUALITY LOW VOLATILITY INDEX FUND FLEXSHARES® EMERGING MARKETS QUALITY LOW VOLATILITY INDEX FUND

SUPPLEMENT DATED SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 TO

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DATED JUNE 25, 2019

Effective immediately, the Statement of Additional Information is updated as follows:

1. The first sentence of the second paragraph under the heading “ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT INFORMATION – CONTINUOUS OFFERING” beginning on page 26 is deleted and replaced with the following:

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Unit Aggregations after placing an order with the Transfer Agent, breaks them down into constituent shares, and sells such shares directly to customers, or if it chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for shares.

2. The paragraph under the heading “MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST – DISTRIBUTOR” on page 45 is deleted and replaced with the following:

Foreside Fund Services, LLC (“Foreside” or the “Distributor”), a Delaware limited liability company, serves as the principal underwriter of the Trust in connection with the review and approval of all purchase and redemption orders of Creation Units of each Fund by Authorized Participants (defined below), pursuant to a Distribution Agreement between the Trust and Foreside. The Distributor’s principal address is Three Canal Plaza, Portland, Maine 04101. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “1934 Act”), and a member of the FINRA. Shares will be continuously offered for sale by the Trust through the Distributor only in whole Creation Units, as described in the section of this SAI entitled “Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units Aggregations.” The Distributor also acts as an agent for the Trust for those activities described within the Distribution Agreement. The Distributor will deliver a prospectus to Authorized Participants purchasing Shares in Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders and confirmations of acceptance to Authorized Participants. The Distributor has no role in determining the investment policies of the Funds or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Funds. No compensation is payable by the Trust to Foreside for such distribution services. However, the Investment Adviser has entered into an agreement with Foreside under which it makes payments to Foreside in consideration for its services under the Distribution Agreement. The payments made by the Investment Adviser to Foreside do not represent an additional expense to the Trust or its shareholders.

3. The first sentence under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – General.” on page 51 is deleted and replaced with the following:

General. The Trust issues and sells shares of each Fund only in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load, at the Fund’s NAV next determined after receipt by the Transfer Agent, on any Business Day (as defined herein), of an order in proper form.

4. The paragraphs under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Procedures For Creation of Creation Units.” beginning on page 52 are deleted and replaced with the following:

Procedures For Creation of Creation Units. To be eligible to place orders to create a Creation Unit of a Fund, an entity must be: (i) a “Participating Party,” i.e., a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process

through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC (the “Clearing Process”), a clearing agency that is registered with the SEC; or (ii) a DTC Participant, and must have executed an agreement with the Distributor, with respect to creations and redemptions of Creation Units (“Participant Agreement”) (discussed below). A Participating Party or DTC Participant who has executed a Participant Agreement is referred to as an “Authorized Participant.” Investors should contact the Distributor for the names of Authorized Participants. All shares of a Fund, however created, will be entered on the records of DTC in the name of Cede & Co. for the account of a DTC Participant.

Except as described below, all creation orders must be placed for one or more Creation Units and, whether through a Participating Party or a DTC Participant, must be received in proper form no later than the closing time of the regular trading session of the Listing Exchange (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) (“Closing Time”) on any Business Day in order for creation of Creation Units to be effected based on the NAV of shares of a Fund as next determined on such date. The FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund are hereinafter referred to as the “Foreign Funds.” The FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund is hereinafter referred to as the “Domestic Fund.” The date on which an order to create Creation Units (or an order to redeem Creation Units, as discussed below) is timely received in proper form is referred to as the “Transmittal Date.” Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Transfer Agent pursuant to procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement, as described below. Economic or market disruptions or changes, or telephone or other communication failure, may impede the ability to reach the Transfer Agent or an Authorized Participant.

All orders to create Creation Units shall be placed with an Authorized Participant in the form required by such Authorized Participant. In addition, an Authorized Participant may request that an investor make certain representations or enter into agreements with respect to an order (e.g., to provide for payments of cash). Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement and, therefore, orders to create Creation Units of a Fund will have to be placed by the investor’s broker through an Authorized Participant. In such cases, there may be additional charges to such investor. A limited number of broker-dealers have executed a Participant Agreement and only a small number of such Authorized Participants have international capabilities. Investors placing orders for Creation Units of the Domestic Fund through the Clearing Process should afford sufficient time to permit proper submission of the order to the Transfer Agent prior to the Closing Time on the Transmittal Date. Orders for Creation Units of the Domestic Fund that are effected outside the Clearing Process are likely to require transmittal by the DTC Participant earlier on the Transmittal Date than orders effected using the Clearing Process. Those persons placing orders outside the Clearing Process should ascertain the deadlines applicable to DTC and the Federal Reserve Bank wire system by contacting the operations department of the broker or depository institution effectuating such transfer of Deposit Securities and Cash Component.

Investors placing orders for Creation Units of the Domestic Fund should ascertain the applicable deadline for cash transfers by contacting the operations department of the broker or depository institution making the transfer of the Cash Component. This deadline is likely to be significantly earlier than the closing time of the regular trading session on the applicable Listing Exchange. Investors should be aware that the Authorized Participant may require orders for Creation Units placed with it to be in the form required by the individual Authorized Participant, which form may not be the same as the form of purchase order specified by the Trust that the Authorized Participant must deliver to the Transfer Agent.

Investors placing orders for Creation Units of a Foreign Fund should ascertain the applicable deadline for cash transfers by contacting the operations department of the broker or depository institution making the transfer of the Cash Component. This deadline is likely to be significantly earlier than the closing time of the regular trading session on the applicable Listing Exchange. Investors should be aware that the Authorized Participant may require orders for Creation Units placed with it to be in the form required by the individual Authorized Participant, which form may not be the same as the form of purchase order specified by the Trust that the Authorized Participant must deliver to the Transfer Agent.

5. The paragraph under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Placement of Creation Orders For Domestic Fund Using The Clearing Process.” on page 53 is deleted and replaced with the following:

Placement of Creation Orders For Domestic Fund Using The Clearing Process. The Clearing Process is the process of creating or redeeming Creation Units. Fund Deposits made through the Clearing Process must be delivered through a Participating Party that has executed a Participant Agreement. The Participant Agreement authorizes the Transfer Agent (also known as the Index Receipt Agent) to transmit to NSCC, on behalf of the Participating Party, such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the Participating Party’s creation order. Pursuant to such trade instructions to NSCC, the Participating Party agrees to deliver the requisite Deposit Securities and the Cash Component to the Trust, together with such additional information as may be required by the Trust. An order to create Creation Units through the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Transfer Agent on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date; and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed.

6. The second paragraph under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Placement of Creation Orders For Domestic Fund Outside The Clearing Process.” beginning on page 53 is deleted and replaced with the following:

The amount of cash equal to the Cash Component must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Settlement Date. An order to create Creation Units outside the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Transfer Agent on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date; and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. However, if the Custodian does not receive both the required Deposit Securities and the Cash Component by 2:00 p.m., Eastern time on the Settlement Date, such order may be canceled. Upon written notice to the Transfer Agent, such canceled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day using a Fund Deposit as newly constituted to reflect the then current NAV of the Fund. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the Settlement Date. Creation Units of the Domestic Fund may be created in advance of receipt by the Trust of all or a portion of the applicable Deposit Securities as described below. In these circumstances, the initial deposit will have a value greater than the NAV of the shares on the date the order is placed in proper form since, in addition to available Deposit Securities, cash must be deposited in an amount equal to the sum of: (i) the Cash Component; plus (ii) at least 110%, which NTI may change from time to time, of the market value of the undelivered Deposit Securities (the “Additional Cash Deposit”) with the Fund pending delivery of any missing Deposit Securities.

7. The fourth sentence of the third paragraph under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Placement of Creation Orders For Domestic Fund Outside The Clearing Process.” beginning on page 53 is deleted and replaced with the following:

To the extent that missing Deposit Securities are not received by 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Settlement Date or in the event a marked-to-market payment is not made within one Business Day following notification by the Transfer Agent that such a payment is required, the Trust may use the cash on deposit to purchase the missing Deposit Securities.

8. The third sentence of the first paragraph under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Placement of Creation Orders For Foreign Funds.” on page 54 is deleted and replaced with the following:

Orders to purchase Creation Unit Aggregations must be received by the Transfer Agent from an Authorized Participant on its own or the applicable Listing Exchange on the relevant Business Day.

9. The second and third paragraphs under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Acceptance of Purchase Order.” on page 54 are deleted and replaced with the following:

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

The Trust reserves the absolute right to reject or revoke acceptance of a purchase order transmitted to it by the Transfer Agent in respect of any Fund if: (a) the purchase order is not in proper form; (b) the purchaser or group of purchasers, upon obtaining the shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding shares of any Fund; (c) the Deposit Securities delivered are not as specified by NTI as described above; (d) acceptance of the Deposit Securities would have certain adverse tax consequences to the Fund; (e) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; (f) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would otherwise, in the discretion of the Trust or NTI, have an adverse effect on the Trust or the rights of beneficial owners; or (g) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Distributor, Transfer Agent, Custodian, a sub-custodian or NTI make it for all practical purposes impossible to process purchase orders. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God; public service or utility problems; fires, floods or extreme weather conditions; power outages resulting in telephone, telecopy or computer failures; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other informational systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, DTC, NSCC, NTI, Transfer Agent, Custodian, a sub-custodian or any other participant in the creation process; and similar extraordinary events. The Transfer Agent shall notify a prospective creator of a Creation Unit and/or Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such creator of its rejection of the purchase order. The Trust, Transfer Agent, Custodian, any sub-custodian and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Portfolio Deposits nor shall either of them incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification. The Trust reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to suspend the offering of Shares of a Fund or to reject purchase orders when, in its judgment, such suspension or rejection would be in the best interests of the Trust or the Fund.

10. The second sentence of the first paragraph under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Issuance of a Creation Unit.” beginning on page 54 is deleted and replaced with the following:

With respect to any non-U.S. Deposit Securities, when the applicable local sub-custodian(s) have confirmed to the Custodian that the required securities included in the Portfolio Deposit (or the cash value thereof) have been delivered to the account of the applicable local sub-custodian or sub-custodians, the Transfer Agent and the Investment Adviser shall be notified of such delivery, and the Trust will issue, and cause the delivery of the Creation Unit.

11. The fifth sentence of the third paragraph under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Issuance of a Creation Unit.” beginning on page 54 is deleted and replaced with the following:

Information concerning the Trust’s current procedures for collateralization of missing Deposit Securities is available from the Transfer Agent.

12. The first sentence of the first paragraph under the heading “PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS – Redemption of Creation Units.” on page 56 is deleted and replaced with the following:

Shares of a Fund may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Fund through the Transfer Agent and only on a Business Day.

Please retain this Supplement with your Statement of Additional Information for future reference.

FlexShares® Trust

Statement of Additional Information

Dated June 25, 2019

This Statement of Additional Information (the “SAI”) is not a prospectus. It should be read in conjunction with the current prospectus (the “Prospectus”) for the following Funds of the FlexShares® Trust (the “Trust”) as such Prospectus may be revised or supplemented from time to time:

| <u>Fund</u> | <u>Ticker</u> | <u>Stock Exchange</u> |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | QLV | NYSE Arca |
| FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | QLVD | NYSE Arca |
| FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | QLVE | NYSE Arca |

The Prospectus for the Funds of the Trust included in this SAI is dated June 25, 2019. Capitalized terms used herein that are not defined have the same meanings as in the Prospectus, unless otherwise noted. Copies of the Prospectus may be obtained without charge by visiting www.flexshares.com, writing to FlexShares ETFs, c/o Foreside Fund Services, LLC, Three Canal Plaza, Portland, Maine 04101 or calling 1-855-FLEXETF (1-855-353-9383). FlexShares is a registered trademark of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“NTI” or the “Investment Adviser”).

An investment in a Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”), any other government agency or The Northern Trust Company (“TNTC”), its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank. An investment in a Fund involves investment risks, including possible loss of principal.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TRUST AND THE FUNDS

The Trust was formed as a Maryland Statutory Trust on May 13, 2010, originally named NT ETF Trust, and renamed FlexShares® Trust as of April 12, 2011. The Trust is authorized to have multiple series or portfolios. The Trust is an open-end, management investment company, registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). The offering of the Trust’s shares is registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). This SAI relates to the following non-diversified funds (each, a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”):

FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund
FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund
FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund

The investment objective of each Fund is to provide investment results that correspond generally to the price and yield performance, before fees and expenses, of a specified benchmark index (each an “Underlying Index”). Each Fund is managed by NTI, an indirect subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation.

The Funds offer and issue shares at their net asset value per share (“NAV”) only in aggregations of a specified number of shares (each, a “Creation Unit” or a “Creation Unit Aggregation”), generally in exchange for a specified basket of securities (the “Deposit Securities”), together with the deposit of a specified cash payment (the “Cash Component”). The shares of the Funds are expected to be listed and traded on NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca”), a national securities exchange (the “Listing Exchange”). Shares trade in the secondary market and elsewhere at market prices that may be at, above or below NAV. Shares are redeemable only in Creation Unit Aggregations, and, generally, in exchange for portfolio securities and a Cash Component. The number of shares of a Creation Unit of each Fund are as follows:

| NAME OF FUND | NUMBER OF SHARES PER CREATION UNIT |
|---|---|
| FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | 50,000 |
| FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | 100,000 |
| FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | 100,000 |

The Trust reserves the right to offer a “cash” option for creations and redemptions of shares as more fully described in the “Purchase and Redemption of Creation Unit Aggregations” section of this SAI. Shares may be issued in advance of receipt of Deposit Securities subject to various conditions including a requirement to maintain on deposit with the Trust cash at least equal to 110%, which percentage NTI may change from time to time, of the market value of the missing Deposit Securities. See the “Purchase and Redemption of Creation Unit Aggregations” section of this SAI. In each instance of cash creations or redemptions, transaction fees may be imposed that will be higher than the transaction fees associated with in-kind creations or redemptions. In all cases, such conditions and fees will be limited in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) applicable to management investment companies offering redeemable securities.

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT INFORMATION

EXCHANGE LISTING AND TRADING

A discussion of exchange listing and trading matters associated with an investment in each Fund is contained in the Prospectus in the “Shareholder Information” section. The discussion below supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, that section of the Prospectus.

Shares of each Fund are listed for trading on at least one Listing Exchange, and trade throughout the day on the Listing Exchange and other secondary markets. In addition, certain Funds may be traded on certain foreign exchanges. There can be no assurance that the requirements of a Listing Exchange necessary to maintain the listing of shares of any Fund will continue to be met. A Listing Exchange may, but is not required to, remove the shares of a Fund from listing if: (1) following the initial twelve-month period beginning upon the commencement of trading of a Fund, there are fewer than fifty (50) record and/or beneficial holders of the Fund for thirty (30) or more consecutive trading days; (2) the value of the Underlying Index on which the Fund is based is no longer calculated or available; (3) the “indicative optimized portfolio value” (“IOPV”) of a Fund is no longer calculated or available; or (4) any other event shall occur or condition exist that, in the opinion of the Listing Exchange, makes further dealings on the Listing Exchange inadvisable. A Listing Exchange will remove the shares of a Fund from listing and trading upon termination of the Fund.

As in the case of other publicly-traded securities, brokers’ commissions on transactions will be based on negotiated commission rates at customary levels.

In order to provide additional information regarding the indicative value of shares of each Fund, a Listing Exchange disseminates every fifteen seconds, through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association, an updated IOPV for each Fund as calculated by an information provider or market data vendors. The Trust is not involved in or responsible for any aspect of the calculation or dissemination of the IOPVs, and makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy of the IOPVs.

An IOPV has a securities value component and a cash component. The securities values included in an IOPV are the values of the Deposit Securities for the applicable Fund. While the IOPV reflects the current market value of the Deposit Securities required to be deposited in connection with the purchase of a Creation Unit Aggregation, it does not necessarily reflect the precise composition of the current portfolio of securities held by the applicable Fund at a particular point in time because the current portfolio of the Fund may include securities that are not a part of the Deposit Securities. Therefore, a Fund’s IOPV disseminated during the Listing Exchange trading hours should not be viewed as a real time update of the Fund’s NAV, which is calculated only once a day.

In addition to the securities component described in the preceding paragraph, the IOPV for each Fund includes a cash component consisting of estimated accrued interest, dividends and other income, less expenses. If applicable, the IOPV also reflects changes in currency exchange rates between the U.S. Dollar and the applicable foreign currency.

The Trust reserves the right to adjust the share prices of Funds in the future to maintain convenient trading ranges for investors. Any adjustments would be accomplished through stock splits or reverse stock splits, which would have no effect on the net assets of the applicable Fund.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE, STRATEGIES AND RISKS

The following supplements the information contained in the Prospectus concerning the investment objectives, strategies and risks of the Funds.

The investment objective of each Fund may be changed without shareholder approval. Except as expressly noted below, each Fund’s investment strategies may be changed without shareholder approval. In addition to the instruments discussed below and in the Prospectus, each Fund may purchase other types of financial instruments, however designated, whose investment and credit quality characteristics are determined by NTI to be substantially similar to those of any other investment otherwise permitted by a Fund’s investment strategies. Each Fund operates as an index fund and will not be actively managed. Adverse performance of a security in a Fund’s portfolio will ordinarily not result in the elimination of the security from a Fund’s portfolio. Each Fund generally will invest

under normal circumstances at least 80% of its total assets in the securities of its Underlying Index and with respect to the FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund, in American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) and Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”) (collectively “Depositary Receipts”) based on the securities in its Underlying Index. To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each Fund may also invest up to 20% of its assets in cash and cash equivalents, including shares of money market funds advised by NTI or its affiliates, futures contracts, options on futures contracts, forward currency contracts, options and swaps, as well as securities not included in the Underlying Index, but which NTI believes will help the Fund track its Underlying Index.

NTI uses a representative sampling strategy to manage each Fund. However, each of the Funds reserves the right to use a replication indexing strategy if NTI determines that it is in the best interests of the Fund. “Representative sampling” is investing in a representative sample of securities that collectively has an investment profile similar to the Underlying Index. Securities selected are expected to have, in the aggregate, investment characteristics (based on factors such as market capitalization and industry weightings), fundamental characteristics (such as return variability, earnings valuation and yield) and liquidity measures similar to those of the Underlying Index. A Fund may or may not hold all of the securities that are included in its Underlying Index. “Replication” is an indexing strategy in which a fund invests in substantially all of the securities in its underlying index in approximately the same proportions as in the underlying index.

Each Fund has adopted a non-fundamental investment policy in accordance with Rule 35d-1 under the 1940 Act to invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the value of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in securities of the Fund’s Underlying Index and with respect to FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund, in Depositary Receipts that represent securities in the Underlying Index. Each Fund has also adopted a policy to provide its shareholders with at least 60 days’ prior written notice of any change in such policy. If, subsequent to an investment, the 80% requirement is no longer met, a Fund’s future investments will be made in a manner that will bring the Fund into compliance with this policy. For these purposes, “net assets” is measured at the time of purchase.

CALCULATION OF PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RATE. The portfolio turnover rate for the Funds is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio investments for the reporting period by the monthly average value of the portfolio investments owned during the reporting period. The calculation excludes all securities whose maturities or expiration dates at the time of acquisition are one year or less. Portfolio turnover may vary greatly from year to year as well as within a particular year, and be affected by many different factors, including reconstitution or rebalancing of an Underlying Index, cash requirements for redemption of shares and by requirements that enable the Funds to receive favorable tax treatment.

CYBER SECURITY ISSUES. With the increased use of the Internet and because information technology (“IT”) systems and digital data underlie most of the Funds’ operations, the Funds and the Adviser, the Administrator, the Transfer Agent, the Distributor, Authorized Participants, and the Funds’ other service providers and the vendors of each (collectively “Service Providers”) are exposed to the risk that their operations and data may be compromised as a result of internal and external cyber-failures, breaches or attacks (“Cyber Risk”). This could occur as a result of malicious or criminal cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks include actions taken to: (i) steal or corrupt data maintained online or digitally, (ii) gain unauthorized access to or release confidential information, (iii) shut down a Fund or Service Provider website through denial-of-service attacks, or (iv) otherwise disrupt normal business operations. However, events arising from human error, faulty or inadequately implemented policies and procedures or other systems failures unrelated to any external cyber-threat may have effects similar to those caused by deliberate cyber-attacks.

Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Funds or their Service Providers may adversely impact a Fund or its shareholders or cause your investment in the Fund to lose value. For instance, they may impact a Fund’s ability to calculate its NAV, cause the release of confidential Fund information, impede trading, or cause reputational damage. They could also subject the Funds or their Service Providers to regulatory fines, penalties or financial losses, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. Insurance protection and contractual indemnification provisions may not be available or may be insufficient to cover these losses. The Funds or their Service Providers may also incur significant costs to manage and control Cyber Risk.

Cyber Risks are also present for issuers of securities or other instruments in which the Funds invest, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the Funds’ investment in such issuers to lose value.

While the Investment Adviser, Service Providers or Authorized Participants may have established business continuity plans and risk management systems to prevent such cyber attacks, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified or that cyber attacks may be highly sophisticated. The Funds and their shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result.

DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS. The FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund's investment in securities of non-U.S. issuers may also be in the form of ADRs and/or GDRs based on the securities in its Underlying Index. ADRs are receipts that are traded in the United States evidencing ownership of the underlying foreign securities and are denominated in U.S. dollars. GDRs are receipts issued by a non-U.S. financial institution evidencing ownership of underlying foreign or U.S. securities and usually are denominated in foreign currencies. GDRs may not be denominated in the same currency as the securities they represent. Generally, GDRs are designed for use in the foreign securities markets.

In addition to investment risks associated with the underlying issuer, ADRs and GDRs expose a Fund to additional risk associated with non-uniform terms that apply to ADR and GDR programs, credit exposure to the depository bank and to the sponsors and other parties with whom the depository bank establishes the programs, currency and liquidity risk. Some institutions issuing ADRs and GDRs may not be sponsored by the issuer. Unsponsored programs generally expose investors to greater risks than sponsored programs and do not provide holders with many of the shareholder benefits that come from investing in a sponsored ADR or GDR. Available information concerning the issuer may not be as current as for sponsored ADRs and GDRs and the prices of unsponsored ADRs and GDRs may be more volatile than if such instruments were sponsored by the issuer. ADRs and GDRs are generally subject to the same risks as the foreign securities that they evidence or into which they may be converted.

To the extent a Fund invests in ADRs, such ADRs will be listed on a national securities exchange. To the extent a Fund invests in GDRs, such GDRs will be listed on a foreign exchange. A Fund will not invest in any unlisted Depositary Receipt, any Depositary Receipt that NTI deems to be illiquid or any Depositary Receipt for which pricing information is not readily available. Generally, all depository receipts must be sponsored.

EQUITY SWAPS, TOTAL RATE OF RETURN SWAPS AND CURRENCY SWAPS. Each of the Funds may invest up to 20% of its total assets in swap agreements if NTI believes that it will help the Fund track its Underlying Index. Swap agreements may be structured in different ways.

To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each of the Funds may enter into equity swap agreements to invest in a market without owning or taking physical custody of securities in circumstances in which direct investment is restricted for legal reasons or is otherwise impracticable. The counterparty to an equity swap agreement will typically be a bank, investment banking firm or broker/dealer. Equity swap agreements may be structured in different ways. For example, a counterparty may agree to pay a Fund the amount, if any, by which the notional amount of the equity swap agreement would have increased in value had it been invested in particular stocks (or an index of stocks), plus the dividends that would have been received on those stocks. In these cases, the Fund may agree to pay to the counterparty the amount, if any, by which that notional amount would have decreased in value had it been invested in the stocks. Therefore, the return to a Fund on any equity swap agreement should be the gain or loss on the notional amount plus dividends on the stocks less the interest paid by the Fund on the notional amount. In other cases, the counterparty and the Fund may each agree to pay the other the difference between the relative investment performances that would have been achieved if the notional amount of the equity swap agreement had been invested in different stocks (or indexes of stocks).

To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each Fund may enter into total rate of return swaps, which are contracts that obligate a party to pay or receive interest in exchange for the payment by the other party of the total return generated by a security, a basket of securities, an index or an index component. The FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund also may enter into currency swaps, which involve the exchange of the rights of a Fund and another party to make or receive payments in specific currencies. Currency swaps involve the exchange of rights of the Fund and another party to make or receive payments in specific currencies.

Some swap transactions such as total return swaps are entered into on a net basis, i.e., the two payment streams are netted out, with a Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments. A Fund will enter into equity swaps

only on a net basis. Payments may be made at the conclusion of the swap agreement or periodically during its term. These swaps do not involve the delivery of securities or other underlying assets. Accordingly, the risk of loss with respect to equity swaps is limited to the net amount of payments that a Fund is contractually obligated to make. If the other party to any swap entered into on a net basis defaults, a Fund's risk of loss consists of the net amount of payments that such Fund is contractually entitled to receive, if any. In contrast, other transactions may involve the payment of the gross amount owed. For example, currency swaps usually involve the delivery of the entire principal amount of one designated currency in exchange for the other designated currency. Therefore, the entire principal value of a currency swap is subject to the risk that the other party to the swap will default on its contractual delivery obligations. To the extent that the amount payable by a Fund under a swap is offset by segregated cash or liquid assets, the Fund and the Investment Adviser believe that such transactions do not constitute senior securities under the 1940 Act and, accordingly, will not treat them as being subject to a Fund's borrowing restrictions. Provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act include new capital and margin requirements and the mandatory use of clearinghouse mechanisms for many over-the-counter derivatives transactions.

A Fund will not enter into any swap transactions unless the unsecured commercial paper, senior debt or claims-paying ability of the other party is rated either A, or A-1 or better by S&P Global Ratings ("S&P"), or Fitch Ratings ("Fitch"); or A or Prime-1 or better by Moody's Investors Services, Inc. ("Moody's"), or has received a comparable rating from another organization that is recognized as a nationally recognized statistical rating organization ("NRSRO") or, if unrated by such rating organization, is determined to be of comparable quality by the Investment Adviser. If there is a default by the other party to a swap transaction, a Fund will have contractual remedies pursuant to the agreements related to the transaction. These contractual remedies, however, may be subject to bankruptcy and insolvency laws that may affect such Fund's rights as a creditor (e.g., a Fund may not receive the net amount of payments that it is contractually entitled to receive). The swap market has grown substantially in recent years with a large number of banks and investment banking firms acting both as principals and as agents utilizing standardized swap documentation. As a result, the swap market has become relatively liquid in comparison with markets for other similar instruments which are traded in the interbank market.

The use of equity, total rate of return and currency swaps is a highly specialized activity, which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. If the Investment Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates and/or currency exchange rates, the investment performance of a Fund would be less favorable than it would have been if this investment technique were not used. For a description of Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") regulations affecting swap transactions and certain other derivatives, see "Futures Contracts and Related Options" below and Appendix B.

Regulations that will begin to take effect in 2019 will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many derivatives contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as a Fund, to terminate such contracts, foreclose upon collateral, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. It is possible that these new requirements, as well as potential additional government regulation and other developments in the market, could adversely affect a Fund's ability to terminate existing derivatives agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

FIXED INCOME SECURITIES. The Funds may invest in fixed income securities up to 20% of their total assets to help track their respective Underlying Indexes. Fixed income securities, including corporate debt obligations, generally expose a Fund to the following types of risk: (1) interest rate risk (the potential for fluctuations in bond prices due to changing interest rates); (2) income risk (the potential for a decline in a Fund's income due to falling market interest rates); (3) credit risk (the possibility that a bond issuer will fail to make timely payments of either interest or principal to a Fund); (4) prepayment risk or call risk (the likelihood that, during periods of falling interest rates, securities with high stated interest rates will be prepaid, or "called" prior to maturity, requiring a Fund to invest the proceeds at generally lower interest rates); and (5) extension risk (the likelihood that as interest rates increase, slower than expected principal payments may extend the average life of fixed income securities, which will have the effect of locking in a below-market interest rate, increasing the security's duration and reducing the value of the security).

In periods of declining interest rates, the yield (income from a fixed income security held by a Fund over a stated period of time) of a fixed income security may tend to be higher than prevailing market rates, and in periods of rising interest rates, the yield of a fixed income security may tend to be lower than prevailing market rates. In addition, when interest rates are falling, the inflow of net

new money to a Fund will likely be invested in portfolio instruments producing lower yields than the balance of a Fund's portfolio, thereby reducing the yield of a Fund. In periods of rising interest rates, the opposite can be true. The NAV of a Fund can generally be expected to change as general levels of interest rates fluctuate. The value of fixed income securities in a Fund's portfolio generally varies inversely with changes in interest rates. Prices of fixed income securities with longer effective maturities are more sensitive to interest rate changes than those with shorter effective maturities.

Corporate debt obligations generally offer less current yield than securities of lower quality, but lower-quality securities generally have less liquidity, greater credit and market risk, and as a result, more price volatility.

Conditions in the U.S. and many foreign economies have resulted, and may continue to result, in fixed income instruments experiencing unusual liquidity issues, increased price volatility and, in some cases, credit downgrades and increased likelihood of default. These events have reduced the willingness and ability of some lenders to extend credit, and have made it more difficult for borrowers to obtain financing on attractive terms, if at all. As a result, the values of many types of securities have been reduced. In addition, global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, which increases the possibilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in a different country or region. The severity or duration of adverse economic conditions may also be affected by policy changes made by governments or quasi-governmental organizations. In addition, political events within the U.S. and abroad, such as the U.S. government's recent inability to agree on a long-term budget and deficit reduction plan, the federal government shutdown and threats to not increase the federal government's debt limit, may affect investor and consumer confidence and may adversely impact financial markets and the broader economy, perhaps suddenly and to a significant degree. High public debt in the U.S. and other countries creates ongoing systemic and market risks and policymaking uncertainty.

FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS. To the extent consistent with their investment policies, the FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund may enter into forward foreign currency exchange contracts to facilitate local settlements or to protect against currency exposure in connection with their distributions to shareholders. These Funds, however, do not expect to engage in currency transactions for purposes of hedging against declines in the value of a Fund's assets that are denominated in a foreign currency.

None of the Funds expect to engage in currency transactions for speculative purposes.

Forward foreign currency exchange contracts involve an obligation to purchase or sell a specified currency at a future date at a price set at the time of the contract. Forward currency contracts do not eliminate fluctuations in the values of portfolio securities, but rather allow a Fund to establish a rate of exchange for a future point in time.

When entering into a contract for the purchase or sale of a security, a Fund may enter into a forward foreign currency exchange contract for the amount of the purchase or sale price to protect against variations, between the date the security is purchased or sold and the date on which payment is made or received, in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar or other foreign currency.

Each Fund may use non-deliverable forward currency contracts ("NDFs") to execute its hedging transactions. NDFs are cash-settled, short-term forward contracts that may be thinly traded or are denominated in non-convertible foreign currency, where the profit or loss at the time of settlement date is calculated by taking the difference between the agreed upon exchange rate and the spot rate at the time of settlement, for an agreed upon notional amount of funds. All NDFs have a fixing date and a settlement date. The fixing date is the date at which the difference between the prevailing market exchange rate and the agreed upon exchange rate is calculated. The settlement date is the date by which the payment of the difference is due to the party receiving payment. NDFs are commonly quoted for time periods ranging from one month to up to two years, and are normally quoted and settled in U.S. dollars. They are often used to gain exposure to and/or hedge exposure to foreign currencies that are not internationally traded.

Foreign currency forward contracts and NDFs are subject to regulation under The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act ("Dodd-Frank Act") in the U.S. and under comparable regimes in Europe, Asia and other non-U.S. jurisdictions. Physically-settled forwards between eligible contract participants, such as the Fund, are generally subject to lighter regulation in the U.S. than NDFs and cash-settled foreign currency forward contracts. Under the Dodd-Frank Act, NDFs are regulated as swaps and are subject to rules requiring central clearing and mandatory trading on an exchange or facility that is regulated by the

CFTC. NDFs traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to margin requirements, and initial margining requirements will be phased in through 2020. Implementation of the regulations regarding clearing, mandatory trading and margining of NDFs are likely to increase the cost to a Fund of hedging currency risk and, as a result, may affect returns to investors in such Fund.

With respect to any forward foreign currency contract, it generally will not be possible to match precisely the amount covered by that contract and the value of the securities involved due to the changes in the values of such securities resulting from market movements between the date the forward contract is entered into and the date it matures. In addition, while forward contracts may offer protection from losses resulting from declines or appreciation in the value of a particular foreign currency, they also limit potential gains, which might result from changes in the value of such currency. A Fund also may incur costs in connection with forward foreign currency exchange contracts and conversions of foreign currencies and U.S. dollars.

Liquid assets equal to the amount of a Fund's assets that could be required to consummate forward contracts will be segregated except to the extent the contracts are otherwise "covered." The segregated assets will be valued at market or fair value. If the market or fair value of such assets declines, additional liquid assets will be segregated daily so that the value of the segregated assets will equal the amount of such commitments by the Fund. A forward contract to sell a foreign currency is "covered" if a Fund owns the currency (or securities denominated in the currency) underlying the contract, or holds a forward contract (or call option) permitting a Fund to buy the same currency at a price that is: (i) no higher than the Fund's price to sell the currency; or (ii) greater than the Fund's price to sell the currency provided the Fund segregates liquid assets in the amount of the difference. A forward contract to buy a foreign currency is "covered" if a Fund holds a forward contract (or call option) permitting the Fund to sell the same currency at a price that is: (i) as high as or higher than the Fund's price to buy the currency; or (ii) lower than the Fund's price to buy the currency provided the Fund segregates liquid assets in the amount of the difference.

As a result of regulatory requirements under the 1940 Act, the Funds are required to maintain an amount of liquid assets, accrued on a daily basis, having an aggregate value at least equal to the value of the Fund's obligations under the foreign currency forward contract or NDF. To the extent that foreign currency forward contracts are settled on a physical basis, a Fund will generally be required to maintain an amount of liquid assets equal to the notional value of the contract. In connection with NDFs and cash-settled foreign currency forward contracts, on the other hand, which are performed on a net basis, with a Fund receiving or paying only the net amount of a specified exchange rate, a Fund will generally maintain liquid assets, accrued daily, equal to the accrued excess, if any, of the Fund's obligations over those of its counterparty under the contract. Accordingly, reliance by a Fund on physically-settled foreign currency forward contracts may adversely impact investors by requiring the Fund to set aside a greater amount of liquid assets than would generally be required if the Fund were relying on cash-settled foreign currency forward contracts or NDFs.

Foreign currency transactions involve a significant degree of risk and the markets in which foreign currency transactions are effected are highly volatile, highly specialized and highly technical. Significant changes, including changes in liquidity and prices, can occur in such markets within very short periods of time, often within minutes. Foreign currency trading risks include, but are not limited to, exchange rate risk, counterparty risk, maturity gap, interest rate risk, and potential interference by foreign governments through regulation of local exchange markets, foreign investment or particular transactions in non-U.S. currency. If NTI utilizes foreign currency transactions at an inappropriate time or judges market conditions, trends or correlations incorrectly, foreign currency transactions may not serve their intended purpose of improving the correlation of a Fund's return with the performance of its Underlying Index and may lower the Fund's return. A Fund could experience losses if the value of its currency forwards, options or futures positions were poorly correlated with its other investments or if it could not close out its positions because of an illiquid market. In addition, a Fund could incur transaction costs, including trading commissions, in connection with certain non-U.S. currency transactions.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS — GENERAL. The FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund will invest primarily in foreign equity securities. These Funds also may invest in U.S. dollar-denominated obligations issued or guaranteed by one or more foreign governments or any of their political subdivisions, agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises, as well as other foreign issuers. These obligations may be issued by supranational entities, including international organizations (such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (also known as the World Bank)) and international banking institutions and related government agencies.

Investment in foreign securities involves special risks. These include market risk, interest rate risk and the risks of investing in securities of foreign issuers and of companies whose securities are principally traded outside the United States on foreign exchanges

or foreign over-the-counter markets and in investments denominated in foreign currencies. Market risk involves the possibility that security prices will decline over short or even extended periods. The markets tend to be cyclical, with periods of generally rising prices and periods of generally declining prices. These cycles will affect the value of a Fund to the extent that it invests in foreign securities. In addition, the performance of investments in securities denominated in a foreign currency will depend on the strength of the foreign currency against the U.S. dollar and the interest rate environment in the country issuing the currency. Generally, the prices of bonds and debt securities fluctuate inversely with interest rate changes. Absent other events which could otherwise affect the value of a foreign security (such as a change in the political climate or an issuer's credit quality), appreciation in the value of the foreign currency generally can be expected to increase the value of a foreign currency-denominated security in terms of U.S. dollars. A rise in foreign interest rates or decline in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar generally can be expected to depress the value of a foreign currency-denominated security.

There are other risks and costs involved in investing in foreign securities, which are in addition to the usual risks inherent in domestic investments. Investment in foreign securities involves higher costs than investment in U.S. securities, including higher transaction and custody costs as well as the imposition of additional taxes by foreign governments. Foreign investments also involve risks associated with the level of currency exchange rates, less complete financial information about the issuers, less market liquidity, more market volatility and political instability. Future political and economic developments, the possible imposition of withholding taxes on dividend income, the possible seizure or nationalization of foreign holdings, the possible establishment of exchange controls, or the adoption of other governmental restrictions might adversely affect an investment in foreign securities. Additionally, foreign banks and foreign branches of domestic banks are subject to less stringent reserve requirements, and to different accounting, auditing and recordkeeping requirements. Also, the legal remedies for investors may be more limited than the remedies available in the U.S. Additionally, many countries throughout the world are dependent on a healthy U.S. economy and are adversely affected when the U.S. economy weakens or its markets decline. For example, the decline in the U.S. subprime mortgage market quickly spread throughout global credit markets, triggering a liquidity crisis that affected fixed-income and equity markets around the world.

Although a Fund may invest in securities denominated in foreign currencies, its portfolio securities and other assets are valued in U.S. dollars. Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time causing, together with other factors, the Fund's NAV to fluctuate as well. Currency exchange rates can be affected unpredictably by the intervention or the failure to intervene by U.S. or foreign governments or central banks, or by currency controls or political developments in the U.S. or abroad. To the extent that a Fund's total assets, adjusted to reflect the Fund's net position after giving effect to currency transactions, are denominated in the currencies of foreign countries, the Fund will be more susceptible to the risk of adverse economic and political developments within those countries.

Each Fund also is subject to the possible imposition of exchange control regulations or freezes on the convertibility of currency. In addition, through the use of forward currency exchange contracts or other instruments, any net currency positions of a Fund may expose it to risks independent of its securities positions. Although the net long and short foreign currency exposure of a Fund will not exceed its total asset value, to the extent that the Fund is fully invested in foreign securities while also maintaining currency positions, it may be exposed to greater risk than it would have if it did not maintain the currency positions.

Dividends and interest payable on a Fund's foreign portfolio securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes. To the extent such taxes are not offset by credits or deductions allowed to investors under U.S. federal income tax law, they may reduce the net return to the shareholders. A Fund's income and, in some cases, capital gains from foreign stocks and securities will be subject to applicable taxation in certain of the countries in which it invests, and treaties between the U.S. and such countries may not be available in some cases to reduce the otherwise applicable tax rates. See "Taxes" on page 59.

Investors should understand that the expense ratio of a Fund that invests primarily in foreign securities can be expected to be higher than those Funds investing primarily in domestic securities. The costs attributable to investing abroad usually are higher for several reasons, such as the higher cost of investment research, higher costs of custody of foreign securities, higher commissions paid on comparable transactions on foreign markets and additional costs arising from delays in settlements of transactions involving foreign securities.

A Fund's foreign securities are generally held outside the United States in the primary market for the securities in the custody of certain eligible foreign banks and trust companies, as permitted under the 1940 Act ("foreign sub-custodians"). Settlement

practices for foreign securities may differ from those in the United States. Some countries have limited governmental oversight and regulation of industry practices, stock exchanges, depositories, registrars, brokers and listed companies, which increases the risk of corruption and fraud and the possibility of losses to a Fund. In particular, under certain circumstances, foreign securities may settle on a delayed delivery basis, meaning that a Fund may be required to make payment for securities before the Fund has actually received delivery of the securities or deliver securities prior to the receipt of payment. Typically, in these cases, the Fund will receive evidence of ownership in accordance with the generally accepted settlement practices in the local market entitling the Fund to deliver payment at a future date, but there is a risk that the security will not be delivered to the Fund or that payment will not be received, although the Fund and its foreign sub-custodians take reasonable precautions to mitigate this risk. Foreign markets also have different clearance and settlement procedures, and in certain markets there have been times when settlements have been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, making it difficult to conduct such transactions. Such delays in settlement could result in temporary periods when a portion of the assets of a Fund remain uninvested and no return is earned on such assets. The inability of a Fund to make intended security purchases or sales due to settlement problems could result in missed attractive investment opportunities, losses to the Fund due to subsequent declines in value of the portfolio securities or, if the Fund has entered into a contract to sell the securities, possible liability to the purchaser. Losses can also result from lost, stolen or counterfeit securities; defaults by brokers and banks; failures or defects of the settlement system; or poor and improper record keeping by registrars and issuers.

Share blocking refers to a practice in certain foreign markets under which an issuer's securities are blocked from trading at the custodian or sub-custodian level for a specified number of days before and, in certain instances, after a shareholder meeting where a vote of shareholders takes place. The blocking period can last up to several weeks. Share blocking may prevent a Fund from buying or selling securities during this period, because during the time shares are blocked, trades in such securities will not settle. It may be difficult or impossible to lift blocking restrictions, with the particular requirements varying widely by country.

The FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund may invest a significant percentage of its assets in the securities of issuers located in geographic regions with securities markets that are highly developed, liquid and subject to extensive regulation, including Europe and Japan. The Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union ("EU") requires compliance with restrictions on inflation rates, deficits, interest rates, debt levels and fiscal and monetary controls, each of which may significantly affect every country in Europe. Decreasing imports or exports, changes in governmental or EU regulations on trade, changes in the exchange rate of the euro, the default or threat of default by an EU member country on its sovereign debt, and recessions in EU economies may have a significant adverse effect on the economies of EU member countries and their trading partners. The European financial markets have recently experienced volatility and adverse trends due to concerns about the rising government debt levels of several European countries, including Greece, Spain, Ireland, Italy and Portugal. Recent concerns over the level and sustainability of the sovereign debt of the United States have aggravated this volatility. A default or debt restructuring by any European country would adversely impact holders of that country's debt and sellers of credit default swaps linked to that country's creditworthiness, which may be located in countries other than those listed above. These events have adversely affected the value and exchange rate of the euro and may continue to significantly affect the economies of every country in Europe, including countries that do not use the euro and non-EU member countries.

Additionally, in June of 2016, the United Kingdom (the "UK") approved a referendum to leave the EU, commonly referred to as "Brexit," which sparked depreciation in the value of the British pound and heightened risk of continued worldwide economic volatility. Pursuant to Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon, the UK gave notice in March 2017 of its withdrawal from the EU and commenced negotiations on the terms of withdrawal. As of the date of this SAI, the UK is currently scheduled to withdraw from the EU on October 31, 2019. However, the terms of withdrawal remain in flux as of the date of this SAI. If no agreement is reached as to the terms of the UK's exit from the EU prior to October 31, 2019 ("hard Brexit", *i.e.* an exit in which the UK leaves not only the EU but also the EU single market and EU customs union, and without agreements in trade, finance and other key elements), the negative impacts of Brexit may be exaggerated. It is unclear what the potential consequences of the UK's withdrawal may be. In addition, it is possible that measures could be taken to revote the issue of the withdrawal, or that regions of the UK could seek to separate and remain a part of the EU. Brexit (and in particular a hard Brexit) may cause significant market volatility and illiquidity, currency fluctuations, deterioration in economic activity, a decrease in business confidence, and increased likelihood of a recession in the UK. This may decrease demand for the Fund that holds impacted securities or cause the value of the Fund's securities that are economically tied to the UK or EU to decline. Market factors, such as the demand for particular portfolio securities, may also cause the price of certain portfolio securities to fall while the price of other securities rise or remain unchanged.

The UK has one of the largest economies in Europe and is a major trading partner with the other EU countries and the United States. If implemented, Brexit might negatively affect the City of London's economy, which is heavily dominated by financial services, as banks might be forced to move staff and comply with two separate sets of rules or lose business to banks in Continental Europe. In addition, Brexit would likely create additional economic stresses for the UK, including the potential for decreased trade, capital outflows, devaluation of the British pound, wider corporate bond spreads due to uncertainty, and declines in business and consumer spending as well as foreign direct investment. Further, the UK's departure from the EU would potentially cause volatility within the EU, which could trigger prolonged economic downturns in certain European countries or spark additional member states to contemplate departing the EU (thereby exacerbating political instability in the region).

The growth of Japan's economy has historically lagged that of its Asian neighbors and other major developed economies. The Japanese economy is heavily dependent on international trade and has been adversely affected by trade tariffs, other protectionist measures, competition from emerging economies and the economic conditions of its trading partners. Japan's relations with its neighbors, particularly China, North Korea, South Korea and Russia, have at times been strained due to territorial disputes, historical animosities and defense concerns. Most recently, the Japanese government has shown concern over the increased nuclear and military activity by North Korea. Strained relations may cause uncertainty in the Japanese markets and adversely affect the overall Japanese economy in times of crisis. China has become an important trading partner with Japan, yet the countries' political relationship has become strained. Should political tension increase, it could adversely affect the economy, especially the export sector, and destabilize the region as a whole. Japan is located in a part of the world that has historically been prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis and is economically sensitive to environmental events. Any such event, such as the major earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan in March 2011, could result in a significant adverse impact on the Japanese economy. Historically, Japan has been subject to unpredictable national politics and may experience frequent political turnover. Future political developments may lead to changes in policy that might adversely affect a Fund's investments. In addition, the Japanese economy faces several concerns, including a financial system with large levels of nonperforming loans, over-leveraged corporate balance sheets, extensive cross-ownership by major corporations, a changing corporate governance structure, and large government deficits. The Japanese yen has fluctuated widely at times and any increase in its value may cause a decline in exports that could weaken the economy. Furthermore, Japan has an aging workforce. It is a labor market undergoing fundamental structural changes, as traditional lifetime employment clashes with the need for increased labor mobility, which may adversely affect Japan's economic competitiveness. Japan also remains heavily dependent on oil imports, and higher commodity prices could therefore have a negative impact on the economy. Furthermore, Japanese corporations often engage in high levels of corporate leveraging, extensive cross-purchases of the securities of other corporations and are subject to a changing corporate governance structure.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS — EMERGING MARKETS. The FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund may invest in countries with emerging economies or securities markets. These countries are generally located in the Asia and Pacific regions, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Central America, South America and Africa. Political and economic structures in many of these countries may be undergoing significant evolution and rapid development, and these countries may lack the social, political and economic stability characteristics of more developed countries. In general, the securities markets of these countries are less liquid, subject to greater price volatility, have smaller market capitalizations and have problems with securities registration and custody. As a result, the risks presented by investments in these countries are heightened. Additionally, settlement procedures in emerging countries are frequently less developed and reliable than those in the United States and may involve a Fund's delivery of securities before receipt of payment for their sale. Settlement or registration problems may make it more difficult for a Fund to value its portfolio securities and could cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities, to have a portion of its assets uninvested or to incur losses due to the failure of a counterparty to pay for securities the Fund has delivered or the Fund's inability to complete its contractual obligations.

Unanticipated political, economic or social developments may affect the value of a Fund's investments in emerging market countries and the availability to the Fund of additional investments in these countries. Some of these countries may have in the past failed to recognize private property rights and may have at times nationalized or expropriated the assets of private companies. There have been occasional limitations on the movements of funds and other assets between different countries. The small size and inexperience of the securities markets in certain of such countries and the limited volume of trading in securities in those countries may make a Fund's investments in such countries illiquid and more volatile than investments in Japan or most Western European countries, and a Fund may be required to establish special custodial or other arrangements before making certain investments in those

countries. There may be little financial or accounting information available with respect to issuers located in certain parts of such countries, and it may be difficult as a result to assess the value or prospects of an investment in such issuers.

In certain countries, there may be fewer publicly traded securities and the market may be dominated by a few issuers or sectors. Issuers and securities markets in such countries are not subject to as extensive and frequent accounting, financial and other reporting requirements or as comprehensive government regulations as are issuers and securities markets in the U.S. In particular, the assets and profits appearing on the financial statements of emerging country issuers may not reflect their financial position or results of operations in the same manner as financial statements for U.S. issuers. Substantially less information may be publicly available about emerging country issuers than is available about issuers in the United States.

Emerging country securities markets are typically marked by a high concentration of market capitalization and trading volume in a small number of issuers representing a limited number of industries, as well as a high concentration of ownership of such securities by a limited number of investors. The markets for securities in certain emerging countries are in the earliest stages of their development. Even the markets for relatively widely traded securities in emerging countries may not be able to absorb, without price disruptions, a significant increase in trading volume or trades of a size customarily undertaken by institutional investors in the securities markets of developed countries. The limited size of many of these securities markets can cause prices to be erratic for reasons apart from factors that affect the soundness and competitiveness of the securities issuers. For example, prices may be unduly influenced by traders who control large positions in these markets. Additionally, market making and arbitrage activities are generally less extensive in such markets, which may contribute to increased volatility and reduced liquidity of such markets. The limited liquidity of emerging country securities may also affect a Fund's ability to accurately value its portfolio securities or to acquire or dispose of securities at the price and time it wishes to do so or in order to meet redemption requests.

Certain emerging market countries may have antiquated legal systems, which may adversely impact the Funds. For example, while the potential liability of a shareholder in a U.S. corporation with respect to acts of the corporation is generally limited to the amount of the shareholder's investment, the notion of limited liability is less clear in certain emerging market countries. Similarly, the rights of investors in emerging market companies may be more limited than those of shareholders in U.S. corporations. In addition, the systems of corporate governance to which issuers in certain emerging countries are subject may be less advanced than the systems to which issuers located in more developed countries are subject, and therefore, shareholders of such issuers may not receive many of the protections available to shareholders of issuers located in more developed countries. These risks may be heightened in Russia.

Transaction costs, including brokerage commissions or dealer mark-ups, in emerging countries may be higher than in developed securities markets. In addition, existing laws and regulations are often inconsistently applied. As legal systems in emerging countries develop, foreign investors may be adversely affected by new or amended laws and regulations. In circumstances where adequate laws exist, it may not be possible to obtain swift and equitable enforcement of the law.

Certain emerging countries may restrict or control foreign investments in their securities markets. These restrictions may limit a Fund's investment in those countries and may increase the expenses of the Fund. Certain emerging countries require governmental approval prior to investments by foreign persons or limit investment by foreign persons to only a specified percentage of an issuer's outstanding securities or a specific class of securities which may have less advantageous terms (including price) than securities of the company available for purchase by nationals. In addition, the repatriation of both investment income and capital from emerging countries may be subject to restrictions which require governmental consents or prohibit repatriation entirely for a period of time. Even where there is no outright restriction on repatriation of capital, the mechanics of repatriation may affect certain aspects of the operation of a Fund. Custodial and/or settlement systems in emerging countries may not be fully developed. To the extent a Fund invests in emerging countries, Fund assets that are traded in those markets which have been entrusted to sub-custodians in those markets may be exposed to risks for which the sub-custodian will have no liability.

Emerging countries may be subject to a substantially greater degree of economic, political and social instability and disruption than more developed countries. This instability may result from, among other things, the following: (i) authoritarian governments or military involvement in political and economic decision making, including changes or attempted changes in governments through extra-constitutional means; (ii) social unrest associated with demands for improved political, economic or social conditions; (iii) internal insurgencies; (iv) hostile relations with neighboring countries; (v) ethnic, religious and racial disaffection or conflict; and (vi) the absence of developed legal structures governing foreign private investments and private property. A Fund's investments can also be adversely affected by any increase in taxes or by political, economic or diplomatic developments.

A Fund may invest in former “east bloc” countries in Eastern Europe. Most Eastern European countries had a centrally planned, socialist economy for a substantial period of time. The governments of many Eastern European countries have more recently been implementing reforms directed at political and economic liberalization, including efforts to decentralize the economic decision-making process and move towards a market economy. However, business entities in many Eastern European countries do not have an extended history of operating in a market-oriented economy, and the ultimate impact of Eastern European countries’ attempts to move toward more market-oriented economies is currently unclear. In addition, any change in the leadership or policies of Eastern European countries may halt the expansion of or reverse the liberalization of foreign investment policies now occurring and adversely affect existing investment opportunities.

The economies of emerging countries may suffer from unfavorable growth of gross domestic product, rates of inflation and hyperinflation, capital reinvestment, resources, self-sufficiency and balance of payments. Many emerging countries have experienced in the past, and continue to experience, high rates of inflation. In certain countries inflation has at times accelerated rapidly to hyperinflationary levels, creating a negative interest rate environment and sharply eroding the value of outstanding financial assets in those countries. Other emerging countries, on the other hand, have recently experienced deflationary pressures and are in economic recessions.

The economies of many emerging countries are heavily dependent upon international trade and are accordingly affected by protective trade barriers and the economic conditions of their trading partners. In addition, the economies of some emerging countries are vulnerable to weakness in world prices for their commodity exports.

Risks related to currencies and corporate actions are also greater in emerging countries than in developed countries. For example, some emerging countries may have fixed or managed currencies that are not free-floating against the U.S. dollar. Certain emerging countries may experience sudden and large adjustments in their currency, which can have a disruptive and adverse effect on foreign investors. Some emerging countries have a higher risk of currency devaluations, and some of these countries may experience sustained periods of high inflation or rapid changes in inflation rates which can have negative effects on a country’s economy and securities markets. There may be no significant foreign exchange market for certain currencies making it difficult for the Funds to engage in foreign currency transactions. Some emerging countries may impose restrictions on the free conversion of their currencies into foreign currencies, including the U.S. dollar. Corporate action procedures in emerging countries may be less reliable and have limited or no involvement by the depositories and central banks. Lack of standard practices and payment systems can lead to significant delays in payment.

Many emerging countries are highly dependent on foreign loans for their operations. There have been moratoria on, and refinancing of, repayments with respect to these loans. Some of the refinancings have imposed restrictions and conditions on the economies of such nations that have adversely affected their economic growth.

Investment exposure to China subjects a Fund to risks specific to China. China may be subject to considerable degrees of economic, political and social instability. China is a developing market and demonstrates significantly higher volatility from time to time in comparison to developed markets. The Chinese government has undertaken reform of economic and market practices and expansion of the sphere for private ownership of property in China. However, Chinese markets generally continue to experience inefficiency, volatility and pricing anomalies resulting from governmental influence, a lack of publicly available information and/or political and social instability. Internal social unrest or confrontations with other neighboring countries, including military conflicts in response to such events, may also disrupt economic development in China and result in a greater risk of currency fluctuations, currency convertibility, interest rate fluctuations and higher rates of inflation. Export growth continues to be a major driver of China’s rapid economic growth. Reduction in spending on Chinese products and services, institution of tariffs or other trade barriers, or a downturn in any of the economies of China’s key trading partners may have an adverse impact on the Chinese economy.

The Funds may be invested in issuers located in Central and South American countries. Many economies in Latin America have experienced high interest rates, economic volatility, inflation, currency devaluations and high unemployment rates. Any adverse economic event in one country can have a significant effect on other countries of this region. In addition, commodities (such as oil, gas and minerals) represent a significant percentage of the region’s exports and many economies in this region, are particularly sensitive to fluctuations in commodity prices.

The FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund may be invested in issuers located in Russia. The Russian economy is heavily dependent on exports. Oil, natural gas, metals, and timber account for more than 80% of Russia's exports. Therefore, Russia is vulnerable to fluctuations in world commodity prices and on the price and demand for these commodities and natural resources. Any changes in any of these sectors could have an adverse impact on the Russian economy. The Russian securities market is characterized by a limited volume of trading resulting in difficulty in obtaining accurate prices and trading. The Russian securities market, as compared to U.S. markets, has significant price volatility, less liquidity, a smaller market capitalization and a smaller number of traded securities. There is also little publicly-available information about issuers. Settlement, clearing and registration of securities transactions are subject to risks because of insufficient registration systems that may not be subject to effective government supervision. This may result in significant delays or problems in registering the transfer of shares. Ownership of shares in Russian companies is recorded by companies themselves and by registrars instead of through a central registration system. It is possible that a Fund's ownership rights could be lost through fraud or negligence. While applicable Russian regulations impose liability on registrars for losses resulting from their errors, it may be difficult for a Fund to enforce any rights it may have against the registrar or issuer of the securities in the event of loss of share registration. Adverse currency exchange rates are a risk and there is a lack of available currency hedging instruments. Investments in Russia may be subject to the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets.

In addition, as a result of recent geopolitical events involving the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union, and other countries have imposed sanctions on certain Russian individuals and Russian corporations. Additional broader sanctions may be imposed in the future. These sanctions, or even the threat of further sanctions, may result in the decline of the value and liquidity of Russian securities, a weakening of the ruble or other adverse consequences to the Russian economy. The sanctions could also result in Russia taking counter measures or retaliatory actions which may further impair the value and liquidity of Russian securities. These events could have a negative effect on the performance of the Funds. Compliance with each of these sanctions may impair the ability of the Funds to buy, sell, hold, receive, deliver or otherwise transact in the affected securities or other securities of such issuers. If it becomes impracticable or unlawful for the Funds to hold securities subject to, or otherwise affected by, sanctions, or if deemed appropriate by the Funds' investment adviser, the Funds may prohibit in-kind deposits of the affected securities in connection with creation transactions and instead require a cash deposit, which may also increase the Funds' transaction costs.

Also, if an affected security is included in the Fund's Underlying Index, the Fund may, where practicable, seek to eliminate its holdings of the affected security by employing or augmenting its representative sampling strategy to seek to track the investment results of its Underlying Index. The increased use of a representative sampling strategy may increase the Fund's tracking error risk. If the affected securities constitute a significant percentage of the Underlying Index, the Fund may not be able to effectively implement a representative sampling strategy, which may result in significant tracking error between the Fund's performance and the performance of its Underlying Index.

Current or future sanctions may result in Russia taking counter measures or retaliatory actions, which may further impair the value and liquidity of Russian securities. These retaliatory measures may include the immediate freeze of Russian assets held by a Fund. In the event of such a freeze of any Fund assets, including depositary receipts, a Fund may need to liquidate non-restricted assets in order to satisfy any Fund redemption orders. The liquidation of Fund assets during this time may also result in the Fund receiving substantially lower prices for its securities.

These sanctions may also lead to changes in the Fund's Underlying Index. Index Providers may remove securities from the Underlying Index or implement caps on the securities of certain issuers that have been subject to recent economic sanctions. In such an event, it is expected that the Fund will rebalance its portfolio to bring it in line with the Underlying Index as a result of any such changes, which may result in transaction costs and increased tracking error. These sanctions, the volatility that may result in the trading markets for Russian securities and the possibility that Russia may impose investment or currency controls on investors may cause the Fund to invest in, or increase the Fund's investments in, depositary receipts that represent the securities of the Underlying Index. These investments may result in increased transaction costs and increased tracking error.

FUTURES CONTRACTS AND RELATED OPTIONS. The FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund may invest up to 20% of its assets in U.S. futures contracts and the FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund each may invest up to 20% of its assets in U.S. and foreign futures contracts if NTI believes that it will help the Fund track its Underlying Index. Each of these Funds may purchase and

sell call and put options on futures contracts. These futures contracts and options will be used to simulate full investment in the respective Underlying Index, to facilitate trading or to reduce transaction costs. Each of these Funds will only enter into futures contracts and options on futures contracts that are traded on a U.S. or foreign exchange, as applicable. No Fund will use futures or options for speculative purposes.

The Trust, on behalf of each Fund, has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” (“CPO”) under the Commodity Exchange Act, and, therefore, is not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under that Act. The Investment Adviser is not subject to registration or regulations as a commodity pool operator with respect to the Funds under the Commodity Exchange Act. As a result, each Fund is limited in its ability to trade instruments subject to the CFTC’s jurisdiction, including commodity futures (which include futures on broad-based securities indexes, interest rate futures and currency futures), options on commodity futures, certain swaps or other investments (whether directly or indirectly through investments in other investment vehicles).

Under this exclusion, each Fund must satisfy one of the following two trading limitations whenever it enters into a new commodity trading position: (1) the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish the Fund’s positions in CFTC-regulated instruments may not exceed 5% of the liquidation value of the Fund’s portfolio (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such investments); or (2) the aggregate net notional value of such instruments, determined at the time the most recent position was established, may not exceed 100% of the liquidation value of the Fund’s portfolio (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). The Fund would not be required to consider its exposure to such instruments if they were held for “bona fide hedging” purposes, as such term is defined in the rules of the CFTC. In addition to meeting one of the foregoing trading limitations, the Fund may not market itself as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the markets for CFTC-regulated instruments.

The Funds will engage in transactions in futures contracts and related options only to the extent such transactions are consistent with the requirement of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), for maintaining their qualifications as regulated investment companies for federal income tax purposes.

Participation in foreign futures and foreign options transactions involves the execution and clearing of trades on or subject to the rules of a foreign board of trade. Neither the National Futures Association (the “NFA”) nor any domestic exchange regulates activities of any foreign boards of trade, including the execution, delivery and clearing of transactions, or has the power to compel enforcement of the rules of a foreign board of trade or any applicable foreign law. This is true even if the exchange is formally linked to a domestic market so that a position taken on the market may be liquidated by a transaction on another market. Moreover, such laws or regulations will vary depending on the foreign country in which the foreign futures or foreign options transaction occurs. For these reasons, persons who trade foreign futures or foreign options contracts may not be afforded certain of the protective measures provided by the Commodity Exchange Act, the CFTC regulations and the rules of the NFA and any domestic exchange, including the right to use reparations proceedings before the CFTC and arbitration proceedings provided them by the NFA or any domestic futures exchange. In particular, a Fund’s investments in foreign futures or foreign options transactions may not be provided the same protections in respect of transactions on United States futures exchanges. In addition, the price of any foreign futures or foreign options contract may be affected by any variance in the foreign exchange rate between the time an order is placed and the time it is liquidated, offset or exercised.

Provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act include new capital and margin requirements and the mandatory use of clearinghouse mechanisms for many over-the-counter derivatives transactions. In connection with a Fund’s position in a futures contract or related option, the Fund will segregate liquid assets or will otherwise cover its position in accordance with applicable SEC requirements.

For a further description of futures contracts and related options, see Appendix B to this SAI.

ILLIQUID OR RESTRICTED SECURITIES. Illiquid securities generally are any securities that cannot be disposed of promptly and in the ordinary course of business within seven days at approximately the amount at which a Fund has valued the securities. To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in securities that are illiquid. In the event that a subsequent change in net assets or other circumstances cause a Fund to exceed this limitation, the Fund will take steps to bring the aggregate amount of liquid securities within the limitations as soon as reasonably practicable. Each Fund may

purchase securities that are not registered under the Securities Act but can be sold to “qualified institutional buyers” in accordance with Rule 144A under the Securities Act (“Rule 144A Securities”). These securities will not be considered illiquid so long as the Investment Adviser determines, under guidelines approved by the Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”), that an adequate trading market exists. This practice could increase the level of illiquidity for Rule 144A Securities during any period that qualified institutional buyers become uninterested in purchasing these securities. Under guidelines approved by the Board, the Investment Adviser monitors the liquidity of such securities and may consider a number of factors set forth in the guidelines to determine whether an adequate trading market exists. If an adequate trading market does not exist, the securities will be considered to be illiquid.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES. With respect to the investments of the Funds in the securities of other investment companies, such investments will be limited so that, as determined after a purchase is made, either: (a) not more than 3% of the total outstanding stock of such investment company will be owned by a Fund, the Trust as a whole and its affiliated persons (as defined in the 1940 Act); or (b) (i) not more than 5% of the value of the total assets of a Fund will be invested in the securities of any one investment company; (ii) not more than 10% of the value of its total assets will be invested in the aggregate securities of investment companies as a group; and (iii) not more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any one investment company will be owned by the Fund. These limits will not apply to the investment of uninvested cash balances in shares of registered or unregistered money market funds whether affiliated or unaffiliated. The foregoing exemption, however, only applies to an unregistered money market fund that: (i) limits its investments to those in which a money market fund may invest under Rule 2a-7 of the 1940 Act; and (ii) undertakes to comply with all the other provisions of Rule 2a-7.

Investments by the Funds in other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), will be subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act except as permitted by SEC orders.

To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each Fund may invest in the other exchange-traded funds managed by NTI. To the extent that a Fund invests in other exchange-traded funds managed by NTI, it will be subject to the risks associated with investing in such funds.

Certain investment companies whose securities are purchased by the Funds may not be obligated to redeem such securities in an amount exceeding 1% of the investment company’s total outstanding securities during any period of less than 30 days. Therefore, such securities that exceed this amount may be illiquid.

If required by the 1940 Act, each Fund expects to vote the shares of other investment companies that are held by it in the same proportion as the vote of all other holders of such securities.

A Fund may adhere to other limitations with respect to its investments in securities issued by other investment companies if required or permitted by the SEC or deemed to be in the best interests of the Trust.

MONEY MARKET FUNDS INVESTMENTS. Certain money market funds in which the Funds may invest, including certain money market mutual funds managed by the Investment Adviser, must calculate their net asset value per share to the nearest 0.01%, which produces fluctuations in the shares’ value in response to small changes in market values. Because the share price of these money market funds will fluctuate, when a Fund sells its shares they may be worth more or less than what the Fund originally paid for them. A Fund could also lose money if the money market fund holds defaulted securities or as a result of adverse market conditions. These money market funds may impose a fee (“liquidity fee”) upon the redemption of their shares or may temporarily suspend the ability to redeem shares if the money market fund’s liquidity falls below the required minimums because of market conditions or other factors.

Funds may also invest in money market funds that invest at least 99.5% of their assets in U.S. government securities (“government money market funds”). Government money market funds may seek to maintain a stable price of \$1.00 per share and are generally not permitted to impose liquidity fees or temporarily suspend redemptions. However, government money market funds typically offer materially lower yields than other money market funds with fluctuating share prices. A Fund could lose money invested in a government money market fund. An investment in a money market fund, including a government money market fund, is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) or any other government agency. A money market fund’s sponsor has no legal obligation to provide financial support to the money market fund, and you should not expect that the sponsor or any person will provide financial support to a money market fund at any time.

In addition to the fees and expenses that a Fund directly bears, the Fund indirectly bears the fees and expenses of any money market funds in which it invests, including affiliated money market funds. By investing in a money market fund, a Fund will be exposed to the investment risks of the money market fund in direct proportion to such investment.

LIQUIDITY RISK MANAGEMENT RULE RISK. In October 2016, the SEC adopted a new liquidity risk management rule under the 1940 Act (the “Liquidity Rule”), requiring open-end funds, including ETFs such as the Funds, to establish a liquidity risk management program and enhance disclosures regarding fund liquidity. There are exclusions from certain portions of the liquidity risk management program requirements for “in-kind” ETFs. As required by the Liquidity Rule, the Funds have implemented the initial portions of their liquidity risk management program, and the Board has appointed NTI as the administrator of the liquidity risk management program. The Funds will be required to comply with the remaining requirements of the Liquidity Rule by June 1, 2019. The effect the new rule will have on the Funds, including a Fund’s ability to rely on the exclusions, is not yet known, but the rule may impact a Fund’s performance and ability to achieve its investment objective.

MISCELLANEOUS. Securities may be purchased on margin only to obtain such short-term credits as necessary for the clearance of purchase and sales of securities.

NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK. Non-diversification risk is the risk that a non-diversified Fund may be more susceptible to adverse financial, economic or other developments affecting any single issuer, and more susceptible to greater losses because of these developments. The Funds are classified as “non-diversified” for purposes of the 1940 Act. A “non-diversified” classification means that a Fund is not limited by the 1940 Act with regard to the percentage of its assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer. The securities of a particular issuer may dominate the Underlying Index of such a Fund and, consequently, the Fund’s investment portfolio.

Each Fund intends to maintain the required level of diversification and otherwise conduct its operations so as to qualify as a “regulated investment company” for purposes of the Code, and to relieve the Fund of any liability for federal income tax to the extent that its earnings are distributed to shareholders. Compliance with the diversification requirements of the Code may limit the investment flexibility of certain Funds and may make it less likely that such Funds will meet their investment objectives.

OPERATIONAL RISK. The Investment Adviser and other Fund Service Providers may experience disruptions or operating errors that could negatively impact the Funds. While Service Providers are required to have appropriate operational risk management policies and procedures, their methods of operational risk management may differ from the Funds’ in the setting of priorities, the personnel and resources available or the effectiveness of relevant controls. The Investment Adviser, through its monitoring and oversight of Service Providers, seeks to ensure that Service Providers take appropriate precautions to avoid and mitigate risks that could lead to disruptions and operating errors. However, it is not possible for the Investment Adviser or the other Fund Service Providers to identify all of the operational risks that may affect a Fund or to develop processes and controls to completely eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects.

OPTIONS. Each Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in options. Each Fund may buy put options, buy call options and write covered call and secured put options if NTI believes that it will help the Fund track its Underlying Index. These options may relate to particular securities, foreign and domestic stock indexes, financial instruments, foreign currencies or the yield differential between two securities (“yield curve options”) and may or may not be listed on a domestic or foreign securities exchange or issued by the Options Clearing Corporation. A call option for a particular security or currency gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and a writer the obligation to sell, the underlying security at the stated exercise price prior to the expiration of the option, regardless of the market price of the security or currency. The premium paid to the writer is in consideration for undertaking the obligation under the option contract. A put option for a particular security or currency gives the purchaser the right to sell the security or currency at the stated exercise price to the expiration date of the option, regardless of the market price of the security or currency. In contrast to an option on a particular security, an option on an index provides the holder with the right to make or receive a cash settlement upon exercise of the option. The amount of this settlement will be equal to the difference between the closing price of the index at the time of exercise and the exercise price of the option expressed in dollars, times a specified multiple.

Options trading is a highly specialized activity, which entails greater than ordinary investment risk. Options on particular securities may be more volatile than the underlying instruments and, therefore, on a percentage basis, an investment in options may be subject to greater fluctuation than an investment in the underlying instruments themselves.

The Funds will write call options only if they are “covered.” In the case of a call option on a security or currency, the option is “covered” if a Fund owns the security or currency underlying the call or has an absolute and immediate right to acquire that security without additional cash consideration (or, if additional cash consideration is required, liquid assets in such amount are segregated) upon conversion or exchange of other securities held by it. For a call option on an index, the option is covered if a Fund maintains with its custodian a portfolio of securities substantially replicating the index, or liquid assets equal to the contract value. A call option also is covered if a Fund holds a call on the same security, currency or index as the call written where the exercise price of the call held is: (i) equal to or less than the exercise price of the call written; or (ii) greater than the exercise price of the call written provided the Fund segregates liquid assets in the amount of the difference.

All put options written by a Fund would be covered, which means that such Fund will segregate cash or liquid assets with a value at least equal to the exercise price of the put option or will use the other methods described in the next sentence. A put option also is covered if a Fund holds a put option on the same security or currency as the option written where the exercise price of the option held is: (i) equal to or higher than the exercise price of the option written; or (ii) less than the exercise price of the option written provided the Fund segregates liquid assets in the amount of the difference.

With respect to yield curve options, a call (or put) option is covered if a Fund holds another call (or put) option on the spread between the same two securities and segregates liquid assets sufficient to cover the Fund’s net liability under the two options. Therefore, the Fund’s liability for such a covered option generally is limited to the difference between the amount of the Fund’s liability under the option written by the Fund less the value of the option held by the Fund. Yield curve options also may be covered in such other manner as may be in accordance with the requirements of the counterparty with which the option is traded and applicable laws and regulations.

A Fund’s obligation to sell subject to a covered call option written by it, or to purchase a security or currency subject to a secured put option written by it, may be terminated prior to the expiration date of the option by the Fund’s execution of a closing purchase transaction, which is effected by purchasing on an exchange an option of the same series (i.e., same underlying security or currency, exercise price and expiration date) as the option previously written. Such a purchase does not result in the ownership of an option. A closing purchase transaction will ordinarily be effected to realize a profit on an outstanding option, to prevent an underlying instrument from being called, to permit the sale of the underlying security or currency or to permit the writing of a new option containing different terms on such underlying security. The cost of such a liquidation purchase plus transaction costs may be greater than the premium received upon the original option, in which event the Fund will have incurred a loss in the transaction. There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist for any particular option. An option writer, unable to effect a closing purchase transaction, will not be able to sell the underlying security or currency (in the case of a covered call option) or liquidate the segregated assets (in the case of a secured put option) until the option expires or the optioned security or currency is delivered upon exercise with the result that the writer in such circumstances will be subject to the risk of market decline or appreciation in the instrument during such period.

When a Fund purchases an option, the premium paid by it is recorded as an asset of the Fund. When a Fund writes an option, an amount equal to the net premium (the premium less the commission) received by the Fund is included in the liability section of the Fund’s statement of assets and liabilities as a deferred credit. The amount of this asset or deferred credit will be subsequently marked-to-market to reflect the current value of the option purchased or written. The current value of the traded option is the last sale price or, in the absence of a sale, the current bid price. If an option purchased by a Fund expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a loss equal to the premium paid. If a Fund enters into a closing sale transaction on an option purchased by it, the Fund will realize a gain if the premium received by the Fund on the closing transaction is more than the premium paid to purchase the option, or a loss if it is less. If an option written by a Fund expires on the stipulated expiration date or if a Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction, it will realize a gain (or loss if the cost of a closing purchase transaction exceeds the net premium received when the option is sold) and the deferred credit related to such option will be eliminated. If an option written by a Fund is exercised, the proceeds of the sale will be increased by the net premium originally received and the Fund will realize a gain or loss.

There are several risks associated with transactions in certain options. For example, there are significant differences between the securities, currency and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives. In addition, a liquid secondary market for particular options, whether traded over-the-counter or on an exchange, may be absent for reasons which include the following: there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options;

restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options or underlying securities or currencies; unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading value; or one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS. To the extent consistent with their respective investment objectives and strategies, each of the Funds may invest in real estate investment trusts (“REITs”). REITs are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in real estate or real estate related loans. REITs are generally classified as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or a combination of equity and mortgage REITs. Equity REITs invest the majority of their assets directly in real property and derive income primarily from the collection of rents. Equity REITs can also realize capital gains by selling properties that have appreciated in value. Equity REITs may further be categorized by the type of real estate securities they own, such as apartment properties, retail shopping centers, office and industrial properties, hotels, healthcare facilities, manufactured housing and mixed property types. Mortgage REITs invest the majority of their assets in real estate mortgages and derive income from the collection of interest payments. Hybrid REITs combine the characteristics of both equity and mortgage REITs. Like regulated investment companies such as the Funds, REITs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they comply with certain requirements under the Code. A Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any expenses paid by REITs in which it invests in addition to the expenses paid by the Fund.

Investing in REITs involves certain unique risks. Equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by such REITs, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of any credit extended. REITs are dependent upon management skills, are not diversified (except to the extent the Code requires), and are subject to the risks of financing projects. REITs are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers, self-liquidation, and the possibilities of failing to qualify for the exemption from tax for distributed income under the Code and failing to maintain their exemptions from the 1940 Act. Investing in REITs also involves risks similar to those associated with investing in small capitalization companies. That is, they may have limited financial resources, may trade less frequently and in a limited volume and may be subject to abrupt or erratic price movements in comparison to larger capitalization companies. To the extent that assets underlying a REIT are concentrated geographically, by property type or in certain other respects, these risks may be heightened.

In addition, the value of such securities may fluctuate in response to the market’s perception of the creditworthiness of the issuers of mortgage-related securities owned by a Fund. Because investments in mortgage-related securities are interest sensitive, the ability of the issuer to reinvest or to reinvest favorably in underlying mortgages may be limited by government regulation or tax policy. For example, action by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to limit the growth of the nation’s money supply may cause interest rates to rise and thereby reduce the volume of new residential mortgages. Additionally, although mortgages and mortgage-related securities are generally supported by some form of government or private guarantees and/or insurance, there is no assurance that private guarantors or insurers will be able to meet their obligation. REITs (especially mortgage REITs) are also subject to interest rate risks. When interest rates decline, the value of a REIT’s investment in fixed rate obligations can be expected to rise. Conversely, when interest rates rise, the value of a REIT’s investment in fixed rate obligations can be expected to decline. In contrast, as interest rates on adjustable rate mortgage loans are reset periodically, yields on a REIT’s investments in such loans will gradually align themselves to reflect changes in market interest rates, causing the value of such investments to fluctuate less dramatically in response to interest rate fluctuations than would investments in fixed rate obligations.

REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS. To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each Fund may agree to purchase portfolio securities from financial institutions subject to the seller’s agreement to repurchase them at a mutually agreed upon date and price (“repurchase agreements”). Repurchase agreements may be considered loans under the 1940 Act. Although the securities subject to a repurchase agreement may bear maturities exceeding one year, settlement for the repurchase agreement will never be more than one year after a Fund’s acquisition of the securities and normally will be within a shorter period of time. Securities subject to repurchase agreements normally are held either by the Trust’s custodian or sub-custodian (if any), or in the Federal Reserve/Treasury Book-Entry System. The seller under a repurchase agreement will be required to maintain the value of the securities subject to the agreement in an amount exceeding the repurchase price (including accrued interest). Default by the seller would, however, expose the

Fund to possible loss because of adverse market action or delay in connection with the disposition of the underlying obligations. In addition, in the event of a bankruptcy, a Fund could suffer additional losses if a court determines that the Fund's interest in the collateral is unenforceable. If a Fund enters into a repurchase agreement with a foreign financial institution, it may also be subject to risks associated with foreign investments. (see "Foreign Investments — General" above.) As a result, repurchase agreements with a foreign financial institution may involve higher credit risks than repurchase agreements with domestic financial institutions. In addition, repurchase agreements with foreign financial institutions located in emerging markets, or relating to emerging markets, may involve foreign financial institutions or counterparties with lower credit ratings than domestic financial institutions.

Regulations that will begin to take effect in 2019 will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as a Fund, to terminate such agreements, take foreclosure action, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. It is possible that these new requirements, as well as potential additional government regulation and other developments in the market, could adversely affect a Fund's ability to terminate existing repurchase agreements and purchase and sale contracts or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS. To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each Fund may borrow funds by selling portfolio securities to financial institutions such as banks and broker/dealers and agreeing to repurchase them at a mutually specified date and price ("reverse repurchase agreements"). The Funds may use the proceeds of reverse repurchase agreements to purchase other securities either maturing, or under an agreement to resell, on a date simultaneous with or prior to the expiration of the reverse repurchase agreement. Reverse repurchase agreements may be considered borrowings under the 1940 Act. Reverse repurchase agreements involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by a Fund may decline below the repurchase price. The Funds will pay interest on amounts obtained pursuant to a reverse repurchase agreement. While reverse repurchase agreements are outstanding, the Funds will segregate liquid assets in an amount at least equal to the market value of the securities, plus accrued interest, subject to the agreement.

RULE 144A SECURITIES. To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, each Fund may invest in securities offered pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, which are restricted securities. They may be less liquid and more difficult to value than other investments because such securities may not be readily marketable in broad public markets. A Fund may not be able to sell a restricted security promptly or at a reasonable price. A restricted security that was liquid at the time of purchase may subsequently become illiquid and its value may decline as a result. Restricted securities that are deemed illiquid will count towards a Fund's 15% limitation on illiquid securities. In addition, transaction costs may be higher for restricted securities than for more liquid securities. A Fund may have to bear the expense of registering Rule 144A securities for resale and the risk of substantial delays in effecting the registration.

SECURITIES LENDING. In order to generate additional income, a Fund may lend securities to banks, brokers and dealers or other qualified institutions. In exchange, the Fund will receive collateral equal to at least 100% of the value of the securities loaned. Securities lending may represent no more than one-third of the value of the Fund's total assets (including the loan collateral).

Collateral for loans of portfolio securities made by a Fund may consist of cash, cash equivalents, securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies or foreign governments (or any combination thereof). Any cash collateral received by a Fund in connection with these loans may be invested in a variety of short-term investments, either directly or indirectly through registered or unregistered money market funds. Loan collateral (including any investment of the collateral) is not included in the calculation of the percentage limitations described elsewhere in the Prospectus or SAI regarding a Fund's investments in particular types of securities. The borrower of securities will be required to maintain the market value of the collateral at not less than the market value of the loaned securities, and such value will be monitored on a daily basis.

When a Fund lends its securities, it continues to receive payments equal to the dividends and interest paid on the securities loaned and simultaneously may earn interest on the investment of the cash collateral. Investing the collateral subjects it to market depreciation or appreciation, and the Fund is responsible for any loss that may result from its investment in borrowed collateral. Additionally, the amount of a Fund's distributions that qualify for taxation at reduced long-term capital gains rates for individuals, as well as the amount of the Fund's distributions that qualify for the dividends received deduction available to corporate shareholders

(together, “qualifying dividends”) may be reduced as a result of the Fund’s securities lending activities. This is because any dividends paid on securities while on loan will not be deemed to have been received by the Fund, and the equivalent amount paid to the Fund by the borrower of the securities will not be deemed to be a qualifying dividend.

A Fund will have the right to terminate a loan at any time and recall the loaned securities within the normal and customary settlement time for securities transactions. Although voting rights, or rights to consent, attendant to securities on loan pass to the borrower, such loans may be called so that the securities may be voted by the Fund if a material event affecting the investment is to occur. As with other extensions of credit there are risks of delay in recovering, or even loss of rights in, the collateral should the borrower of the securities fail financially. In the event of a default by a borrower with respect to any loan, the securities lending agent will exercise any and all remedies provided under the applicable borrower agreement. These remedies include purchasing replacement securities for the Fund by applying the collateral held from the defaulting borrower against the purchase cost of the replacement securities. If the proceeds from the collateral are less than the purchase cost of the replacement securities, the securities lending agent is responsible for such shortfall, subject to certain limitations that are set forth in detail in the securities lending agency agreement. In this event, a Fund could experience delays in recovering its securities and possibly may incur a capital loss.

Regulations that will begin to take effect in 2019 will require certain bank-regulated counterparties and certain of their affiliates to include in certain financial contracts, including many securities lending agreements, terms that delay or restrict the rights of counterparties, such as a Fund, to terminate such agreements, foreclose upon collateral, exercise other default rights or restrict transfers of credit support in the event that the counterparty and/or its affiliates are subject to certain types of resolution or insolvency proceedings. It is possible that these new requirements, as well as potential additional government regulation and other developments in the market, could adversely affect a Fund’s ability to terminate existing securities lending agreements or to realize amounts to be received under such agreements.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (“JPMorgan”) serves as securities lending agent for the Funds. For such services, JPMorgan receives a percentage of securities lending revenue generated for the Funds.

SHORT-TERM INSTRUMENTS AND TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS. To the extent consistent with its investment policies, each Fund may invest in short-term instruments, including money market instruments, on an ongoing basis to provide liquidity or for other reasons. Money market instruments are generally short-term investments that may include but are not limited to: (i) shares of money market funds (including those advised by NTI); (ii) obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities (including government-sponsored enterprises); (iii) negotiable certificates of deposit (“CDs”), bankers’ acceptances, fixed time deposits, bank notes and other obligations of U.S. and foreign banks (including foreign branches) and similar institutions; (iv) commercial paper rated at the date of purchase “Prime-1” by Moody’s, “A-1” by S&P or, if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by NTI; (v) non-convertible corporate debt securities (e.g., bonds and debentures) with remaining maturities at the date of purchase of not more than 397 days and that satisfy the rating requirements set forth in Rule 2a-7 under the 1940 Act; (vi) repurchase agreements; and (vii) short-term U.S. dollar-denominated obligations of foreign banks (including U.S. branches) that, in the opinion of NTI, are of comparable quality to obligations of U.S. banks which may be purchased by a Fund. Any of these instruments may be purchased on a current or a forward-settled basis.

Time deposits are non-negotiable deposits maintained in banking institutions for specified periods of time at stated interest rates. Bankers’ acceptances are time drafts drawn on commercial banks by borrowers, usually in connection with international transactions. Commercial paper represents short-term unsecured promissory notes issued in bearer form by banks or bank holding companies, corporations and finance companies. Certificates of deposit are negotiable certificates issued against funds deposited in a commercial bank for a definite period of time and earning a specified return. Bankers’ acceptances are negotiable drafts or bills of exchange, normally drawn by an importer or exporter to pay for specific merchandise, which are “accepted” by a bank, meaning, in effect, that the bank unconditionally agrees to pay the face value of the instrument on maturity. Fixed time deposits are bank obligations payable at a stated maturity date and bearing interest at a fixed rate. Fixed time deposits may be withdrawn on demand by the investor, but may be subject to early withdrawal penalties that vary depending upon market conditions and the remaining maturity of the obligation. There are no contractual restrictions on the right to transfer a beneficial interest in a fixed time deposit to a third party. Bank notes generally rank junior to deposit liabilities of banks and pari passu with other senior, unsecured obligations of the bank. Bank notes are classified as “other borrowings” on a bank’s balance sheet, while deposit notes and certificates of deposit are classified as deposits. Bank notes are not insured by the FDIC or any other insurer. Deposit notes are insured by the FDIC only to the extent of \$250,000 per depositor per bank.

The FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund may invest a portion of their assets in the obligations of foreign banks and foreign branches of domestic banks. Such obligations include Eurodollar Certificates of Deposit (“ECDs”), which are U.S. dollar-denominated certificates of deposit issued by offices of foreign and domestic banks located outside the United States; Eurodollar Time Deposits (“ETDs”), which are U.S. dollar-denominated deposits in a foreign branch of a U.S. bank or a foreign bank; Canadian Time Deposits (“CTDs”), which are essentially the same as ETDs except that they are issued by Canadian offices of major Canadian banks; Schedule Bs, which are obligations issued by Canadian branches of foreign or domestic banks; Yankee Certificates of Deposit (“Yankee CDs”), which are U.S. dollar-denominated certificates of deposit issued by a U.S. branch of a foreign bank and held in the United States; and Yankee Bankers’ Acceptances (“Yankee BAs”), which are U.S. dollar-denominated bankers’ acceptances issued by a U.S. branch of a foreign bank and held in the United States.

TRACKING VARIANCE. As discussed in the Prospectus, the Funds are subject to the risk of tracking variance. Tracking variance may result from share purchases and redemptions, transaction costs, expenses and other factors. Share purchases and redemptions may necessitate the purchase and sale of securities by a Fund and the resulting transaction costs, which may be substantial because of the number and the characteristics of the securities held. In addition, transaction costs are incurred because sales of securities received in connection with spin-offs and other corporate reorganizations are made to conform a Fund’s holdings to its investment objective. Tracking variance also may occur due to factors such as the size of a Fund, the maintenance of a cash reserve pending investment or to meet expected redemptions, changes made in the Fund’s Underlying Index or the manner in which the index is calculated or because the indexing and investment approach of the Investment Adviser does not produce the intended goal of the Fund. Tracking variance is monitored by the Investment Adviser at least quarterly. In the event the performance of a Fund is not comparable to the performance of its Underlying Index, the Board will evaluate the reasons for the deviation and the availability of corrective measures.

U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS. To the extent consistent with their respective investment objectives and strategies, the Funds may invest in a variety of U.S. Treasury obligations and obligations issued by or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises. Not all government obligations carry the same credit support. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government would provide financial support to its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises if it were not obligated to do so by law. There is no assurance that these commitments will be undertaken or complied with in the future. In addition, the secondary market for certain participations in loans made to foreign governments or their agencies may be limited. In the absence of a suitable secondary market, such participations generally are considered illiquid.

Many states grant tax-free status to dividends paid to shareholders of a fund from interest income earned by that fund from direct obligations of the U.S. government, subject in some states to minimum investment requirements that must be met by the fund. Investments in securities issued by Ginnie Mae or Fannie Mae, bankers’ acceptances, commercial paper and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities do not generally qualify for tax-free treatment.

Examples of other types of U.S. government obligations that may be acquired by each of the Funds include U.S. Treasury Bills, Treasury Notes and Treasury Bonds and the obligations of Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Farm Credit Banks, Federal Land Banks, the Federal Housing Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Small Business Administration, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Government National Mortgage Association, General Services Administration, Central Bank for Cooperatives, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Intermediate Credit Banks and the Maritime Administration.

Securities guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises also are deemed to include: (i) securities for which the payment of principal and interest is backed by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the U.S. government or by any agency, instrumentality or sponsored enterprise thereof; and (ii) participations in loans made to foreign governments or their agencies that are so guaranteed.

WARRANTS. To the extent consistent with their investment policies, each of the Funds may purchase warrants and similar rights, which are privileges issued by corporations enabling the owners to subscribe to and purchase a specified number of shares of the corporation at a specified price during a specified period of time. The prices of warrants do not necessarily correlate with the prices of the underlying shares. The purchase of warrants involves the risk that a Fund could lose the purchase value of a warrant if the right

to subscribe to additional shares is not exercised prior to the warrant's expiration. Also, the purchase of warrants involves the risk that the effective price paid for the warrant added to the subscription price of the related security may exceed the value of the subscribed security's market price such as when there is no movement in the level of the underlying security.

ZERO COUPON AND CAPITAL APPRECIATION BONDS AND PAY-IN-KIND SECURITIES. To the extent consistent with their respective investment objectives and strategies, the Funds may invest in zero coupon bonds, capital appreciation bonds and pay-in-kind ("PIK") securities. Zero coupon and capital appreciation bonds are debt securities issued or sold at a discount from their face value and which do not entitle the holder to any periodic payment of interest prior to maturity or a specified date. The original issue discount varies depending on the time remaining until maturity or cash payment date, prevailing interest rates, the liquidity of the security and the perceived credit quality of the issuer. These securities also may take the form of debt securities that have been stripped of their unmatured interest coupons, the coupons themselves or receipts or certificates representing interests in such stripped debt obligations or coupons. The market prices of zero coupon bonds, capital appreciation bonds and PIK securities generally are more volatile than the market prices of interest bearing securities and are likely to respond to a greater degree to changes in interest rates than interest bearing securities having similar maturities and credit quality.

PIK securities may be debt obligations or preferred shares that provide the issuer with the option of paying interest or dividends on such obligations in cash or in the form of additional securities rather than cash. Similar to zero coupon bonds, PIK securities are designed to give an issuer flexibility in managing cash flow. PIK securities that are debt securities can either be senior or subordinated debt and generally trade flat (i.e., without accrued interest). The trading price of PIK debt securities generally reflects the market value of the underlying debt plus an amount representing accrued interest since the last interest payment.

Zero coupon bonds, capital appreciation bonds and PIK securities involve the additional risk that, unlike securities that periodically pay interest to maturity, a Fund will realize no cash until a specified future payment date unless a portion of such securities is sold and, if the issuer of such securities defaults, the Fund may obtain no return at all on its investment. In addition, even though such securities do not provide for the payment of current interest in cash, the Fund is nonetheless required to accrue income on such investments for each taxable year and generally is required to distribute such accrued amounts (net of deductible expenses, if any) to avoid being subject to tax. Because no cash generally is received at the time of the accrual, a Fund may be required to liquidate other portfolio securities to obtain sufficient cash to satisfy federal tax distribution requirements applicable to the Fund.

THE INDEXES

Northern Trust Quality Low Volatility IndexSM

NUMBER OF COMPONENTS: APPROXIMATELY 134

Inception Date: December 31, 2013

The Northern Trust Quality Low Volatility Index is designed to construct a high quality universe of companies that possess lower overall absolute volatility (i.e. risk) relative to the Northern Trust 1250 Index (the "Benchmark"). An emphasis is placed on a company's income and capital growth, while also reducing overall volatility of returns relative to the benchmark. The proprietary Northern Trust quality factor is used to identify companies that exhibit strength in profitability, management expertise and cash flow.

Eligible Securities

In order to be eligible for inclusion in the Northern Trust Quality Low Volatility Index, a security must be a constituent of the Northern Trust 1250 Index.

In addition, securities ranking in the lowest quintile of quality based on Northern Trust's proprietary scoring model are ineligible for inclusion in the Index.

Methodology

The construction of the Index begins with a universe of eligible securities (defined in "Eligible Securities"). All eligible securities are then optimized to achieve a reduction in forecasted portfolio volatility, as well as a quality tilt within the index relative to the benchmark.

Rebalancing and Reconstitution

The Northern Trust Quality Low Volatility Index is reconstituted quarterly and adjusted intra-period only in connection with errors, securities' eligibility, exchange connectivity, float changes and corporate actions, including, but not limited to, initial public offerings and spin-offs.

The index is reconstituted in February, May, August, and November on the last business day of the month in which the U.S. equity markets are open for a full day of trading, and becomes effective immediately after the close.

Northern Trust Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility IndexSM

NUMBER OF COMPONENTS: APPROXIMATELY 178

Inception Date: February 28, 2019

The Northern Trust Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index is designed to construct a high quality universe of companies that possess lower overall absolute volatility (i.e. risk) relative to an eligible developed market universe excluding the United States. An emphasis is placed on a company's income and capital growth, while also reducing overall volatility of returns relative to an eligible universe of developed market securities excluding the United States. The proprietary Northern Trust quality factor is used to identify companies that exhibit strength in profitability, management expertise and cash flow.

Eligible Securities

In order to be eligible for inclusion in the Northern Trust Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index, a security must be a constituent of the Northern Trust Global Index, be domiciled in a developed market country excluding the United States (see list below), and also designated as a Large/Mid cap company per Northern Trust's market capitalization classification.

Developed Market Countries:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

In addition, securities ranking in the lowest quintile of quality based on Northern Trust's proprietary scoring model are ineligible for inclusion in the Index.

Methodology

The construction of the Index begins with a universe of eligible securities (defined in "Eligible Securities"). All eligible securities are then re-weighted by their float adjusted market capitalizations, and optimized to achieve a reduction in the forecasted portfolio volatility, as well as a quality tilt within the index relative to the eligible universe.

Rebalancing and Reconstitution

The Northern Trust Developed Market ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index is reconstituted quarterly and adjusted intra-period only in connection with errors, securities' eligibility, exchange connectivity, float changes and corporate actions, including, but not limited to, initial public offerings and spin-offs.

The index is reconstituted in February, May, August, and November on the last business day of the month in which the U.S. equity markets are open for a full day of trading, and becomes effective immediately after the close.

Northern Trust Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility IndexSM

NUMBER OF COMPONENTS: APPROXIMATELY 179

Inception Date: June 30, 2014

The Northern Trust Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index is designed to construct a high quality universe of companies that possess lower overall absolute volatility (i.e. risk) relative to an eligible emerging market universe. An emphasis is placed on a

company's income and capital growth, while also reducing overall volatility of returns relative to an eligible universe of emerging market securities. The proprietary Northern Trust quality factor is used to identify companies that exhibit strength in profitability, management expertise and cash flow.

Eligible Securities

In order to be eligible for inclusion in the Northern Trust Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index, a security must be a constituent of the Northern Trust Global Index, be domiciled in an emerging market country (see list below) and also designated as a Large/Mid cap company per Northern Trust's market capitalization classification.

Emerging Market Countries:

Brazil, Chile, China, Columbia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Turkey.

In addition, securities ranking in the lowest quintile of quality based on Northern Trust's proprietary scoring model are ineligible for inclusion in the Index and are removed prior to optimization.

Methodology

The construction of the Index begins with a universe of eligible securities (defined in "Eligible Securities"). All eligible securities are then re-weighted by their float adjusted market capitalizations, and optimized to achieve a reduction in the volatility, as well as a quality tilt within the index relative to the eligible universe.

Rebalancing and Reconstitution

The Northern Trust Emerging Market Quality Low Volatility Index is reconstituted quarterly and adjusted intra-period only in connection with errors, securities' eligibility, exchange connectivity, float changes and corporate actions, including, but not limited to, initial public offerings and spin-offs.

The index is reconstituted in February, May, August, and November on the last business day of the month in which the U.S. equity markets are open for a full day of trading, and becomes effective immediately after the close.

INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

Each Fund is subject to the fundamental investment restrictions enumerated below which may be changed with respect to a particular Fund only by a vote of the holders of a majority of such Fund's outstanding shares as described in "Description of Shares" on page 46.

No Fund may:

- 1) Make loans, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, rules and regulations thereunder or any exemption therefrom as such statute, rules or regulations may be amended or interpreted from time to time.
- 2) Purchase or sell real estate, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, rules and regulations thereunder or any exemption therefrom as such statute, rules or regulations may be amended or interpreted from time to time.
- 3) Purchase or sell commodities, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, rules and regulations thereunder or any exemption therefrom as such statute, rules or regulations may be amended or interpreted from time to time.
- 4) Act as underwriter of securities, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, rules and regulations thereunder or any exemption therefrom as such statute, rules or regulations may be amended or interpreted from time to time.
- 5) Borrow money, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, rules and regulations thereunder or any exemption therefrom as such statute, rules or regulations may be amended or interpreted from time to time.
- 6) Issue any senior security, except to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act, rules and regulations thereunder or any exemption therefrom as such statute, rules or regulations may be amended or interpreted from time to time.

- 7) Concentrate its investments (i.e., invest 25% or more of its total assets in the securities of a particular industry or group of industries), except that the Fund will concentrate to approximately the same extent that its Underlying Index concentrates in the securities of such particular industry or group of industries. For purposes of this limitation, securities of the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities), repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. government securities, and securities of state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions are not considered to be issued by members of any industry.

The following descriptions from the 1940 Act may assist shareholders in understanding the above policies and restrictions.

Borrowing. The 1940 Act presently allows a fund to borrow from any bank (including pledging, mortgaging or hypothecating assets) in an amount up to 33-1/3% of its total assets, including the amount borrowed (not including temporary borrowings not in excess of 5% of its total assets).

Senior Securities. Senior securities may include any obligation or instrument issued by a fund evidencing indebtedness. The 1940 Act generally prohibits funds from issuing senior securities, although it does not treat certain transactions as senior securities, such as certain borrowings, short sales, reverse repurchase agreements, firm commitment agreements and standby commitments, with appropriate earmarking or segregation of assets to cover such obligation.

Lending. Under the 1940 Act, a fund may only make loans if expressly permitted by its investment policies. The Funds' non-fundamental investment policy on lending is set forth below.

Underwriting. Under the 1940 Act, underwriting securities involves a fund purchasing securities directly from an issuer for the purpose of selling (distributing) them or participating in any such activity either directly or indirectly. Under the 1940 Act, a diversified fund may not make any commitment as underwriter, if immediately thereafter the amount of its outstanding underwriting commitments, plus the value of its investments in securities of issuers (other than investment companies) of which it owns more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities, exceeds 25% of the value of its total assets.

Real Estate. The 1940 Act does not directly restrict a fund's ability to invest in real estate, but does require that every fund have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The Funds have adopted a fundamental policy that would permit direct investment in real estate. However, each Fund has a non-fundamental investment limitation that prohibits it from investing directly in real estate. This non-fundamental policy may be changed only by vote of the Board.

Commodities. The 1940 Act does not directly restrict a fund's ability to invest in commodities, but does require that every fund have a fundamental investment policy governing such investments. The Funds have adopted a fundamental policy that would permit direct investment in commodities. However, each of these Funds has a non-fundamental investment limitation that prohibits it from investing directly in physical commodities.

This non-fundamental policy may be changed only by vote of the Board.

The following investment restrictions are non-fundamental policies of the Funds, which may be changed by the Board without a vote of shareholders:

Each Fund may not:

- 1) Make loans, except through: (a) the purchase of debt obligations in accordance with each Fund's investment objective and strategies; (b) repurchase agreements with banks, brokers, dealers and other financial institutions; (c) loans of securities; and (d) loans to affiliates of the Funds to the extent permitted by law.
- 2) Purchase or sell real estate or real estate limited partnerships, but this restriction shall not prevent the Funds from (a) investing directly or indirectly in portfolio instruments secured by real estate or interests therein; (b) from acquiring securities of real estate investment trusts or other issuers that deal in real estate or mortgage-related securities; or (c) holding and selling real estate acquired by the Funds as a result of ownership of securities.

- 3) Purchase or sell physical commodities unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other instruments (but this shall not prevent the Funds: (i) from purchasing or selling options, futures contracts or other derivative instruments; or (ii) from investing in securities or other instruments backed by physical commodities).
- 4) Act as underwriter of securities, except as each Fund may be deemed to be an underwriter under the Securities Act in connection with the purchase and sale of portfolio instruments in accordance with its investment objective and portfolio management strategies.
- 5) Borrow money, except that to the extent permitted by applicable law: (a) each Fund may borrow from banks, other affiliated investment companies and other persons, and may engage in reverse repurchase agreements and other transactions which involve borrowings, in amounts up to 33 1/3% of its total assets (including the amount borrowed) or such other percentage permitted by law; (b) each Fund may borrow up to an additional 5% of its total assets for temporary purposes; (c) each Fund may obtain such short-term credits as may be necessary for the clearance of purchases and sales of portfolio securities; and (d) each Fund may purchase securities on margin. If due to market fluctuations or other reasons a Fund's borrowings exceed the limitations stated above, the Trust will promptly reduce the borrowings of the Fund in accordance with the 1940 Act.

Notwithstanding other fundamental investment restrictions (including, without limitation, those restrictions relating to issuer diversification, industry concentration and control), each Fund may purchase securities of other investment companies to the full extent permitted under Section 12 or any other provision of the 1940 Act (or any successor provision thereto) or under any regulation or order of the SEC.

For the purpose of industry concentration, in determining industry classification, the Trust may use any one or more of the following: the Bloomberg Industry Group Classification, Standard & Poors, FT Interactive Industrial Codes, Securities Industry Classification Codes, Global Industry Classification Standard or the Morgan Stanley Capital International industry classification titles or Barclays Capital sector classification scheme. Also for the purpose of industry concentration, industrial development bonds issued by non-governmental issuers may be considered to be issued by members of an industry. Non-governmental issuers are issuers other than the U.S. government (including its agencies and instrumentalities) and state or municipal governments and their political subdivisions.

Any Investment Restriction which involves a maximum percentage (other than the restriction set forth above in Fundamental Investment Restriction No. 5 will not be considered violated unless an excess over the percentage occurs immediately after, and is caused by, an acquisition or encumbrance of securities or assets of a Fund. The 1940 Act requires that if the asset coverage for borrowings at any time falls below the limits described in Fundamental Investment Restriction No. 5 and Non-Fundamental Investment Restriction No. 6, the Fund will, within three days thereafter (not including Sundays and holidays), reduce the amount of its borrowings to an extent that the net asset coverage of such borrowings shall conform to such limits.

Each Fund has adopted a non-fundamental investment policy in accordance with Rule 35d-1 under the 1940 Act to invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the value of its net assets, plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes, in securities of the Fund's Underlying Index and, with respect to the FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund, in Depositary Receipts that represent securities in the Underlying Index. Each Fund has also adopted a policy to provide its shareholders with at least 60 days' prior written notice of any change in such policy. If, subsequent to an investment, the 80% requirement is no longer met, a Fund's future investments will be made in a manner that will bring the Fund into compliance with this policy. For these purposes, "net assets" is measured at the time of purchase.

CONTINUOUS OFFERING

The method by which Creation Unit Aggregations of shares are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Unit Aggregations of shares are issued and sold by the Funds on an ongoing basis, at any point a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act, may occur. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner which could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery requirement and liability provisions of the Securities Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Unit Aggregations after placing an order with the Distributor, breaks them down into constituent shares, and sells such shares directly to customers, or if it chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act must take into account all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case, and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a categorization as an underwriter. Broker-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not “underwriters” but are effecting transactions in shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of shares, generally are required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(3) of the Securities Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. Firms that incur a prospectus delivery obligation with respect to shares of the Funds are reminded that, pursuant to Rule 153 under the Securities Act, a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Act owed to an exchange member in connection with a sale on the Listing Exchange is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available at the Listing Exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is only available with respect to transactions on an exchange.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The Board has adopted a policy on disclosure of portfolio holdings, which it believes is in the best interest of the Funds’ shareholders. The policy provides that neither the Funds nor their Investment Adviser, Distributor or any agent, or any employee thereof (“Fund Representative”) will disclose a Fund’s portfolio holdings information to any person other than in accordance with the policy. For purposes of the policy, “portfolio holdings information” means a Fund’s actual portfolio holdings, as well as non-public information about its trading strategies or pending transactions including the portfolio holdings, trading strategies or pending transactions of any commingled fund portfolio which contains identical holdings as the Fund. Under the policy, neither a Fund nor any Fund Representative may solicit or accept any compensation or other consideration in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings information. A Fund Representative may provide portfolio holdings information to third parties if such information has been included in a Fund’s public filings with the SEC or is disclosed on the Fund’s publicly accessible website. Information posted on a Fund’s website may be separately provided to any person commencing the day after it is first published on the Fund’s website.

Under the policy, each business day each Fund’s portfolio holdings information will be provided to the Distributor or other agent for dissemination through the facilities of the National Securities Clearing Corporation (“NSCC”) and/or other fee based subscription services to NSCC members and/or subscribers to those other fee-based subscription services, including Authorized Participants (defined below) and to entities that publish and/or analyze such information in connection with the process of purchasing or redeeming Creation Units or trading shares of Funds in the secondary market. Additionally, under the policy, each business day before commencement of trading, the Trust will disclose on its website the identities and quantities of each Fund’s portfolio holdings that will form the basis for the Fund’s calculation of NAV at the end of the Business Day. The Distributor may also make available portfolio holdings information to other institutional market participants and entities that provide information services. This information typically reflects each Fund’s anticipated holdings on the following business day. The “Authorized Participants” are generally large institutional investors that have been authorized by the Distributor to purchase and redeem large blocks of shares (known as Creation Units) pursuant to legal requirements, including the exemptive order granted by the SEC, to which the Funds offer and redeem shares.

Other than portfolio holdings information made available in connection with the creation/redemption process, as discussed above, portfolio holdings information that is not filed with the SEC or posted on the publicly available website may be provided to third parties only in limited circumstances. Third-party recipients will be required to keep all portfolio holdings information confidential and are prohibited from trading on the information they receive. Disclosure to such third parties must be approved in advance by the Trust’s Chief Compliance Officer (“CCO”). Disclosure to providers of auditing, custody, proxy voting and other similar services for the Funds, as well as rating and ranking organizations, will generally be permitted; however, information may be disclosed to other third parties (including, without limitation, individuals, institutional investors, and Authorized Participants that sell shares of a Fund) only upon approval by the CCO, who must first determine that the Fund has a legitimate business purpose for doing so. In general, each recipient of non-public portfolio holdings information must sign a confidentiality and non-trading agreement, although this requirement will not apply when the recipient is otherwise subject to a duty of confidentiality as determined by the CCO. In accordance with the policy, the recipients who receive non-public portfolio holdings information on an ongoing basis are as follows: the Investment Adviser and its affiliates, the Funds’ independent registered public accounting firm, the Funds’ distributor, administrator and custodian, the Funds’ legal counsel, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, the non-interested Trustees’ counsel, Ropes &

Gray LLP, the Funds' financial printer, R.R. Donnelley, and the Funds' proxy voting service (Institutional Shareholder Services, Inc.). These entities are obligated to keep such information confidential. Third-party providers of custodial or accounting services to a Fund may release non-public portfolio holdings information of the Fund only with the permission of Fund Representatives.

Each Fund discloses its portfolio holdings and the percentages they represent of the Fund's net assets each day the Fund is open for business, on the Fund's website. More information about this disclosure is available at www.flexshares.com. A Fund may publish on the website complete portfolio holdings information more frequently if it has a legitimate business purpose for doing so. Portfolio holdings will be disclosed through required filings with the SEC. Each Fund files its portfolio holdings with the SEC for each fiscal quarter on Form N-CSR (with respect to each annual period and semiannual period) and Form N-Q (or as an exhibit to its reports on Form N-Q's successor Form, Form N-PORT) (with respect to the first and third fiscal quarters of the Fund's fiscal year). Shareholders may obtain a Fund's Forms N-CSR, N-Q and N-PORT filings on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about the SEC's website.

Under the policy, the Board is to receive information, on a quarterly basis, regarding any other disclosures of non-public portfolio holdings information that were permitted during the preceding quarter.

MANAGEMENT OF THE TRUST

TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

The Board is responsible for the management and business and affairs of the Trust. Set forth below is information about the Trustees and Officers of the Trust as of the date of this SAI. A brief statement of their present positions and principal occupations during the past five years is also provided.

| <u>NAME, ADDRESS,⁽¹⁾ AGE, POSITIONS HELD WITH TRUST AND LENGTH OF SERVICE AS TRUSTEE⁽²⁾</u> | <u>PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS DURING PAST FIVE YEARS</u> | <u>NUMBER OF FUNDS IN FUND COMPLEX⁽³⁾ OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE</u> | <u>OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS⁽⁴⁾</u> |
|---|---|--|--|
| NON-INTERESTED TRUSTEES | | | |
| Sarah N. Garvey Age: 67 Trustee since July 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman of the Board of Navy Pier from 2011 to 2013 and Member of the Board since 2011; • Member of the Board of Directors of The Civic Federation since 2004; • Member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Audit Committee since 2017 and Trustee of the Art Institute of Chicago since 2011. | 29 | NONE |
| Philip G. Hubbard Age: 67 Trustee since July 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Partner of Solidian Fund, LP and Solidian Management, LLC (a fund of hedge funds platform for family and friends investments) since 2001; • President of Hubbard Management Group, LLC (a personal investment vehicle) since 2001; • Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Wheaton College Trust Company, N.A. since 2004; • Member of the Board of Trustees of Wheaton College since 1998; • Chairman of the Board of Directors of the English Language Institute/China (a nonprofit educational organization) since 1993; • Member of the Board of First Cup, LLC (restaurant franchising) since 2014. | 29 | NONE |
| Eric T. McKissack Age: 65 Trustee and Chairman since July 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder; CEO from 2004 to 2019 and CEO Emeritus since 2019 of Channing Capital Management, LLC (an SEC registered investment adviser); • Member of the Board of Trustees, the Investment Committee, and the Finance Committee of the Art Institute of Chicago since 2002; • Member of the Board of Grand Victoria Foundation since 2011; • Member of the Board of the Graham Foundation since 2014. | 29 | Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds (formerly, Consulting Group Capital Markets Funds) (11 Portfolios) since April 2013 |

| NAME, ADDRESS, ⁽¹⁾ AGE, POSITIONS HELD WITH TRUST AND LENGTH OF SERVICE AS TRUSTEE ⁽²⁾ | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS DURING PAST FIVE YEARS | NUMBER OF FUNDS IN FUND COMPLEX ⁽³⁾ OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE | OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS HELD BY TRUSTEE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS ⁽⁴⁾ |
|--|---|--|--|
| INTERESTED TRUSTEE | | | |
| Darek Wojnar ⁽⁵⁾ Age: 53 Trustee since December 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director and Executive Vice President, Head of Funds and Managed Accounts, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since 2018; • Managing Member of the Wojnar Group LLC (a publishing industry consulting company) since 2013; • Head of Exchange-Traded Funds at Hartford Funds from 2016 to 2017 and Managing Director of Lattice Strategies LLC from 2014 to 2016; • Managing Director and Head of US iShares Product at BlackRock (including Barclays Global Investors acquired by BlackRock) from 2005 to 2013. | 29 | Northern Funds (43 Portfolios) since January 1, 2019 and Northern Institutional Funds (7 Portfolios) since January 1, 2019 |

- (1) Each Non-Interested Trustee may be contacted by writing to the Trustee, c/o Paulita Pike, Ropes & Gray LLP, 191 North Wacker Drive, 32nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60606. Mr. Wojnar may be contacted by writing to him at 50 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, Illinois 60603.
- (2) Each Trustee will hold office for an indefinite term until the earliest of: (i) the next meeting of shareholders, if any, called for the purpose of considering the election or re-election of such Trustee and until the election and qualification of his or her successor, if any, elected at such meeting; or (ii) the date a Trustee resigns or retires, or a Trustee is removed by the Board or shareholders, in accordance with the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust.
- (3) The "Fund Complex" consists of the Trust.
- (4) This column includes only directorships of companies required to report to the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (i.e., public companies) or other investment companies registered under the 1940 Act.
- (5) An "interested person," as defined by the 1940 Act. Mr. Wojnar is deemed to be an "interested" Trustee because he is an officer of NTI and its parent company.

OFFICERS OF THE TRUST

| NAME, ADDRESS, AGE, POSITIONS HELD WITH TRUST AND LENGTH OF SERVICE ⁽¹⁾ | PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS DURING PAST FIVE YEARS |
|---|--|
| Peter K. Ewing Age: 60 50 South LaSalle Street Chicago, IL 60603 President since March 2017 | President of Northern Funds, Northern Institutional Funds and the Trust since March 2017; Vice President of the Trust from July 2011 to February 2017; Head of Product Management, ETFs & Mutual Funds, and Director of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since March 2017; Director of Northern Investments, Inc. since March 2017; Senior Vice President, The Northern Trust Company, since September 2010; Senior Vice President, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since September 2010; Director of ETF Product Management, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. from September 2010 to February 2017; Director of ETF Product Management, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. from September 2010 to February 2017. |

**NAME, ADDRESS, AGE,
POSITIONS HELD WITH
TRUST AND LENGTH OF
SERVICE⁽¹⁾**

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS DURING PAST FIVE YEARS

Craig R. Carberry, Esq.
Age: 58
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Chief Legal Officer since June 2019

Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since May 2000; Chief Compliance Officer of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. from October 2015 to June 2017; Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of 50 South Capital Advisors, LLC since 2015; Associate General Counsel and Senior Vice President at The Northern Trust Company since June 2015; Assistant General Counsel and U.S. Funds General Counsel at The Northern Trust Company from July 2014 to June 2015; Senior Legal Counsel and U.S. Funds General Counsel at The Northern Trust Company from 2000-2014; Secretary of Alpha Core Strategies Fund (formerly NT Alpha Strategies Fund) since 2004; Secretary of Equity Long/Short Opportunities Fund (formerly NT Equity Long/Short Strategies Fund) since 2011; Secretary of Northern Institutional Funds and Northern Funds from 2010-2018; Secretary of FlexShares Trust from 2011-2018.

Jose J. Del Real
Age: 41
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Secretary since December 2018

Senior Legal Counsel and Senior Vice President, Asset Management Practice Group of the Legal Department of The Northern Trust Company since March 2017; Senior Legal Counsel and Vice President, Asset Management Practice Group of the Legal Department of The Northern Trust Company from August 2015 to March 2017; Assistant Secretary of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since 2016; Legal Counsel and Vice President, Asset Management Practice Group of the Legal Department of The Northern Trust Company from 2014 until 2015; Secretary of Northern Funds and Northern Institutional Funds since November 2018; Assistant Secretary of Northern Funds and Northern Institutional Funds from 2011 to 2014, and from May 2015 to November 2018; Assistant Secretary of FlexShares® Trust from June 2015 to December 2018; Vice President and Regulatory Administration Senior Attorney of The Northern Trust Company from 2012 until 2014.

Brian Meikel
Age: 51
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Acting Chief Compliance Officer since October 2018

Acting Chief Compliance Officer of Northern Funds and Northern Institutional Funds since August 2018; Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since June 2014; Chief Compliance Officer of BMO Asset Management — Harris Investment Management from August 2006 to September 2013.

Randal E. Rein
Age: 48
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer since July 2011

Senior Vice President of Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since 2010; Treasurer of Northern Funds and Northern Institutional Funds since 2008; Treasurer of Alpha Core Strategies Fund from 2008 to 2018; Treasurer of Equity Long/Short Opportunities Fund from 2011 to 2018.

Jeff Beeson
Age: 40
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Vice President since December 2018

Senior ETF Product Manager, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since 2018 and Vice President, The Northern Trust Company since April 2017; Product Development Manager of Invesco PowerShares from 2015 to 2017; Vice President of Guggenheim Investments from 2011 to 2015.

Peter J. Flood
Age: 61
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Vice President since July 2011

Director of ETF Investment Strategy, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since 2010; Portfolio Manager, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. from 2007 to 2014.

**NAME, ADDRESS, AGE,
POSITIONS HELD WITH
TRUST AND LENGTH OF
SERVICE⁽¹⁾**

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS DURING PAST FIVE YEARS

Christopher P. Fair
Age: 37
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Vice President since June 2019

ETF Product Manager, Northern Trust Investments, Inc. since 2015 and Second Vice President, The Northern Trust Company since 2015; Fund Administration Supervisor, Calamos Investments LLC from February 2015 to November 2015; Senior Mutual Fund Accountant, Calamos Investments LLC from February 2009 to January 2015.

Darlene Chappell
Age: 56
50 South LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60603
Anti-Money Laundering Officer
since July 2011

Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer for Northern Trust Investments, Inc., Northern Trust Securities, Inc., Northern Funds, Northern Institutional Funds and Alpha Core Strategies Fund (formerly NT Alpha Strategies Fund) since 2009, Equity Long/Short Opportunities Fund (formerly NT Equity Long/Short Strategies Fund) since 2011 and 50 South Capital Advisors, LLC since 2015; Vice President and Compliance Consultant for The Northern Trust Company since 2006; Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer for Northern Trust Company of Connecticut from 2009 to 2013.

Susan W. Yee
Age: 49
70 Fargo Street
Boston, MA 02110
Assistant Secretary since October 2014

Vice President, Regulatory Services Group, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. since 1994, in various positions.

⁽¹⁾ Officers hold office at the pleasure of the Board until their successors are duly elected and qualified, or until they die, resign, are removed or become disqualified.

Certain officers hold comparable positions with certain other investment companies of which NTI, JPMorgan or an affiliate thereof is the investment adviser, administrator, custodian or transfer agent.

BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board has established a standing Audit Committee and a Governance Committee in connection with its governance of the Trust.

The Audit Committee consists of Mr. Hubbard (chair), Mr. McKissack and Ms. Garvey. The Board has determined that each member of the Audit Committee is not an “interested person” as defined in the 1940 Act (an “Independent Trustee”). The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are to assist the Board in overseeing the Trust’s independent registered public accounting firm, accounting policies and procedures and other areas relating to the Trust’s auditing processes. The Audit Committee is responsible for selecting and recommending to the full Board an independent registered public accounting firm to audit the books and records of the Trust for the ensuing year, and reviews with the firm the scope and results of each audit. The Audit Committee also is responsible for pre-approving all audit services and any permitted non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm directly to the Trust. The Audit Committee also is responsible for pre-approving permitted non-audit services to be provided by the independent registered public accounting firm to: (1) the Investment Adviser; and (2) any entity in a control relationship with the Investment Adviser that provides ongoing services to the Trust, provided that the engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm relates directly to the operation and financial reporting of the Trust. The scope of the Audit Committee’s responsibilities is oversight. It is management’s responsibility to maintain appropriate systems for accounting and internal control and the independent registered public accounting firm’s responsibility to plan and carry out an audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board. The Audit Committee met three times during the last fiscal year ended October 31, 2018.

The Governance Committee consists of Ms. Garvey (chair), Mr. Hubbard and Mr. McKissack. The Board has determined that each member of the Governance Committee is an Independent Trustee. The functions performed by the Governance Committee

include, among other things, selecting and nominating candidates to serve as Independent Trustees, reviewing and making recommendations regarding Trustee compensation and developing policies regarding Trustee education. In filling Board vacancies, the Governance Committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders. Nominee recommendations (accompanied by resumes) should be submitted to the Trust at its mailing address stated in the Funds' Prospectus and should be directed to the attention of the FlexShares® Trust Governance Committee, care of the Secretary of the Trust. The Governance Committee has not established specific qualifications that it believes must be met by a nominee. In evaluating nominees, the Governance Committee considers, among other things, candidates' qualifications for Board membership and their independence from management and principal service providers. Persons selected must be independent in terms of both the letter and the spirit of the 1940 Act and the Rules and Regulations under the 1940 Act. The Committee will consider the effect of any relationships beyond those delineated in the 1940 Act that might impair independence, such as business, financial or family relationships with managers or service providers of the Trust. The Committee also considers whether the individual's background, skills, and experience will complement the background, skills, and experience of other Trustees and will contribute to the Board's diversity. The Governance Committee met three times during the last fiscal year ended October 31, 2018.

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board is responsible for oversight of the Trust. The Trust has engaged the Investment Adviser to manage the Funds of the Trust on a day-to-day basis. The Board oversees the Investment Adviser and certain other principal service providers in the operations of the Funds. The Board currently is composed of four Trustees, three of whom are Independent Trustees. The Board believes that having Mr. Wojnar serve as an interested Trustee brings management insight that is important to certain of the Board's decisions and also in the best interest of shareholders. The Board meets in-person at regularly scheduled meetings currently anticipated to occur four times in a year. In addition, the Board members may meet in-person or by telephone at special meetings or on an informal basis at other times. The Independent Trustees also expect to meet separately in executive session, including with independent trustee counsel. The Trustees believe that these meetings will help mitigate conflicts of interest. The Trustees also believe that the executive sessions will allow the Independent Trustees to deliberate candidly and constructively, separately from management, in a manner that affords honest disagreement and critical questioning.

As stated above, the Board has established a standing Audit Committee and a Governance Committee to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. The Board also may establish ad hoc committees or working groups from time to time to aid in its oversight. The Independent Trustees have engaged independent legal counsel to assist them in fulfilling their responsibilities.

The Board is chaired by Eric McKissack, an Independent Trustee. As Chair, this Independent Trustee leads the Board in its activities. Also, the Chair acts as a member of the Audit and Governance Committees (and may serve as a member of each subsequently established standing or ad hoc committee). The Trustees have determined that the Board's leadership and committee structure is appropriate because the Board believes that it sets the proper tone to the relationships between the Trust, on the one hand, and the Investment Adviser and certain other principal service providers, on the other, and facilitates the exercise of the Board's independent judgment in evaluating and managing the relationships.

The Board has concluded that, based on each Board member's experience, qualifications, attributes or skills on an individual basis and in combination with those of the other Board members, each Board member should serve as a Board member. Among other attributes common to all Board members are their ability to review critically, evaluate, question and discuss information provided to them, to interact effectively with the various service providers to the Trust, and to exercise reasonable business judgment in the performance of their duties as Board members. In addition, the Board will take into account the actual service and commitment of the Board members during their tenure in determining whether each should continue to serve. A Board member's ability to perform his or her duties effectively may have been attained through a Board member's educational background or professional training; business, consulting, public service or academic positions; experience from service as a Board member of other funds, public companies, or non-profit entities or other organizations; or other experiences. Set forth below is a brief discussion of the specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills of each Trustee that led the Board to conclude that he or she should serve as a Board member.

Non-Interested Trustees:

Ms. Garvey. Ms. Garvey is a former partner of Deloitte & Touche LLP and has more than 20 years' experience in tax accounting. She previously served as Vice President of Corporate Relations and Vice President of State and Local Government Relations for The Boeing Company. She serves on the Executive Committee and is Chairman of the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago. She previously served as Chairman of the Board of Chicago's Navy Pier and of Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. She is a Certified Public Accountant and holds bachelors and masters degrees in accounting.

Mr. Hubbard. Mr. Hubbard has served for 18 years as president of the Hubbard Management Group, LLC, and as managing partner for Solidian Fund, LP and Solidian Management, LLC. He previously served for 13 years on the Board of Harris Bank Winnetka, Illinois, and is a Certified Public Accountant. In addition, Mr. Hubbard serves on the Board of Trustees of Wheaton College and is the chairman of the Wheaton College Trust Company and of the English Language Institute/China. He holds a bachelors degree in economics and a masters degree in business administration.

Mr. McKissack. Mr. McKissack is the Chief Executive Officer Emeritus and Founder of Channing Capital Management, LLC, a registered investment adviser. He also serves as an independent trustee on the Board of Trustees of a group of mutual funds, the Morgan Stanley Pathway Funds (formerly, the Consulting Group Capital Markets Funds). Mr. McKissack also serves on the Board of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Board of the Grand Victoria Foundation, and the Board of the Graham Foundation. He also served on the Board of the ICMA Retirement Corporation, a non-profit provider of retirement administration services. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst.

Interested Trustee:

Mr. Darek Wojnar. Mr. Wojnar is Executive Vice President, Head of Funds and Managed Accounts of Northern Trust Asset Management. Prior to that, Mr. Wojnar was the Head of Exchange-Traded Funds of Hartford Funds and a Managing Director of Lattice Strategies LLC. He also served as a Managing Director and Head of US iShares Product at BlackRock (including Barclays Global Investors which was acquired by BlackRock). He also serves as a Trustee on the Boards of Northern Funds and Northern Institutional Funds. He also serves as a Managing Member of the Wojnar Group LLC. He holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a masters degree in business administration.

RISK OVERSIGHT

Investing in general and the operation of exchange-traded funds involve a variety of risks, such as investment risk, compliance risk, and operational risk, among others. The Board oversees risk as part of its oversight of the Trust. Risk oversight is addressed as part of various regular Board and Audit Committee activities. The Board reviews reports from, among others, the Investment Adviser, the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer, the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm and counsel, as appropriate, regarding risks faced by the Trust and the risk management programs of the Investment Adviser and certain service providers. The actual day-to-day risk management with respect to the Trust resides with the Investment Adviser and other service providers to the Trust. The Investment Adviser has a dedicated risk management function that is headed by a chief risk officer. Although the risk management policies of the Investment Adviser and the service providers are designed to be effective, those policies and their implementation vary among service providers and over time, and there is no guarantee that they will be effective. Not all risks that may affect the Trust can be identified or processes and controls developed to eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects, and some risks are simply beyond any control of the Trust or the Investment Adviser, its affiliates or other service providers.

TRUSTEE OWNERSHIP OF FUND SHARES

The following table shows the dollar range of shares of the Funds owned by each Trustee.

Information as of December 31, 2018

| Name of Non-Interested Trustee | Fund | Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund | Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies ¹ |
|--------------------------------|------|---|---|
| Sarah N. Garvey | None | None | Over \$100,000 |
| Philip G. Hubbard | None | None | None |
| Eric T. McKissack | None | None | \$10,001-\$50,000 |

Information as of December 31, 2018

| Name of Interested Trustee | Fund | Dollar Range of Equity Securities in each Fund | Aggregate Dollar Range of Equity Securities in All Registered Investment Companies Overseen by Trustee in Family of Investment Companies ¹ |
|----------------------------|------|--|---|
| Darek Wojnar | None | None | None |

¹ The Family of Investment Companies consists only of the Funds of FlexShares® Trust. Messrs. Hubbard and McKissack each have an economic interest in the Trust valued at over \$100,000 by virtue of their participation in the Trust’s deferred compensation plan (the “DC Plan”) for its non-interested Trustees. Under the DC Plan, a non-interested Trustee may elect to have his or her deferred compensation treated as if it had been invested by the Trust in shares of the FlexShares® Morningstar US Market Factor Tilt Index Fund, FlexShares® Morningstar Emerging Markets Factor Tilt Index Fund, FlexShares® Global Quality Real Estate Index Fund, FlexShares® Quality Dividend Index Fund, FlexShares® iBoxx 5-Year Target Duration TIPS Index Fund, FlexShares® Ready Access Variable Income Fund and/or the FlexShares® Morningstar Global Upstream Natural Resources Index Fund. The amount paid to the Trustees under the DC Plan will be determined based upon the performance of these investments.

TRUSTEE AND OFFICER COMPENSATION

The Trust pays each Trustee who is not an officer, director or employee of Northern Trust Corporation or its subsidiaries annual fees for his or her services as a Trustee of the Trust and as a member of Board committees. In recognition of their services, the fees paid to the Board and Committee chairpersons may be larger than the fees paid to other members of the Trust’s Board and Committees. The Trustees also are reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in connection with attending such meetings. The Trust also may pay the incidental costs of a Trustee to attend training or other types of conferences relating to the investment company industry. The Trust does not provide pension or retirement benefits to its Trustees. Each non-interested Trustee is entitled to participate in the Trust’s DC Plan. Under the DC Plan, a non-interested Trustee may elect to defer all or a portion of his or her compensation and have the deferred compensation treated as if it had been invested by the Trust in shares of the FlexShares® Morningstar US Market Factor Tilt Index Fund, the FlexShares® Morningstar Emerging Markets Factor Tilt Index Fund, the FlexShares® Global Quality Real Estate Index Fund, the FlexShares® Quality Dividend Index Fund, FlexShares® iBoxx 5-Year Target Duration TIPS Index Fund, FlexShares® Ready Access Variable Income Fund and/or the FlexShares® Morningstar Global Upstream Natural Resources Index Fund. The amount paid to the Trustees under the DC Plan will be determined based upon the performance of such investments.

The following table sets forth important information with respect to the compensation of each non-interested and interested Trustee of the Trust:

| Name of Trustee | Aggregate Compensation from Trust ⁽¹⁾ |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Non-Interested Trustees: | |
| Sarah N. Garvey | \$151,250 |
| Philip G. Hubbard | \$151,250 |
| Eric T. McKissack | \$151,250 |
| Interested Trustee: | |
| Darek Wojnar | None |

¹ The amounts represent the compensation received by the Trustees for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2018. Effective January 1, 2019, the non-interested Trustees receive an annual retainer of \$130,000, and the chairs of the Board and each Committee receive an additional annual retainer of \$25,000. Ms. Garvey did not defer any compensation during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2018. Mr. Hubbard elected to defer \$75,625 of \$151,250 in total compensation during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2018. Mr. McKissack elected to defer \$75,625 of \$151,250 in total compensation during the fiscal year ended October 31, 2018.

The Trust's officers do not receive fees from the Trust for services in such capacities. NTI receives fees from the Trust as Investment Adviser. Messrs. Beeson, Carberry, Del Real, Ewing, Fair, Flood, Rein, and Meikel and Ms. Chappell are officers of NTI and/or its affiliates.

CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS OF SECURITIES

As of the date of this SAI, there were no record or beneficial owners of 5% or more of the shares of the Funds. The Trustees and officers of the Trust collectively owned less than 1% of each Fund's outstanding shares as of the date of this SAI.

CODE OF ETHICS

The Trust and the Adviser have each adopted a code of ethics under Rule 17j-1 of the 1940 Act. These codes of ethics permit, subject to certain conditions, personnel of each of those entities to invest in securities that may be purchased or held by the Fund. The Distributor relies on the principal underwriters exception under Rule 17j-1(c)(3), specifically where the Distributor is not affiliated with the Trust or the Adviser, and no officer, director or general partner of the Distributor serves as an officer, director or general partner of the Trust or the Adviser.

INVESTMENT ADVISER

NTI, a subsidiary of TNTC and an indirect subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the Investment Adviser of the Funds. Northern Trust Corporation is regulated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as a financial holding company under the U.S. Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. NTI is located at 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

NTI is an Illinois State Banking Corporation and an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. It primarily manages assets for institutional and individual separately managed accounts, investment companies and bank common and collective funds.

TNTC is the principal subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation. TNTC is located at 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

TNTC is a member of the Federal Reserve System. Since 1889, TNTC has administered and managed assets for individuals, institutions and corporations. Unless otherwise indicated, NTI and TNTC are referred to collectively in this SAI as “Northern Trust.”

As of March 31, 2019, Northern Trust Corporation, through its affiliates, had assets under investment management of \$1.162 trillion and assets under custody of \$8.199 trillion.

Investment Advisory and Ancillary Services Agreement

Under the Trust’s Investment Advisory and Ancillary Services Agreement with the Investment Adviser for the Funds (the “Advisory Agreement”), the Investment Adviser, subject to the general supervision of the Board, makes decisions with respect to, and places orders for, all purchases and sales of portfolio securities for each Fund and also provides certain ancillary services.

The Investment Adviser also is responsible for monitoring and preserving the records required to be maintained under the regulations of the SEC (with certain exceptions unrelated to its activities for the Trust). In making investment recommendations for the Funds, if any, investment advisory personnel may not inquire or take into consideration whether issuers of securities proposed for purchase or sale for the Funds’ accounts are customers of TNTC’s commercial banking department. These requirements are designed to prevent investment advisory personnel for the Funds from knowing which companies have commercial business with TNTC and from purchasing securities where they know the proceeds will be used to repay loans to the bank.

The Advisory Agreement has been approved by the Board, including the “non-interested” Trustees and the initial shareholder of each Fund prior to the initial offering of shares of the Fund.

The Advisory Agreement provides that generally in selecting brokers or dealers to place orders for transactions on:

- (i) common and preferred stocks, the Investment Adviser shall use its best judgment to obtain the best overall terms available; and
- (ii) on bonds and other fixed-income obligations, the Investment Adviser shall attempt to obtain best net price and execution or, use its best judgment to obtain the best overall terms available.

Transactions on U.S. stock exchanges, and increasingly equity securities traded over-the-counter, involve the payment of negotiated brokerage commissions. Over-the-counter transactions in equity securities also may involve the payment of negotiated commissions to brokers. Transactions on foreign stock exchanges involve payment for brokerage commissions, which generally are fixed by applicable regulatory bodies. Many over-the-counter issues, including corporate debt and government securities, are normally traded on a “net” basis (i.e., without commission) through dealers, or otherwise involve transactions directly with the issuer of an instrument. With respect to over-the-counter transactions, the Investment Adviser will often deal directly with dealers who make a market in the instruments involved except in those circumstances where more favorable prices and execution are available elsewhere. The cost of foreign and domestic securities purchased from underwriters includes an underwriting commission or concession, and the prices at which securities are purchased from and sold to dealers include a dealer’s mark-up or mark-down. On exchanges on which commissions are negotiated, the cost of transactions may vary among different brokers. In assessing the best overall terms available for any transaction, the Investment Adviser is to consider all factors it deems relevant, including the breadth of the market in the security, the price of the security, the financial condition and execution capability of the broker or dealer, and the reasonableness of the commission, if any, both for the specific transaction and on a continuing basis. In evaluating the best overall terms available and in selecting the broker or dealer to execute a particular transaction, the Investment Adviser may consider the brokerage and research services provided to the Funds and/or other accounts over which the Investment Adviser or an affiliate exercises investment discretion. A broker or dealer providing brokerage and/or research services may receive a higher commission than another broker or dealer would receive for the same transaction. These brokerage and research services may include but are not limited to, furnishing of advice, either directly or through publications or writings, as to the value of securities, the advisability of investing in securities and the availability of securities or purchasers or sellers of securities. The Investment Adviser also may obtain economic statistics, forecasting services, industry and company analyses, portfolio strategies, quantitative data, quotation services, order management systems for certain purposes, certain news services, credit rating services, testing services, execution services, market information systems, consulting services from economists and political analysts and computer software or on-line data feeds. These services and products may disproportionately benefit other accounts. For example, research or other services paid for through the Funds’ commissions may not be used in managing the Funds. In addition, other accounts may receive the benefit, including disproportionate benefits, of economies of scale or price discounts in connection with products or services that may be provided to the Funds and to such other accounts. To the

extent that the Investment Adviser uses soft dollars, it will not have to pay for those products or services itself. The Investment Adviser may receive research that is bundled with the trade execution, clearing, and/or settlement services provided by a particular broker-dealer. In that event, the research will effectively be paid for by client commissions that will also be used to pay for execution, clearing and settlement services provided by the broker-dealer and will not be paid by the Investment Adviser.

The Investment Adviser and its affiliates also receive products and services that provide both research and non-research benefits to them (“mixed-use items”). The research portion of mixed-use items may be paid for with soft dollars. When paying for the research portion of mixed-use items with soft dollars, the Investment Adviser must make a good faith allocation between the cost of the research portion and the cost of the non-research portion of the mixed-use items. The Investment Adviser will pay for the non-research portion of the mixed-use items with hard dollars.

Supplemental research information so received is in addition to, and not in lieu of, services required to be performed by the Investment Adviser and does not reduce the advisory fees payable to the Investment Adviser by the Funds. The Trustees will periodically review the commissions paid by the Funds to consider whether the commissions paid over representative periods of time appear to be reasonable in relation to the benefits inuring to the Funds. It is possible that certain of the supplemental research or other services received will primarily benefit one or more other investment companies or other accounts. Conversely, a Fund may be the primary beneficiary of the research or services received as a result of portfolio transactions effected for such other account or investment company.

The Funds may participate, if and when practicable, in bidding for the purchase of portfolio securities directly from an issuer in order to take advantage of the lower purchase price available to members of a bidding group. The Funds will engage in this practice, however, only when the Investment Adviser believes such practice to be in the Funds’ interests.

On occasions when the Investment Adviser deems the purchase or sale of a security to be in the best interests of a Fund as well as other fiduciary or agency accounts (“other accounts”) managed by the Investment Adviser, the Advisory Agreement provides that the Investment Adviser, to the extent permitted by applicable laws and regulations, may aggregate the securities to be sold or purchased for the Funds with those to be sold or purchased for such other accounts in order to obtain the best net price and execution. In such an event, allocation of the securities so purchased or sold, as well as the expenses incurred in the transaction, will be made by the Investment Adviser in the manner it considers to be the most equitable and consistent with its fiduciary obligations to the Fund and its other accounts involved. In some instances, this procedure may adversely affect the size of the position obtainable for a Fund or the amount of the securities that are able to be sold for a Fund. To the extent that the execution and price available from more than one broker or dealer are believed to be comparable, the Advisory Agreement permits the Investment Adviser, at its discretion but subject to applicable law, to select the executing broker or dealer on the basis of the Investment Adviser’s opinion of the reliability and quality of the broker or dealer.

The Advisory Agreement provides that the Investment Adviser may render similar services to others so long as its services under the Advisory Agreement are not impaired thereby. The Advisory Agreement also provides that the Trust will indemnify the Investment Adviser against certain liabilities (including liabilities under the federal securities laws relating to untrue statements or omissions of material fact and actions that are in accordance with the terms of the Advisory Agreement) or, in lieu thereof, contribute to resulting losses.

Pursuant to the Advisory Agreement, the Investment Adviser is responsible for most of the operating expenses of the Funds, except: (i) its advisory fees payable under the Advisory Agreement; (ii) distribution fees and expenses paid by the Trust under any distribution plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act; (iii) interest expenses; (iv) brokerage expenses and other expenses (such as stamp taxes) in connection with the execution of portfolio transactions or in connection with creation and redemption transactions; (v) compensation and expenses of the non-interested trustees; (vi) compensation and expenses of counsel to the non-interested trustees; (vii) tax expenses; and (viii) extraordinary expenses, as determined under generally accepted accounting principles. For its services to each Fund, the Investment Adviser is entitled to an advisory fee, computed daily and payable monthly, at annual rates set forth in the table below (expressed as a percentage of each Fund’s respective average daily net assets).

| <u>NAME OF FUND</u> | <u>INVESTMENT ADVISORY FEE</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | 0.22% |
| FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | 0.32% |
| FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | 0.40% |

Unless sooner terminated, the Advisory Agreement will continue in effect with respect to a particular Fund until June 30, 2020, and thereafter for successive 12-month periods, provided that the continuance is approved at least annually: (i) by the vote of a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the agreement or “interested persons” (as such term is defined in the 1940 Act) of any party thereto, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval; and (ii) by the Trustees or by the vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of such Fund (as defined under “Description of Shares”). The Advisory Agreement is terminable at any time without penalty by the Trust (by specified Trustee or shareholder action) or by the Investment Adviser on 60 days’ written notice.

NTI has contractually agreed to reimburse each Fund its proportionate share of the expenses relating to the administration of the DC Plan for the Trust’s non-interested trustees allocated to such Fund until at least one year from the date of this SAI. NTI and a Fund may mutually agree to extend the contractual arrangements. The Board may terminate the contractual arrangements at any time if it determines that it is in the best interest of a Fund and its shareholders.

Under the Advisory Agreement with the Trust, Northern Trust Corporation agrees that the name “FlexShares” may be used in connection with the Trust’s business on a royalty-free basis. Northern Trust Corporation has reserved to itself the right to grant the non-exclusive right to use the name “FlexShares” to any other person. The Advisory Agreement provides that at such time as the Agreement is no longer in effect, the Trust will cease using the name “FlexShares.”

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

| <u>NAME OF FUND</u> | <u>PORTFOLIO MANAGERS</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | Robert Anstine and Brendan Sullivan |
| FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | Robert Anstine and Brendan Sullivan |
| FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | Robert Anstine and Brendan Sullivan |

Accounts Managed by Portfolio Managers

The table below discloses accounts within each type of category listed below for which Robert Anstine was jointly and primarily responsible for day-to-day portfolio management as of October 31, 2018.

| <u>Type of Accounts</u> | <u>Total # of Accounts Managed</u> | <u>Total Assets</u> | <u># of Accounts Managed that Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</u> | <u>Total Assets that Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</u> |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| FlexShares® Trust: | 18 | \$12,561,327,609 | 0 | \$0 |
| Other Registered Investment Companies: | 0 | \$ 0 | 0 | \$0 |
| Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: | 8 | \$ 5,557,000,000 | 0 | \$0 |
| Other Accounts: | 5 | \$ 920,000,000 | 0 | \$0 |

The table below discloses accounts within each type of category listed below for which Brendan Sullivan was jointly and primarily responsible for day-to-day portfolio management as of October 31, 2018.

| <u>Type of Accounts</u> | <u>Total # of Accounts Managed</u> | <u>Total Assets</u> | <u># of Accounts Managed that Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</u> | <u>Total Assets that Advisory Fee is Based on Performance</u> |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| FlexShares® Trust: | 18 | \$12,561,327,609 | 0 | \$0 |
| Other Registered Investment Companies: | 1 | \$ 4,600,000,000 | 0 | \$0 |
| Other Pooled Investment Vehicles: | 3 | \$13,100,000,000 | 0 | \$0 |
| Other Accounts: | 3 | \$ 3,700,000,000 | 0 | \$0 |

Material Conflicts of Interest

NTI's portfolio managers are often responsible for managing one or more FlexShares® Funds, as well as other client accounts, including mutual funds, separate accounts and other pooled investment vehicles. A Fund's portfolio managers may manage various client accounts that may have materially higher or lower fee arrangement than the Funds. The side-by-side management of these accounts may raise potential conflicts of interest relating to cross trading, the allocation of investment opportunities and the aggregation and allocation of trades. In addition, while portfolio managers generally only manage accounts with similar investment strategies, it is possible that due to varying investment restrictions among accounts that certain investments are made for some accounts and not others or conflicting investment positions could be taken among accounts. Some portfolio managers may be dual officers of one or more NTI affiliates and undertake investment advisory duties for the affiliates. The portfolio managers have a responsibility to manage all client accounts in a fair and equitable manner. NTI seeks to provide best execution of all securities transactions and aggregate and then allocate securities to client accounts in a fair and timely manner. To this end, NTI has developed policies and procedures designed to mitigate and manage the potential conflicts of interest that may arise from side-by-side management.

NTI may have a financial incentive to favor accounts with performance-based fees because there may be an opportunity to earn greater fees on such accounts compared to accounts without performance-based fees. As a result, NTI may have an incentive to direct its best investment ideas to or allocate the sequencing of trades in favor of the account that pays a performance fee. NTI may also have an incentive to recommend investments that may be riskier or more speculative than those that it would recommend under a different fee arrangement.

NTI may invest client accounts in affiliated investment pools. If appropriate and consistent with the client's investment objectives and applicable law, NTI may recommend to clients investment pools in which it or an affiliate provides services for a fee. NTI has an incentive to allocate investments to these types of affiliated investment pools in order to generate additional fees for NTI or its affiliates. In addition, NTI could direct its best investment ideas to these investment products or investment pools to the potential disadvantage of the Funds.

As NTI becomes aware of additional potential or actual conflicts of interest, they will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

NTI manages its client accounts consistent with applicable law and follows its own policies and procedures that are reasonably designed to treat clients fairly and to prevent any client or group of clients from being systematically favored or disadvantaged.

NTI provides advice and makes investment decisions for client accounts that it believes are consistent with each client's stated investment objectives and guidelines. Advice given to clients or investment decisions made for clients may differ from, or may conflict with, advice given or investment decisions made for clients of an affiliate. NTI's affiliates may also affect NTI's client accounts and investment decisions made for NTI's affiliates may affect investment decisions of NTI's client accounts. NTI may also invest in the same securities that it or its affiliates recommend to clients. Investment decisions taken by NTI's affiliates are generally unknown to NTI. When NTI or an affiliate currently holds for its own benefit the same securities as a client, it could be viewed as having a potential conflict of interest.

Generally, NTI will not, as principal for its own account, buy securities from or sell securities to any client. It is possible that an affiliate, will, as principal, purchase securities from or sell securities to its clients.

From time to time securities to be sold on behalf of a client may be suitable for purchase by another client. In such instances, if NTI determines in good faith that the transaction is in the best interest of each client, it may arrange for the securities to be crossed between client accounts at an independently determined fair market value and in compliance with the 1940 Act, if applicable. Cross-trades present conflicts of interest, as there may be an incentive for NTI to favor one client to the disadvantage of another. Cross-trades are only effected as permitted under applicable law and regulation and consistent with the client's guidelines, with any restrictions. NTI does not receive fees or commissions for these transactions. In addition, NTI and the Trust have adopted policies on cross-trades that may be effected between the Funds and another client account. NTI conducts periodic reviews of trades for consistency with these policies.

NTI has established certain policies and procedures designed to address conflicts of interest that may arise between its employees and clients as well as between clients and NTI or its affiliates. NTI's employees must act in the best interests of its clients and generally do not have knowledge of proprietary trading positions or certain other operations of affiliates.

Receipt of research from brokers who execute client transactions involve conflicts of interest. To the extent that NTI uses commissions to obtain research services for NTI or TNTC, NTI or TNTC will receive a benefit as it will not have to pay for the research, products or services itself. NTI may, therefore, have an incentive to select or recommend a broker-dealer based on its interest in receiving research rather than in obtaining the lowest commission rate on the transaction. NTI or TNTC may also obtain research services from brokerage commissions incurred by client accounts that may not directly benefit such client accounts. Similarly, clients may benefit from research even if trades placed on their behalf did not contribute to the compensation of the broker-dealer providing such research. NTI and TNTC do not seek to allocate research services to client accounts proportionately to the commissions that the client accounts generate.

Also, NTI and TNTC may receive products and services that are mixed use. In these cases, NTI or TNTC will use commissions to pay only for the eligible portion of the product or service that assists NTI or TNTC in the investment decision-making process. Any ineligible portion of the product will be paid directly by NTI or TNTC. NTI or TNTC make a good faith effort to reasonably allocate such items and keep records of such allocations although clients should be aware of the potential conflicts of interest.

NTI may provide investment advice to its affiliates and may provide investment advisory services to affiliates' clients or as an investment adviser to the registered or unregistered investment pools in which these clients may invest. TNTC and NTI share a common trading desk and may have shared arrangements with investment research vendors. Also, these affiliates may provide marketing services to NTI, including the referral of certain clients.

NTI may have common management and officers with some of its affiliates. NTI shares facilities with affiliates and relies on TNTC and other affiliates for various administrative support, including information technology, human resources, business continuity, legal, compliance, finance, enterprise risk management, internal audit and general administrative support.

NTI's affiliations may create potential conflicts of interest. NTI seeks to mitigate the potential conflicts of interest to ensure accounts are managed at all times in a client's best interests and in accordance with client investment objectives and guidelines through regular account reviews attended by investment advisory, compliance and senior management staff. NTI also seeks to mitigate potential conflicts of interest through a governance structure and by maintaining policies and procedures that include, but are not limited to, personal trading, custody and trading.

Various non-affiliated investment advisers that may manage NTI client accounts, or may be recommended to NTI clients, may use an NTI affiliate for banking, trust, custody, administration, brokerage and related services for which NTI's affiliate may receive fees. NTI does not recommend or utilize non-affiliated investment advisers based upon their use of NTI affiliates.

Given the interrelationships among NTI and its affiliates, there may be other or different potential conflicts of interest that arise in the future that are not included in this section.

NTI may develop, or own and operate indices that are based on investment and trading strategies developed by NTI, or assist unaffiliated entities by creating bespoke indices that are utilized by NTI for client-specific investment accounts. In addition, NTI may manage accounts that are based on the same, or substantially similar, strategies that are used in the operation of the indices or the Funds. The administration of the indices, and the portfolio management of the Funds and client accounts in this manner may give rise to potential conflicts of interest. These conflicts of interest may include, but are not limited to, the Funds engaging in the purchase or sale of securities relating to changes being implemented as part of an index reconstitution, while at the same time the client accounts engage in similar trading activity due to ongoing portfolio rebalancing. These differences may result in client account strategies outperforming vis-à-vis the index, the Funds, or vice versa. Other potential conflicts include the potential for unauthorized access to index information, allowing index changes that benefit NTI or other client accounts and not the investors in the Funds.

To the extent permitted by applicable law, the Investment Adviser may make payments to authorized dealers and other financial intermediaries (“Intermediaries”) from time to time to promote the Funds. These payments may be made out of the Investment Adviser’s assets, or amounts payable to the Investment Adviser rather than as a separately identifiable charge to the Funds. These payments may compensate Intermediaries for, among other things: marketing the Funds; access to the Intermediaries’ registered representatives or salespersons, including at conferences and other meetings; assistance in training and education of personnel; marketing support; and/or other specified services intended to assist in the distribution and marketing of the Funds. The payments may also, to the extent permitted by applicable regulations, contribute to various non-cash and cash incentive arrangements to promote certain products, as well as sponsor various educational programs, sales contests and/or, administrative services.

Portfolio Manager Compensation Structure

The compensation for the portfolio managers of the Funds is based on the competitive marketplace and consists of a fixed base salary plus a variable annual cash incentive award. In addition, non-cash incentives, such as stock options or restricted stock of Northern Trust Corporation, may be awarded from time to time. The annual incentive award is discretionary and is based on a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of each portfolio manager’s investment performance and contribution to his or her respective team plus the financial performance of the investment business unit and Northern Trust Corporation as a whole. The annual incentive award is not based on performance of the Funds or the amount of assets held in the Funds. Moreover, no material differences exist between the compensation structure for Fund accounts and other types of accounts.

Disclosure of Securities Ownership

As of the date of this SAI, no portfolio manager owned shares of the Fund.

PROXY VOTING

The Trust has delegated the voting of portfolio securities to its Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser has adopted proxy voting policies and procedures applicable to Northern Trust Corporation and its affiliates (the “Northern Proxy Voting Policy”) for the voting of proxies on behalf of client accounts for which the Investment Adviser has voting discretion, including the Funds. Under the Northern Proxy Voting Policy, shares are to be voted in the best interests of the Funds and the value of the investment.

A Proxy Committee comprised of senior investment and compliance officers of Northern Trust Corporation, including officers of the Investment Adviser has adopted certain guidelines (the “Proxy Guidelines”) concerning various corporate governance issues. The Proxy Committee has the responsibility for the content, interpretation and application of the Proxy Guidelines and may apply these Proxy Guidelines with a measure of flexibility. The Investment Adviser has retained an independent third party proxy voting service (the “Service Firm”) to review proxy proposals and to make voting recommendations to the Proxy Committee in a manner consistent with the Proxy Guidelines. The Proxy Committee will apply the Proxy Guidelines as discussed below to any such recommendation.

The Proxy Guidelines provide that the Proxy Committee will generally vote for or against various proxy proposals, usually based upon certain specified criteria. As an example, the Proxy Guidelines provide that the Proxy Committee will generally vote in favor of:

- Shareholder proposals in support of the appointment of a lead independent director;
- Shareholder proposals requesting that the board of a company be comprised of a majority of independent directors;

- Proposals to repeal classified boards and to elect all directors annually;
- Shareholder proposals calling for directors in uncontested elections to be elected by an affirmative majority of votes cast where companies have not adopted a written majority voting (or majority withhold) policy;
- Shareholder proposals that ask a company to submit its poison pill for shareholder ratification;
- Shareholder proposals to lower supermajority shareholder vote requirements for charter and bylaw amendments;
- Shareholder proposals to lower supermajority shareholder vote requirements for mergers and other significant business combinations while taking into account ownership structure, quorum requirements, and vote requirements;
- Management proposals to reduce the par value of common stock while taking into account accompanying corporate governance concerns;
- Management proposals to implement a reverse stock split, provided that the reverse split does not result in an increase of authorized but unissued shares of more than 100% after giving effect to the shares needed for the reverse split;
- Proposals to approve an ESOP (employee stock ownership plan) or other broad based employee stock purchase or ownership plan, or to increase authorized shares for such existing plans, except in cases when the number of shares allocated to such plans is “excessive” (i.e., generally greater than ten percent (10%) of outstanding shares); and
- Proposals requesting that a company take reasonable steps to ensure that women and minority candidates are in the pool from which board nominees are chosen or that request that women and minority candidates are routinely sought as part of every board search the company undertakes.

The Proxy Guidelines also provide that the Proxy Committee will generally vote against:

- Shareholder proposals requesting that the board of a company be comprised of a supermajority of independent directors;
- Proposals to elect director nominees if it is a CEO who sits on more than two public boards or a non-CEO who sits on more than four public company boards;
- Proposals to classify the board of directors;
- Shareholder proposals requiring directors to own a minimum amount of company stock in order to qualify as a director or to remain on the board;
- Shareholder proposals to impose age and term limits unless the company is found to have poor board refreshment and director succession practices;
- Proposals for multi class exchange offers and multi class recapitalizations;
- Management proposal to require a supermajority shareholder vote to approve mergers and other significant business combinations, while taking into account ownership structure, quorum requirements, and vote requirements;
- Management proposals to require a supermajority shareholder vote to approve charter and bylaw amendments; and
- Shareholder proposals to eliminate, direct, or otherwise restrict charitable contributions.

For proxy proposals that under the Proxy Guidelines are to be voted on a case by case basis, the Proxy Committee provides supplementary instructions to the Service Firm to guide it in making vote recommendations.

Except as otherwise provided in the Northern Proxy Voting Policy, the Proxy Committee may vote proxies contrary to the recommendations of the Service Firm if it determines that such action is in the best interest of a Fund. In exercising its discretion, the Proxy Committee may take into account a wide array of factors relating to the matter under consideration, the nature of the proposal and the company involved. As a result, the Proxy Committee may vote in one manner in the case of one company and in a different manner in the case of another where, for example, the past history of the company, the character and integrity of its management, the role of outside directors, and the company’s record of producing performance for investors justifies a high degree of confidence in the company and the effect of the proposal on the value of the investment. Similarly, poor past performance, uncertainties about management and future directions, and other factors may lead the Proxy Committee to conclude that particular proposals present

unacceptable investment risks and should not be supported. In addition, the Proxy Committee also evaluates proposals in context. For example, a particular proposal may be acceptable standing alone, but objectionable when part of an existing or proposed package. Special circumstances may also justify casting different votes for different clients with respect to the same proxy vote.

The Investment Adviser or its affiliates may occasionally be subject to conflicts of interest in the voting of proxies due to business or personal relationships it maintains with persons having an interest in the outcome of certain votes. For example, the Investment Adviser or its affiliates may provide trust, custody, investment management, brokerage, underwriting, banking and related services to accounts owned or controlled by companies whose management is soliciting proxies. Occasionally, the Investment Adviser or its affiliates may also have business or personal relationships with other proponents of proxy proposals, participants in proxy contests, corporate directors or candidates for directorships. The Investment Adviser may also be required to vote proxies for securities issued by Northern Trust Corporation or its affiliates or on matters in which the Investment Adviser or its affiliates have a direct financial interest, such as shareholder approval of a change in the advisory fees paid by a Fund. The Investment Adviser seeks to address such conflicts of interest through various measures, including the establishment, composition and authority of the Proxy Committee and the retention of the Service Firm to perform proxy review and vote recommendation functions. The Proxy Committee has the responsibility to determine whether a proxy vote involves a conflict of interest and how the conflict should be addressed in conformance with the Northern Proxy Voting Policy. The Proxy Committee may resolve such conflicts in any of a variety of ways, including without limitation the following: (i) voting in accordance with the Proxy Guidelines based recommendation of the Service Firm; (ii) voting in accordance with the recommendation of an independent fiduciary appointed for that purpose; (iii) voting pursuant to client direction by seeking instructions from the Board; or (iv) by voting pursuant to a “mirror voting” arrangement under which shares are voted in the same manner and proportion as shares over which the Investment Adviser does not have voting discretion. The method selected by the Proxy Committee may vary depending upon the facts and circumstances of each situation.

The Investment Adviser may choose not to vote proxies in certain situations. This may occur, for example, in situations where the exercise of voting rights could restrict the ability to freely trade the security in question (as is the case, for example, in certain foreign jurisdictions known as “blocking markets”). In circumstances in which the Service Firm does not provide recommendations for a particular proxy, the Proxy Committee may obtain recommendations from analysts at the Investment Adviser who review the issuer in question or the industry in general. The Proxy Committee will apply the Proxy Guidelines as discussed above to any such recommendation.

This summary of the Northern Proxy Voting Policy and Proxy Guidelines, as adopted by the Investment Adviser, is posted on the Trust’s website. You may also obtain, upon request and without charge, a paper copy of the Northern Proxy Voting Policy and Proxy Guidelines or SAI by calling 1-855-FLEXETF (1-855-353-9383).

Information regarding how the Funds voted proxies, if any, relating to portfolio securities for the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 will be made available, without charge, upon request, by contacting the Investment Adviser at 1-855-FLEXETF or by visiting the SEC’s website at www.sec.gov.

ADMINISTRATOR

JPMorgan (the “Administrator”), One Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108, acts as Administrator for the Funds under a Fund Servicing Agreement with the Trust. Subject to the general supervision of the Board, the Administrator provides supervision of all aspects of the Trust’s non-investment advisory operations and performs various administration, compliance, accounting and regulatory services, including but not limited to: (i) providing office facilities and furnishing corporate officers for the Trust; (ii) coordination, preparation and review of financial statements; (iii) monitoring compliance with federal tax and securities laws; (iv) performing certain functions ordinarily performed by the office of a corporate treasurer, and furnishing the services and facilities ordinarily incident thereto, such as expense accrual monitoring and payment of the Trust’s bills, preparing monthly reconciliation of the Trust’s expense records, updating projections of annual expenses, preparing materials for review by the Board and compliance testing; (v) maintaining the Trust books and records in accordance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations; (vi) preparing post-effective amendments to the Trust’s registration statement; (vii) calculating each Fund’s NAV; (viii) accounting for dividends and interest received and distributions made by the Trust; and (ix) preparing and filing the Trust’s federal and state tax returns (other than those required to be filed by the Trust’s Custodian and Transfer Agent) and providing shareholder tax information to the Trust’s Transfer Agent.

Subject to the limitations described below, as compensation for its administrative services and the assumption of related expenses, the Administrator is entitled to asset-based fees for accounting and administration services, subject to a certain minimum fee. The Administration Agreement will continue until August 31, 2020 unless sooner terminated pursuant to the agreement and renew each year thereafter unless at least sixty days' notice is given prior to the end of a term. Under the Advisory Agreement, the Investment Adviser has contractually assumed the Trust's obligation to pay the fees of the Administrator.

DISTRIBUTOR

Foreside Fund Services, LLC ("Foreside" or the "Distributor"), a Delaware limited liability company, serves as the distributor of Creation Units for the Funds on an agency basis. The Trust has entered into a Distribution Agreement under which Foreside, as agent, receives orders from Authorized Participants to create and redeem shares in Creation Unit Aggregations and transmits such orders to the Trust's Custodian and Transfer Agent. The Distributor's principal address is Three Canal Plaza, Portland, Maine 04101. The Distributor is a broker-dealer registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "1934 Act"), and a member of the FINRA. Shares will be continuously offered for sale by the Trust through the Distributor only in whole Creation Units, as described in the section of this SAI entitled "Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units Aggregations." The Distributor also acts as an agent for the Trust for those activities described within the Distribution Agreement. The Distributor will deliver a prospectus to Authorized Participants purchasing Shares in Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it to Authorized Participants. The Distributor has no role in determining the investment policies of the Funds or which securities are to be purchased or sold by the Funds. No compensation is payable by the Trust to Foreside for such distribution services. However, the Investment Adviser has entered into an agreement with Foreside under which it makes payments to Foreside in consideration for its services under the Distribution Agreement. The payments made by the Investment Adviser to Foreside do not represent an additional expense to the Trust or its shareholders.

DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLAN

As stated in the Funds' Prospectus, the Trust has adopted a Distribution and Service Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 with respect to shares of the Funds. However, no 12b-1 fee is currently charged to the Funds, and the Funds do not expect to pay any 12b-1 fees during the current and next fiscal years. Pursuant to the Plan, the Funds may enter into agreements from time to time with financial intermediaries providing for support and/or distribution services to customers of the financial intermediaries who are the beneficial owners of Fund shares. Under the agreements, the Funds may pay financial intermediaries up to 0.25% (on an annualized basis) of the average daily NAV of the shares beneficially owned by their customers. Distribution services may include: (i) services in connection with distribution assistance; or (ii) payments to financial institutions and other financial intermediaries, such as broker-dealers and mutual fund "supermarkets," as compensation for services or reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with distribution assistance.

Any amendment to increase materially the costs under the Plan with respect to a Fund must be approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. So long as the Plan is in effect, the selection and nomination of the members of the Board who are not "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Trust will be committed to the discretion of such Non-Interested Trustees.

TRANSFER AGENT

JPMorgan (the "Transfer Agent") acts as Transfer Agent for the Fund under an Agency Services Agreement with the Trust. The Transfer Agent has undertaken to perform some or all of the following services: (i) perform and facilitate the performance of purchases and redemptions of Creation Units; (ii) prepare and transmit payments for dividends and distributions; (iii) record the issuance of shares and maintain records of the number of authorized shares; (iv) prepare and transmit information regarding purchases and redemptions of shares; (v) communicate information regarding purchases and redemptions of shares and other relevant information to appropriate parties; (vi) maintain required books and records; and (vii) perform other customary services of a transfer agent and dividend disbursing agent for an ETF (exchange traded fund).

As compensation for the services rendered by the Transfer Agent under the Agency Services Agreement the Transfer Agent is entitled to reasonable out-of-pocket or incidental expenses as provided under the Agency Services Agreement. The Agency Services

Agreement will continue until August 31, 2020 unless sooner terminated pursuant to the agreement and renew each year thereafter unless at least sixty days' notice is given prior to the end of a term. Under the Advisory Agreement, the Investment Adviser has contractually assumed the Trust's obligation to pay the expenses of the Transfer Agent.

CUSTODIAN

JPMorgan (the "Custodian") acts as Custodian for the Funds under a Global Custody Agreement with the Trust. The Custodian: (i) holds each Fund's cash and securities; (ii) maintains such cash and securities in separate accounts in the name of each Fund; (iii) receives, delivers and releases securities on behalf of each Fund; (iv) collects and receives all income, principal and other payments in respect of each Fund's investments held by the Custodian; and (v) maintains a statement of account for each account of the Trust. The Custodian may employ one or more sub-custodians, provided that the Custodian shall be liable for direct losses due to the sub-custodian's insolvency or the sub-custodian's failure to use reasonable care, fraud or willful default in the provision of its services. The Custodian will enter into agreements with financial institutions and depositories located in foreign countries with respect to the custody of the Funds' foreign securities.

As compensation for the services rendered under the Global Custody Agreement with respect to the Trust by the Custodian to each Fund, the Custodian is entitled to fees and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. The Global Custody Agreement will continue until August 31, 2020 unless sooner terminated pursuant to the agreement and renew each year thereafter unless at least sixty days' notice is given prior to the end of a term. Under the Advisory Agreement, the Investment Adviser has contractually assumed the Trust's obligation to pay the fees and expenses of the Custodian.

JPMorgan also serves as securities lending agent for the Funds. For such services, JPMorgan receives a percentage of securities lending revenue generated for the Funds.

SECURITIES LENDING AGENT

JPMorgan (the "Securities Lending Agent") acts as Securities Lending Agent for the Funds under a Securities Lending Agreement with the Trust. The Securities Lending Agent (i) arranges and administers the loan of securities when establishing a loan and the return of securities upon termination of a loan, (ii) collects from borrowers cash, securities or other instruments to serve as collateral for the loans, (iii) monitors the value of securities on loan and the value of the corresponding collateral, (iv) communicates to each borrower the minimum amount of collateral required for each loan and collects additional collateral as required on a daily basis to maintain such minimum, (v) collects or arranges for the collection of any interest, dividends or other distributions related to loaned securities, and (vi) performs other necessary services related to the establishment and maintenance of the Trust's securities lending program. The Securities Lending Agreement will continue indefinitely and may be terminated by either party on sixty days' notice to the other.

DESCRIPTION OF SHARES

The Declaration of Trust of the Trust (the "Declaration") permits the Board to cause the Trust to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest of one or more separate series representing interests in one or more investment portfolios. The Trustees or Trust may create additional series and each series may be divided into classes.

Under the terms of the Declaration, each share of each Fund has a par value of \$0.0001, and represents a proportionate interest in the particular Fund with each other share of its class in the same Fund and is entitled to such dividends and distributions out of the assets belonging to the Fund as are authorized by the Trustees and declared by the Trust. Upon any liquidation of a Fund, shareholders of each class of a Fund are entitled to share pro rata in the net assets belonging to that class available for distribution. Shares do not have any preemptive or conversion rights. The right of redemption is described under "Shareholder Information" in the Prospectus. In addition, pursuant to the terms of the 1940 Act, the right of a shareholder to redeem shares and the date of payment by a Fund may be suspended for more than seven days: (i) for any period during which the New York Stock Exchange is closed, other than the customary weekends or holidays, or trading in the markets the Fund normally utilizes is closed or is restricted as determined by the SEC; (ii) during any emergency, as determined by the SEC, as a result of which it is not reasonably practicable for the Fund to dispose of instruments owned by it or fairly to determine the value of its net assets; or (iii) for such other period as the SEC may by order

permit for the protection of the shareholders of the Fund. The Trust also may suspend or postpone the recording of the transfer of its shares upon the occurrence of any of the foregoing conditions. In addition, shares of each Fund are redeemable at the unilateral option of the Trust. The Declaration permits the Board to alter the number of shares constituting a Creation Unit or to specify that shares of beneficial interest of the Trust may be individually redeemable. Shares when issued as described in the Prospectus are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable. In the interests of economy and convenience, certificates representing shares of the Funds are not issued.

Following the creation of the initial Creation Unit Aggregation(s) of a Fund and immediately prior to the commencement of trading in such Fund's shares, a holder of shares may be a "control person" of the Fund, as defined in the 1940 Act. A Fund cannot predict the length of time for which one or more shareholders may remain a control person of the Fund.

The proceeds received by each Fund for each issue or sale of its shares, and all net investment income, realized and unrealized gain and proceeds thereof, subject only to the rights of creditors, will be specifically allocated to and constitute the underlying assets of that Fund. The underlying assets of each Fund will be segregated on the books of account, and will be charged with the liabilities in respect to that Fund and with a share of the general liabilities of the Trust. Expenses with respect to the Funds normally are allocated in proportion to the NAV of the respective Funds except where allocations of direct expenses can otherwise be fairly made.

Each Fund and other funds of the Trust entitled to vote on a matter will vote in the aggregate and not by fund, except as required by law or when the matter to be voted on affects only the interests of shareholders of a particular fund or funds.

Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act provides that any matter required by the provisions of the 1940 Act or applicable state law, or otherwise, to be submitted to the holders of the outstanding voting securities of an investment company such as the Trust shall not be deemed to have been effectively acted upon unless approved by the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of each investment portfolio affected by such matter. Rule 18f-2 further provides that an investment portfolio shall be deemed to be affected by a matter unless the interests of each investment portfolio in the matter are substantially identical or the matter does not affect any interest of the investment portfolio. Under the Rule, the approval of an investment advisory agreement, a distribution plan subject to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act or any change in a fundamental investment policy would be effectively acted upon with respect to an investment portfolio only if approved by a majority of the outstanding shares of such investment portfolio. However, the Rule also provides that the ratification of the appointment of independent accountants, the approval of principal underwriting contracts and the election of Trustees are exempt from the separate voting requirements stated above.

The Trust is not required to hold annual meetings of shareholders and does not intend to hold such meetings. In the event that a meeting of shareholders is held, each share of the Trust will be entitled, as determined by the Trustees without the vote or consent of shareholders, either to one vote for each share or to one vote for each dollar of NAV represented by such shares on all matters presented to shareholders, including the election of Trustees (this method of voting being referred to as "dollar-based voting"). However, to the extent required by the 1940 Act or otherwise determined by the Trustees, series and classes of the Trust will vote separately from each other. Shareholders of the Trust do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of Trustees and, accordingly, the holders of more than 50% of the aggregate voting power of the Trust may elect all of the Trustees, irrespective of the vote of the other shareholders. Meetings of shareholders of the Trust, or any series or class thereof, may be called by the Trustees or upon the written request of holders of at least a majority of the shares entitled to vote at such meeting. The shareholders of the Trust will have voting rights only with respect to the limited number of matters specified in the Declaration and such other matters as the Trustees may determine or may be required by law.

The Declaration authorizes the Trustees, without shareholder approval (except as stated in the next paragraph), to cause the Trust, or any series thereof, to merge or consolidate with any corporation, association, trust or other organization or sell or exchange all or substantially all of the property belonging to the Trust, or any series thereof. In addition, the Trustees, without shareholder approval, may adopt a "master-feeder" structure by investing substantially all of the assets of a series of the Trust in the securities of another open-end investment company or pooled portfolio.

The Declaration also authorizes the Trustees, in connection with the termination or other reorganization of the Trust or any series or class by way of merger, consolidation, the sale of all or substantially all of the assets, or otherwise, to classify the shareholders of any class into one or more separate groups and to provide for the different treatment of shares held by the different

groups, provided that such termination or reorganization is approved by a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of each group of shareholders that are so classified.

The Declaration permits the Trustees to amend the Declaration without a shareholder vote. However, shareholders of the Trust have the right to vote on any amendment: (i) that would adversely affect the voting rights of shareholders specified in the Declaration; (ii) that is required by law to be approved by shareholders; (iii) to the amendment section of the Declaration; or (iv) that the Trustees determine to submit to shareholders.

The Declaration permits the termination of the Trust or of any series or class of the Trust: (i) by a majority of the affected shareholders at a meeting of shareholders of the Trust, series or class; or (ii) by a majority of the Trustees without shareholder approval if the Trustees determine that such action is in the best interest of the Trust or its shareholders. The factors and events that the Trustees may take into account in making such determination include: (i) the inability of the Trust or any series or class to maintain its assets at an appropriate size; (ii) changes in laws or regulations governing the Trust, or any series or class thereof, or affecting assets of the type in which it invests; or (iii) economic developments or trends having a significant adverse impact on their business or operations.

In the event of a termination of the Trust or the Fund, the Board, in its sole discretion, could determine to permit the shares to be redeemable in aggregations smaller than Creation Unit Aggregations or to be individually redeemable. In such circumstance, the Trust may make redemptions in-kind, for cash, or for a combination of cash or securities.

Under the Maryland Statutory Trust Act (the "Maryland Act"), shareholders are not personally liable for obligations of the Trust. The Maryland Act entitles shareholders of the Trust to the same limitation of liability as is available to stockholders of corporations incorporated in the State of Maryland. However, no similar statutory or other authority limiting business trust shareholder liability exists in many other states. As a result, to the extent that the Trust or a shareholder is subject to the jurisdiction of courts in such other states, those courts may not apply Maryland law and may subject the shareholders to liability. To offset this risk, the Declaration: (i) contains an express disclaimer of shareholder liability for acts or obligations of the Trust and provides that notice of such disclaimer may be given in each agreement, obligation and instrument entered into or executed by the Trust or its Trustees; and (ii) provides for indemnification out of the property of the applicable series of the Trust of any shareholder held personally liable for the obligations of the Trust solely by reason of being or having been a shareholder and not because of the shareholder's acts or omissions or for some other reason. Thus, the risk of a shareholder incurring financial loss beyond his or her investment because of shareholder liability is limited to circumstances in which all of the following factors are present: (i) a court refuses to apply Maryland law; (ii) the liability arises under tort law or, if not, no contractual limitation of liability is in effect; and (iii) the applicable series of the Trust is unable to meet its obligations.

The Declaration provides that the Trustees will not be liable to any person other than the Trust or a shareholder and that a Trustee will not be liable for any act as a Trustee. Additionally, subject to applicable federal law, no person who is or who has been a Trustee or officer of the Trust shall be liable to the Trust or to any shareholder for money damages except for liability resulting from: (a) actual receipt of an improper benefit or profit in money, property or services; or (b) active and deliberate dishonesty established by a final judgment and which is material to the cause of action. However, nothing in the Declaration protects a Trustee against any liability to which he or she would otherwise be subject by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of his or her office. The Declaration requires indemnification of Trustees and officers of the Trust unless the recipient is liable by reason of willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of the duties involved in the conduct of such person's office.

The Declaration provides that each shareholder, by virtue of becoming such, will be held to have expressly assented and agreed to the terms of the Declaration and the Bylaws of the Trust.

The Declaration provides that a shareholder of the Trust may bring a derivative action on behalf of the Trust only if the following conditions are met: (i) shareholders who hold at least 10% of the outstanding shares of the Trust, or 10% of the outstanding shares of the series or class to which such action relates, must join in the request for the Trustees to commence such action; and (ii) the Trustees must be afforded a reasonable amount of time to consider such shareholder request and to investigate the basis of such claim. The Declaration also provides that no person, other than the Trustees, who is not a shareholder of a particular series or class shall be entitled to bring any derivative action, suit or other proceeding on behalf of or with respect to such series or class. The Trustees will be

entitled to retain counsel or other advisers in considering the merits of the request and may require an undertaking by the shareholders making such request to reimburse the Trust for the expense of any such advisers in the event that the Trustees determine not to bring such action.

The Trustees may appoint separate Trustees with respect to one or more series or classes of the Trust's shares (the "Series Trustees"). To the extent provided by the Trustees in the appointment of Series Trustees, Series Trustees: (i) may, but are not required to, serve as Trustees of the Trust or any other series or class of the Trust; (ii) may have, to the exclusion of any other Trustee of the Trust, all the powers and authorities of Trustees under the Declaration with respect to such series or class; and/or (iii) may have no power or authority with respect to any other series or class.

The term "majority of the outstanding shares" of either the Trust or a particular Fund or another investment portfolio of the Trust means, with respect to the approval of an investment advisory agreement, a distribution plan or a change in a fundamental investment policy, the vote of the lesser of: (i) 67% or more of the shares of the Trust or such Fund or portfolio present at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Trust or such Fund or portfolio are present or represented by proxy; or (ii) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Trust or such Fund or portfolio.

Absent an applicable exemption or other relief from the SEC or its staff, beneficial owners of more than 5% of the shares of a Fund may be subject to the reporting provisions of Section 13 of the 1934 Act and the SEC's rules promulgated thereunder. In addition, absent an applicable exemption or other relief from the SEC staff, Officers and Trustees of a Fund and beneficial owners of 10% of the shares of a Fund ("Insiders") may be subject to the insider reporting, short-swing profit and short sale provisions of Section 16 of the 1934 Act and the SEC's rules promulgated thereunder. Beneficial owners and Insiders should consult with their own legal counsel concerning their obligations under Sections 13 and 16 of the 1934 Act.

On September 24, 2015, the Board adopted an amendment to the Trust's By-Laws to establish the state and federal courts sitting in the State of Maryland as the sole and exclusive forums for any shareholder (including a beneficial owner) to bring (i) any action or proceeding brought on behalf of the Trust, (ii) any action asserting a claim or breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any Trustee, officer or employee, if any, of the Trust to the Trust or the Trust's shareholders, (iii) any action asserting a claim against the Trust, its Trustees, officers or employees, if any, arising pursuant to any provision of the Maryland Statutory Trust Act or the Trust's Trust Instrument or bylaw; or (iv) any action asserting a claim against the Trust, its Trustees, officers or employees, if any, governed by the internal affairs doctrine.

BOOK-ENTRY ONLY SYSTEM

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Shareholder Information section in the Prospectus.

The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") acts as Securities Depository for the Shares of the Trust. Shares of each Fund are represented by securities registered in the name of DTC or its nominee and deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC.

DTC, a limited-purpose trust company, was created to hold securities of its participants (the "DTC Participants") and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions among the DTC Participants in such securities through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of the DTC Participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities' certificates. DTC Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations, some of whom (and/or their representatives) own DTC. More specifically, DTC is a subsidiary of the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"), which is owned by its member firms including international broker/dealers, correspondent and clearing banks, mutual fund companies and investment banks. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as banks, brokers, dealers and Trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a DTC Participant, either directly or indirectly (the "Indirect Participants").

Beneficial ownership of shares is limited to DTC Participants, Indirect Participants and persons holding interests through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in Fund shares (owners of such beneficial interests are referred to herein as "Beneficial Owners") is shown on, and the transfer of ownership is effected only through, records maintained by

DTC (with respect to DTC Participants) and on the records of DTC Participants (with respect to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners that are not DTC Participants). Beneficial Owners will receive from or through the DTC Participant a written confirmation relating to their purchase of shares. The laws of some jurisdictions may require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability of certain investors to acquire beneficial interests in shares.

Beneficial Owners of shares are not entitled to have shares registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of certificates in definitive form and are not considered the registered holder thereof. Accordingly, each Beneficial Owner must rely on the procedures of DTC, the DTC Participant and any Indirect Participant through which such Beneficial Owner holds its interests, to exercise any rights of a holder of shares. The Trust understands that under existing industry practice, in the event the Trust requests any action of holders of shares, or a Beneficial Owner desires to take any action that DTC, as the record owner of all outstanding shares, is entitled to take, DTC would authorize the DTC Participants to take such action and that the DTC Participants would authorize the Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners acting through such DTC Participants to take such action and would otherwise act upon the instructions of Beneficial Owners owning through them. As described above, the Trust recognizes DTC or its nominee as the owner of all shares for all purposes.

Conveyance of all notices, statements and other communications to Beneficial Owners is effected as follows. Pursuant to the Depositary Agreement between the Trust and DTC, DTC is required to make available to the Trust upon request and for a fee to be charged to the Trust a listing of the share holdings of each DTC Participant. The Trust shall inquire of each such DTC Participant as to the number of Beneficial Owners holding shares of the Funds, directly or indirectly, through such DTC Participant. The Trust shall provide each such DTC Participant with copies of such notice, statement or other communication, in such form, number and at such place as such DTC Participant may reasonably request, in order that such notice, statement or communication may be transmitted by such DTC Participant, directly or indirectly, to such Beneficial Owners. In addition, the Trust shall pay to each such DTC Participant a fair and reasonable amount as reimbursement for the expenses attendant to such transmittal, all subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

Share distributions shall be made to DTC or its nominee, Cede & Co., as the registered holder of all shares of the Trust. DTC or its nominee, upon receipt of any such distributions, shall credit immediately DTC Participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in shares as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. Payments by DTC Participants to Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners of shares held through such DTC Participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in a "street name," and will be the responsibility of such DTC Participants. The Trust has no responsibility or liability for any aspects of the records relating to or notices to Beneficial Owners, or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in such shares, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests or for any other aspect of the relationship between DTC and the DTC Participants or the relationship between such DTC Participants and the Indirect Participants and Beneficial Owners owning through such DTC Participants.

DTC may determine to discontinue providing its service with respect to shares of the Trust at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Trust and discharging its responsibilities with respect thereto under applicable law. Under such circumstances, the Trust shall take action either to find a replacement for DTC to perform its functions at a comparable cost or, if such a replacement is unavailable, to issue and deliver printed certificates representing ownership of shares, unless the Trust makes other arrangements with respect thereto satisfactory to the Listing Exchange on which shares are listed.

PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS

CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS

The Trust issues and sells shares of each Fund only in Creation Unit Aggregations. The Board reserves the right to declare a split or a consolidation in the number of shares outstanding of any Fund of the Trust, and to make a corresponding change in the number of shares constituting a Creation Unit, in the event that the per share price in the secondary market rises (or declines) to an amount that falls outside the range deemed desirable by the Board.

PURCHASE AND ISSUANCE OF CREATION UNIT AGGREGATIONS

General. The Trust issues and sells shares of each Fund only in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load, at the Fund's NAV next determined after receipt, on any Business Day (as defined herein), of an order in proper form. A "Business Day" with respect to each Fund is any day on which the Listing Exchange is open for business. As of the date of this SAI, each Listing Exchange observes the following holidays, as observed: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Portfolio Deposit. Unless cash purchases are specified for a Fund, the consideration for purchase of a Creation Unit of shares of a Fund generally consists of the in-kind deposit of a designated portfolio of securities and other instruments (the "Deposit Securities") generally corresponding pro rata (except in certain circumstances) to the Fund's portfolio positions and an amount of cash computed as described below (the "Cash Component"). Together, the Deposit Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Portfolio Deposit," which represents the minimum initial and subsequent investment amount for shares of a Fund. The Cash Component is an amount equal to the Balancing Amount (as defined below). The "Balancing Amount" is an amount equal to the difference between (x) the NAV (per Creation Unit) of the Fund and (y) the "Deposit Amount", which is the market value (per Creation Unit) of the securities deposited with the Trust. The Balancing Amount serves the function of compensating for any differences between the NAV per Creation Unit and the Deposit Amount. If the Balancing Amount is a positive number (i.e., the net asset value per Creation Unit is more than the Deposit Amount), the Authorized Participant will deliver the Balancing Amount. If the Balancing Amount is a negative number (i.e., the NAV per Creation Unit is less than the Deposit Amount), the Authorized Participant will receive the Balancing Amount. Payment of any stamp duty or other similar fees and expenses payable upon transfer of beneficial ownership of the Deposit Securities shall be the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant that purchased the Creation Unit. The Authorized Participant must ensure that all Deposit Securities properly denote change in beneficial ownership.

NTI makes available through the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") on each Business Day, prior to the opening of business on the Listing Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern time), the list of the names and the required quantity of each Deposit Security to be included in the current Portfolio Deposit (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for each Fund. Such Portfolio Deposit is applicable, subject to any adjustments as described below, in order to effect purchases of Creation Units of a given Fund until such time as the next-announced Portfolio Deposit composition is made available.

The identity and number of shares of the Deposit Securities required for a Portfolio Deposit for each Fund changes as rebalancing adjustments and corporate action events are reflected from time to time by NTI with a view to the investment objective of the Fund. The composition of the Deposit Securities may also change in response to adjustments to the weighting or composition of the securities constituting the relevant Underlying Index. The adjustments will reflect changes, known to NTI on the date of announcement to be in effect by the time of delivery of the Portfolio Deposit, in the composition of the relevant Fund's Underlying Index, or resulting from stock splits and other corporate actions.

In addition, the Trust reserves the right to permit or require the substitution of an amount of cash (that is a "cash in lieu" amount) to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Deposit Security which may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or that may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC, the Clearing Process (discussed below), the Federal Reserve System for U.S. Treasury Securities (discussed below) or for other similar reasons. The Trust also reserves the right to permit or require a "cash in lieu" amount where the delivery of Deposit Securities by the Authorized Participant (as described below) would be restricted under the securities laws or where delivery of Deposit Securities to the Authorized Participant would result in the disposition of Deposit Securities by the Authorized Participant becoming restricted under the securities laws, and in certain other situations.

On a given Business Day, the Trust may require all Authorized Participants purchasing Creation Units on that day to deposit an amount of cash (that is a "cash in lieu" amount) to replace any Deposit Security that may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process (discussed below) or, in the case of a non-U.S. Deposit Security, the security or instrument is not eligible for trading due to local trading restrictions, local restrictions on securities transfers or other similar circumstances. The Trust also reserves the right to permit a "cash in lieu" to replace any Deposit Security which may not be available in sufficient quantity or which may not be eligible for trading by an Authorized Participant or the investor on whose behalf the Authorized Participant is acting. The Trust may in its discretion require an Authorized Participant to purchase Creation Units of a Fund in cash, rather than

in-kind. On a given Business Day, the Trust may announce before the open of trading that all purchases of Creation Units of a Fund on that day will be made entirely in cash or, upon receiving a purchase order for Creation Units of a Fund from an Authorized Participant, the Trust may determine to require that purchase to be made entirely in cash.

In addition to the list of names and numbers of securities constituting the current Deposit Securities of a Portfolio Deposit, on each Business Day, the Cash Component effective through and including the previous Business Day, per outstanding Creation Unit of each Fund, will be made available.

Procedures For Creation of Creation Units. To be eligible to place orders with the Distributor and to create a Creation Unit of a Fund, an entity must be: (i) a “Participating Party,” i.e., a broker-dealer or other participant in the clearing process through the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC (the “Clearing Process”), a clearing agency that is registered with the SEC; or (ii) a DTC Participant, and must have executed an agreement with the Distributor, with respect to creations and redemptions of Creation Units (“Participant Agreement”) (discussed below). A Participating Party or DTC Participant who has executed a Participant Agreement is referred to as an “Authorized Participant.” Investors should contact the Distributor for the names of Authorized Participants. All shares of a Fund, however created, will be entered on the records of DTC in the name of Cede & Co. for the account of a DTC Participant.

Except as described below, all creation orders must be placed for one or more Creation Units and, whether through a Participating Party or a DTC Participant, must be received by the Distributor in proper form no later than the closing time of the regular trading session of the Listing Exchange (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) (“Closing Time”) on any Business Day in order for creation of Creation Units to be effected based on the NAV of shares of a Fund as next determined on such date. The FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund are hereinafter referred to as the “Foreign Funds.” The FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund is hereinafter referred to as a “Domestic Fund.” The date on which an order to create Creation Units (or an order to redeem Creation Units, as discussed below) is timely received in proper form is referred to as the “Transmittal Date.” Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor pursuant to procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement, as described below. Economic or market disruptions or changes, or telephone or other communication failure, may impede the ability to reach the Distributor or an Authorized Participant.

All orders to create Creation Units shall be placed with an Authorized Participant in the form required by such Authorized Participant. In addition, an Authorized Participant may request that an investor make certain representations or enter into agreements with respect to an order (e.g., to provide for payments of cash). Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement and, therefore, orders to create Creation Units of a Fund will have to be placed by the investor’s broker through an Authorized Participant. In such cases, there may be additional charges to such investor. A limited number of broker-dealers have executed a Participant Agreement and only a small number of such Authorized Participants have international capabilities. Investors placing orders for Creation Units of the Domestic Fund through the Clearing Process should afford sufficient time to permit proper submission of the order to the Distributor prior to the Closing Time on the Transmittal Date. Orders for Creation Units of the Domestic Fund that are effected outside the Clearing Process are likely to require transmittal by the DTC Participant earlier on the Transmittal Date than orders effected using the Clearing Process. Those persons placing orders outside the Clearing Process should ascertain the deadlines applicable to DTC and the Federal Reserve Bank wire system by contacting the operations department of the broker or depository institution effectuating such transfer of Deposit Securities and Cash Component.

Investors placing orders for Creation Units of the Domestic Fund should ascertain the applicable deadline for cash transfers by contacting the operations department of the broker or depository institution making the transfer of the Cash Component. This deadline is likely to be significantly earlier than the closing time of the regular trading session on the applicable Listing Exchange. Investors should be aware that the Authorized Participant may require orders for Creation Units placed with it to be in the form required by the individual Authorized Participant, which form may not be the same as the form of purchase order specified by the Trust that the Authorized Participant must deliver to the Distributor.

Investors placing orders for Creation Units of a Foreign Fund should ascertain the applicable deadline for cash transfers by contacting the operations department of the broker or depository institution making the transfer of the Cash Component. This deadline is likely to be significantly earlier than the closing time of the regular trading session on the applicable Listing Exchange. Investors

should be aware that the Authorized Participant may require orders for Creation Units placed with it to be in the form required by the individual Authorized Participant, which form may not be the same as the form of purchase order specified by the Trust that the Authorized Participant must deliver to the Distributor.

Placement of Creation Orders For Domestic Fund Using The Clearing Process. The Clearing Process is the process of creating or redeeming Creation Units. Fund Deposits made through the Clearing Process must be delivered through a Participating Party that has executed a Participant Agreement. The Participant Agreement authorizes the Distributor to transmit through the Transfer Agent (also known as the Index Receipt Agent) to NSCC, on behalf of the Participating Party, such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the Participating Party's creation order. Pursuant to such trade instructions to NSCC, the Participating Party agrees to deliver the requisite Deposit Securities and the Cash Component to the Trust, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. An order to create Creation Units through the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Distributor on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Distributor not later than the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date; and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed.

Placement of Creation Orders For Domestic Fund Outside The Clearing Process. Fund Deposits made outside the Clearing Process must be delivered through a DTC Participant that has executed a Participant Agreement. A DTC Participant who wishes to place an order creating Creation Units to be effected outside the Clearing Process does not need to be a Participating Party, but such orders must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the creation of Creation Units will instead be effected through a transfer of securities (other than U.S. government securities) directly through DTC, or through a transfer of U.S. government securities and cash directly through the Federal Reserve System. The Fund Deposit transfer must be ordered by the DTC Participant on the Transmittal Date in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of the requisite number of Deposit Securities through DTC to the account of the Fund by no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the "Settlement Date." The Settlement Date is typically the second Business Day following the Transmittal Date. In certain cases Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units of the same Fund on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis. All questions as to the number of Deposit Securities to be delivered, and the validity, form and eligibility (including time of receipt) for the deposit of any tendered securities, will be determined by the Trust, whose determination shall be final and binding.

The amount of cash equal to the Cash Component must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Settlement Date. An order to create Creation Units outside the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Distributor on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Distributor not later than the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date; and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. However, if the Custodian does not receive both the required Deposit Securities and the Cash Component by 2:00 p.m., Eastern time on the Settlement Date, such order may be canceled. Upon written notice to the Distributor, such canceled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day using a Fund Deposit as newly constituted to reflect the then current NAV of the Fund. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the Settlement Date. Creation Units of the Domestic Fund may be created in advance of receipt by the Trust of all or a portion of the applicable Deposit Securities as described below. In these circumstances, the initial deposit will have a value greater than the NAV of the shares on the date the order is placed in proper form since, in addition to available Deposit Securities, cash must be deposited in an amount equal to the sum of: (i) the Cash Component; plus (ii) at least 110%, which NTI may change from time to time, of the market value of the undelivered Deposit Securities (the "Additional Cash Deposit") with the Fund pending delivery of any missing Deposit Securities.

If an Authorized Participant determines to post an additional cash deposit as collateral for any undelivered Deposit Securities, such Authorized Participant must deposit with the Custodian the appropriate amount of federal funds by 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the date of requested settlement. If the Authorized Participant does not place its purchase order by the closing time or the Custodian does not receive federal funds in the appropriate amount by such time, then the order may be deemed to be rejected and the Authorized Participant shall be liable to the Fund for any resulting losses. An additional amount of cash shall be required to be deposited with the Custodian, pending delivery of the missing Deposit Securities to the extent necessary to maintain the Additional Cash Deposit with the Trust in an amount at least equal to 110%, which NTI may change from time to time, of the daily marked to market value of the missing Deposit Securities. To the extent that missing Deposit Securities are not received by 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the Settlement Date or in the event a marked-to-market payment is not made within one Business Day following notification by the Distributor that such a payment is required, the Trust may use the cash on deposit to purchase the missing Deposit Securities.

Authorized Participants will be liable to the Trust for the costs incurred by the Trust in connection with any such purchases. These costs will be deemed to include the amount by which the actual purchase price of the Deposit Securities exceeds the market value of such Deposit Securities on the transmittal date plus the brokerage and related transaction costs associated with such purchases. The Trust will return any unused portion of the Additional Cash Deposit once all of the missing Deposit Securities have been properly received by the Custodian or purchased by the Trust and deposited into the Trust. In addition, a transaction fee, as listed below, will be charged. The delivery of Creation Units so created generally will occur no later than the Settlement Date.

Placement of Creation Orders For Foreign Funds. For the Foreign Funds, NTI shall cause the sub-custodians of the Fund to maintain an account into which the Authorized Participant shall deliver, on behalf of itself or the party on whose behalf it is acting, the securities included in the designated Portfolio Deposit (or the cash value of all or part of such securities, in the case of a permitted or required cash purchase or “cash in lieu” amount), with any appropriate adjustments as advised by the Trust. Deposit Securities must be delivered to an account maintained at the applicable local sub-custodian(s). Orders to purchase Creation Unit Aggregations must be received by the Distributor from an Authorized Participant on its own or the applicable Listing Exchange on the relevant Business Day. However, when a relevant local market is closed due to local market holidays, the local market settlement process will not commence until the end of the local holiday period. Settlement must occur by 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the contractual settlement date.

The Authorized Participant must also make available on or before the contractual settlement date, by means satisfactory to the Trust, immediately available or same day funds estimated by the Trust to be sufficient to pay the Cash Component next determined after acceptance of the purchase order, together with the applicable purchase transaction fee. Any excess funds will be returned following settlement of the issue of the Creation Unit.

Acceptance of Purchase Order. Subject to the conditions that: (i) an irrevocable purchase order has been submitted by the Authorized Participant (either on its own or another investor’s behalf); and (ii) arrangements satisfactory to the Trust are in place for payment of the Cash Component and any other cash amounts which may be due, the Trust will accept the order, subject to its right (and the right of the Distributor and NTI) to reject any order until acceptance.

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

The Trust reserves the absolute right to reject or revoke acceptance of a purchase order transmitted to it by the Distributor in respect of any Fund if: (a) the purchase order is not in proper form; (b) the purchaser or group of purchasers, upon obtaining the shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding shares of any Fund; (c) the Deposit Securities delivered are not as specified by NTI as described above; (d) acceptance of the Deposit Securities would have certain adverse tax consequences to the Fund; (e) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; (f) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would otherwise, in the discretion of the Trust or NTI, have an adverse effect on the Trust or the rights of beneficial owners; or (g) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Distributor, Transfer Agent, Custodian, a sub-custodian or NTI make it for all practical purposes impossible to process purchase orders. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God; public service or utility problems; fires, floods or extreme weather conditions; power outages resulting in telephone, telecopy or computer failures; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other informational systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, DTC, NSCC, NTI, Transfer Agent, Custodian, a sub-custodian or any other participant in the creation process; and similar extraordinary events. The Distributor shall notify a prospective creator of a Creation Unit and/or Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such creator of its rejection of the purchase order. The Trust, Transfer Agent, Custodian, any sub-custodian and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Portfolio Deposits nor shall either of them incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification. The Trust reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to suspend the offering of Shares of a Fund or to reject purchase orders when, in its judgment, such suspension or rejection would be in the best interests of the Trust or the Fund.

Issuance of a Creation Unit. Except as provided herein, a Creation Unit of shares of a Fund will not be issued until the transfer of good title to the Trust of the Deposit Securities and the payment of the Cash Component, or transfer of cash, as applicable, have been completed. With respect to any non-U.S. Deposit Securities, when the applicable local sub-custodian(s) have confirmed to

the Custodian that the required securities included in the Portfolio Deposit (or the cash value thereof) have been delivered to the account of the applicable local sub-custodian or sub-custodians, the Distributor and the Investment Adviser shall be notified of such delivery, and the Trust will issue, and cause the delivery of the Creation Unit. Creation Units typically are issued on a T+2 basis (one Business Day after trade date).

However, as discussed in Appendix A, each Fund reserves the right to settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than T+2 in order to accommodate foreign market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates or ex-dividend dates (the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security), and in certain other circumstances.

To the extent contemplated by an Authorized Participant's agreement with the Distributor, the Trust will issue Creation Units to such Authorized Participant notwithstanding the fact that the corresponding Portfolio Deposits have not been received in part or in whole, in reliance on the undertaking of the Authorized Participant to deliver the missing Deposit Securities as soon as possible, which undertaking shall be secured by such Authorized Participant's delivery and maintenance of collateral having a value at least equal to 110%, which NTI may change from time to time, of the value of the missing Deposit Securities. Such cash collateral must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern time, on the contractual settlement date. The only collateral that is acceptable to the Trust is cash in U.S. Dollars. The cash collateral posted by the Authorized Participant may be invested at the risk of the Authorized Participant, and income, if any, on invested cash collateral will be paid to that Authorized Participant. Information concerning the Trust's current procedures for collateralization of missing Deposit Securities is available from the Distributor. The Participant Agreement will permit the Trust to buy the missing Deposit Securities at any time and will subject the Authorized Participant to liability for any shortfall between the cost to the Trust of purchasing such securities and the cash collateral.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis. All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the Deposit Securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Trust, and the Trust's determination shall be final and binding.

Cash Purchase Method. When cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified for a Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases thereof. For the cash purchase portion, the investor must pay the cash equivalent of the designated subset of Deposit Securities it would otherwise be required to provide through an in-kind purchase, plus the same Cash Component required to be paid by an in-kind purchaser. In addition, to offset the Trust's brokerage and other transaction costs associated with using the cash to purchase the requisite Deposit Securities, the investor may be required to pay a fixed purchase transaction fee, plus an additional variable charge for cash purchases, which is expressed as a percentage of the value of the Deposit Securities. The transaction fees for in-kind and cash purchases of Creation Units are described below.

Purchase Transaction Fee. Purchasers of Creation Units are responsible for the costs of transferring the securities constituting the Deposit Securities to the account of the Trust. Investors who use the services of a broker, or other such intermediary, may be charged a fee for such services. A fixed purchase transaction fee payable to the Trust is imposed to compensate the Trust for the transfer and other transaction costs of a Fund associated with the issuance of Creation Units. The standard purchase transaction fee will be the same regardless of the number of Creation Units purchased by the purchaser on the same day. The Authorized Participant may also be required to pay an additional variable charge to compensate the Fund for certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, market impact and other costs and expenses related to the execution of trades resulting from cash purchases of Creation Units (up to the maximum amount shown below). Where the Trust permits an in-kind purchaser to substitute cash in lieu of depositing a portion of the Deposit Securities, the purchaser also will be assessed an additional variable transaction charge (up to the maximum amount shown below). To the extent the Fund cannot recoup the amount of transaction costs incurred in connection with a purchase, those transaction costs will be borne by the Fund's shareholders and negatively affect the Fund's performance. The purchase transaction fees for in-kind purchases and cash purchases (when available) are listed in the table below. This table is subject to revision from time to time.

| NAME OF FUND | Fee for In-Kind and Cash Purchases | Maximum Additional Variable Charge for Cash Purchase* |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | \$ 350 | 3.00% |
| FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | \$2,250 | 3.00% |
| FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | \$4,000 | 3.00% |

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

Redemption of Creation Units. Shares of a Fund may be redeemed only in Creation Units at their NAV next determined after receipt of a redemption request in proper form by the Fund through the Distributor and only on a Business Day. The Trust will not redeem shares in amounts less than Creation Units. Beneficial owners also may sell shares in the secondary market, but must accumulate enough Fund shares to constitute a Creation Unit in order to have such shares redeemed by the Trust. There can be no assurance, however, that there will be sufficient liquidity in the public trading market at any time to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. Investors should expect to incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a sufficient number of shares to constitute a redeemable Creation Unit.

With respect to each Fund, NTI makes available through the NSCC prior to the opening of business on the Listing Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern time) on each Business Day, the portfolio securities that will be applicable (subject to possible amendment or correction) to redemption requests received in proper form (as defined below) on that day (“Fund Securities”). Fund Securities received on redemption may not be identical to Deposit Securities that are applicable to creations of Creation Units. Unless cash redemptions are available or specified for a Fund, the redemption proceeds for a Creation Unit generally consist of Fund Securities as announced by NTI through the NSCC on the Business Day of the request for redemption, plus cash in an amount equal to the difference between the NAV of the shares being redeemed, as next determined after a receipt of a request in proper form, and the value of the Fund Securities, less the redemption transaction fee described below (“Cash Redemption Amount”). The redemption transaction fee described below is deducted from such redemption proceeds. In the event that the Fund Securities have a value greater than the NAV of the Fund shares, a compensating cash payment equal to such difference is required to be made by or through an Authorized Participant by the redeeming shareholder.

On a given Business Day, the Trust may require all Authorized Participants redeeming Creation Units on that day to receive an amount of cash (that is a “cash in lieu” amount) to replace any Fund Security that may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process (discussed above) or, in the case of a non-U.S. Fund Security, the security or instrument is not eligible for trading due to local trading restrictions, local restrictions on securities transfers or other similar circumstances. The Trust also reserves the right to permit a “cash in lieu” to replace any Fund Security which may not be eligible for trading by an Authorized Participant or the investor on whose behalf the Authorized Participant is acting or if a shareholder would be subject to unfavorable income tax treatment if the shareholder received redemption proceeds in-kind. On a given Business Day, the Trust may announce before the open of trading that all redemptions of Creation Units of a Fund on that day will be made entirely in cash or, upon receiving a redemption order for Creation Units of the Fund from an Authorized Participant, the Trust may determine to require that redemption to be made entirely in cash.

When cash redemptions of Creation Units are specified for a Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind redemptions thereof. The investor will receive the cash equivalent of the designated Fund Securities it would otherwise have received through an in-kind redemption, plus the same Cash Redemption Amount required to be paid to an in-kind redeemer. In addition, to offset the Trust’s brokerage and other transaction costs associated with a cash redemption, the investor will be required to pay a fixed redemption transaction fee, plus an additional variable charge for cash redemptions, which is expressed as a percentage of the value per Creation Unit. The transaction fees for in-kind and cash redemptions of Creation Units are described below.

Investors will bear the costs of transferring the Fund Securities from the Trust to their account on their order. Investors who use the services of a broker or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services. A fixed redemption transaction fee payable to the Trust also is imposed to offset transfer and other transaction costs that may be incurred by the relevant Fund. The

standard redemption transaction fee will be the same regardless of the number of Creation Units redeemed by an investor on the same day. The Authorized Participant may also be required to pay a variable transaction fee to compensate the relevant Fund for certain brokerage, tax, foreign exchange, execution, market impact and other costs and expenses related to the execution of trades resulting from cash redemptions of Creation Units (up to the maximum amount shown below). Where the Trust requires or permits an in-kind redeemer to substitute cash in lieu of receiving a portion of the Deposit Securities, the redeemer also will be assessed an additional variable transaction charge (up to the maximum amount shown below). To the extent the Fund cannot recoup the amount of transaction costs incurred in connection with a redemption, those transaction costs will be borne by the Fund's remaining shareholders and negatively affect the Fund's performance. The redemption transaction fee for redemptions in-kind and for cash and the additional variable charge for cash redemptions (when cash redemptions are available or specified) are listed in the table below.

| NAME OF FUND | Fee for In-Kind and Cash Redemptions | Maximum Additional Variable Charge for Cash Redemption* |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| FlexShares® US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | \$ 350 | 2.00% |
| FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | \$2,250 | 2.00% |
| FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund | \$4,000 | 2.00% |

* As a percentage of the net asset value per Creation Unit, inclusive of the standard transaction fee.

Placement of Redemption Orders For Domestic Funds Using The Clearing Process. Orders to redeem Creation Units of the Domestic Fund through the Clearing Process must be delivered through a Participating Party that has executed the Participant Agreement. An order to redeem Creation Units using the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Trust on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date; and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Such order will be effected based on the NAV of the Fund as next determined. An order to redeem Creation Units using the Clearing Process made in proper form but received by the Trust after the Closing Time, will be deemed received on the next Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date and will be effected at the NAV next determined on such Business Day. The requisite Fund Securities and the Cash Redemption Amount will be transferred by the second NSCC Business Day following the date on which such request for redemption is deemed received.

Placement of Redemption Orders For Domestic Funds Outside The Clearing Process. Orders to redeem Creation Units of the Domestic Fund outside the Clearing Process must be delivered through a DTC Participant that has executed the Participant Agreement. A DTC Participant who wishes to place an order for redemption of Creation Units to be effected outside the Clearing Process does not need to be a Participating Party, but such orders must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that redemption of Creation Units will instead be effected through transfer of shares directly through DTC. An order in good form to redeem Creation Units outside the Clearing Process is deemed received by the Trust on the Transmittal Date if: (i) such order is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Closing Time on such Transmittal Date; (ii) such order is accompanied or followed by the requisite number of shares of the Fund specified in such order, which delivery must be made through DTC to the Transfer Agent no later than 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, on the contracted settlement date; and (iii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. After the Trust has deemed an order for redemption outside the Clearing Process received, the Trust will initiate procedures to transfer the requisite Fund Securities which are generally expected to be delivered within one Business Day and the Cash Redemption Amount to the Authorized Participant on behalf of the redeeming Beneficial Owner by the Settlement Date. In certain cases Authorized Participants will redeem and create Creation Units of the same Fund on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

Placement of Redemption Orders For Foreign Funds. Orders to redeem Creation Units must be delivered through an Authorized Participant. An order in good form to redeem Creation Units is deemed received by the Trust on the Transmittal Date if: (i) a request in satisfactory form to the Trust is received by the Transfer Agent not later than the Closing Time on the Transmittal Date; (ii) such order is accompanied or followed by the requisite number of shares of the Fund specified in such order, which delivery must be made through DTC to the Transfer Agent no later than 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, on the next Business Day following the Transmittal Date; and (iii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Deliveries of Fund Securities to

redeeming investors generally will be made within one Business Day. Due to the schedule of holidays in certain countries, however, the delivery of in-kind redemption proceeds for a Foreign Fund may take longer than one Business Day after the Transmittal Date. In such cases, the local market settlement procedures will not commence until the end of local holiday periods. See Appendix A for a list of local holidays in the non-U.S. countries relevant to the Foreign Funds.

Investors should be aware that their particular broker may not have executed a Participant Agreement, and that, therefore, requests to redeem Creation Units may have to be placed by the investor's broker through an Authorized Participant who has executed a Participant Agreement. At any given time there will be only a limited number of broker-dealers that have executed an Authorized Participant Agreement. Investors making a redemption request should be aware that such request must be in the form specified by such Authorized Participant. Investors making a request to redeem Creation Units should allow sufficient time to permit proper submission of the request by an Authorized Participant and transfer of the shares to the Trust's Transfer Agent; such investors should allow for the additional time that may be required to effect redemptions through their banks, brokers or other financial intermediaries if such intermediaries are not Authorized Participants.

In connection with taking delivery of shares of non-U.S. Fund Securities upon redemption of shares of the Fund, a redeeming Beneficial Owner or Authorized Participant acting on behalf of such Beneficial Owner must maintain appropriate security arrangements with a qualified broker-dealer, bank or other custody providers in each jurisdiction in which any of the portfolio securities are customarily traded, to which account such portfolio securities will be delivered.

To the extent permitted by an Authorized Participant's agreement with the Distributor, in the event the Authorized Participant that has submitted a Redemption Order in proper form is unable to transfer the Fund Shares to the Custodian, at or prior to 10:00 a.m., Eastern time, on the next Business Day following the Transmittal Date, the Fund at its discretion may, in reliance on the undertaking by the Participant to deliver the missing Fund Shares as soon as possible, allow the Participant to provide and maintain collateral to secure the Participant's obligation to deliver Fund Shares. The collateral provided must be in US dollars, with an initial value at least equal to 110% of the value of the entire Redemption Order (marked-to-market daily). The collateral percentage required may change from time to time. Such cash collateral must be requested no later than 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, and delivered no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the Listing Exchange business day after the date of submission of such redemption request. The Trust's current procedures require, among other things, that any cash collateral shall be in the form of U.S. dollars in immediately available funds and shall be held by the Trust's Custodian and marked to market daily, and that the fees of the Custodian and any sub-custodians in respect of the delivery, maintenance and redelivery of the cash collateral shall be payable by the Authorized Participant. The cash collateral posted by the Authorized Participant may be invested at the risk of the Authorized Participant, and income, if any, on invested cash collateral will be paid to that Authorized Participant. The Participant Agreement may permit the Trust to purchase the missing shares or acquire the portfolio securities and the Cash Component underlying such shares at any time and subject the Authorized Participant to liability for any shortfall between the cost to the Trust of purchasing such shares, portfolio securities or Cash Component and the cash collateral.

The calculation of the value of the Fund Securities and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered upon redemption will be made by the Trust according to the procedures set forth under "Determination of Net Asset Value" in the Funds' Prospectus and "Net Asset Value" below computed on the Business Day on which a redemption order is deemed received in good form by the Trust. Therefore, if a redemption order in proper form is submitted to the Transfer Agent by a DTC Participant not later than Closing Time on the Transmittal Date, and the requisite number of shares of the relevant Fund are delivered to Transfer Agent prior to the DTC Cut-Off-Time, then the value of the Fund Securities and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered will be determined by Trust on such Transmittal Date. If, however, a redemption order is submitted to the Transfer Agent by a DTC Participant not later than the Closing Time on the Transmittal Date but either: (i) the requisite number of shares of the relevant Fund are not delivered by the DTC Cut-Off-Time, as described above, on such Transmittal Date; or (ii) the redemption order is not submitted in proper form, then the redemption order will not be deemed received as of the Transmittal Date. In such case, the value of the Fund Securities and the Cash Redemption Amount to be delivered will be computed on the Business Day that such order is deemed received by the Trust, (i.e., the Business Day on which the shares of the relevant Fund are delivered through DTC to the Transfer Agent by the DTC Cut-Off-Time) on such Business Day pursuant to a properly submitted redemption order.

If it is not possible to effect deliveries of the portfolio securities, the Trust may in its discretion exercise its option to redeem such shares in cash, and the redeeming Beneficial Owner will be required to receive its redemption proceeds in cash. In addition, an

investor may request a redemption in cash that the Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit. In either case, the investor will receive a cash payment equal to the net asset value of its shares based on the NAV of shares of the relevant Fund next determined after the redemption request is received in proper form (minus a redemption transaction fee and additional variable charge for cash redemptions specified above, to offset the Trust's brokerage and other transaction costs associated with the disposition of portfolio securities of the Fund).

Redemptions of shares for Fund Securities will be subject to compliance with applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws and each Fund (whether or not it otherwise permits cash redemptions) reserves the right to redeem Creation Units for cash to the extent that the Fund could not lawfully deliver specific Fund Securities upon redemptions or could not do so without first registering the Fund Securities under such laws. An Authorized Participant or an investor for which it is acting subject to a legal restriction with respect to particular securities included in the Fund Securities applicable to the redemption of a Creation Unit may be paid an equivalent amount of cash. The Authorized Participant may request the redeeming Beneficial Owner of the shares to complete an order form or to enter into agreements with respect to such matters as compensating cash payment.

Because the portfolio securities of a Foreign Fund may trade on the relevant exchange(s) on days that the Listing Exchange is closed or are otherwise not Business Days for the Fund, shareholders may not be able to redeem their shares of the Fund, or to purchase or sell shares of the Fund on the Listing Exchange, on days when the NAV of the Fund could be significantly affected by events in the relevant foreign markets.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed with respect to any Fund: (1) for any period during which the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (2) for any period during which trading on the New York Stock Exchange is suspended or restricted; (3) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the shares of the Fund's portfolio securities or determination of its NAV is not reasonably practicable; or (4) in such other circumstance as is permitted by the SEC.

TAXES

The following summarizes certain additional federal income tax considerations generally affecting the Funds and their shareholders that are not described in the Prospectus. No attempt is made to present a detailed explanation of the tax treatment of the Funds or their shareholders, and the discussions here and in the Prospectus are not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Potential investors should consult their tax advisers with specific reference to their own tax situations.

The discussions of the federal income tax consequences in the Prospectus and this SAI are based on the Code and the regulations issued under it, and court decisions and administrative interpretations, as in effect on the date of this SAI. Future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions may significantly alter the statements included herein, and any such changes or decisions may be retroactive.

FEDERAL — GENERAL INFORMATION

Each Fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of Subtitle A, Chapter 1, of the Code. As a regulated investment company, each Fund generally will be exempt from federal income tax on its net investment income and realized capital gains that it distributes to shareholders. To qualify for treatment as a regulated investment company, it must meet three important tests each year.

First, each Fund must derive with respect to each taxable year at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, certain payments with respect to securities loans, gains from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities or foreign currencies, other income derived with respect to the Fund's business of investing in stock, securities or currencies, or net income derived from interests in qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Second, generally, at the close of each quarter of the Fund's taxable year, at least 50% of the value of each 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) the Fund has not invested more than 5% of the value of its total assets in securities of the issuer; and

(b) the Fund does not hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of the issuer, and no more than 25% of the value of each Fund's total assets may be invested in the securities of: (1) any one issuer (other than U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies); (2) two or more issuers that the Fund controls and which are engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses; or (3) one or more qualified publicly traded partnerships.

Third, each Fund must distribute an amount equal to at least the sum of 90% of its investment company taxable income (net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss), before taking into account any deduction for dividends paid, and 90% of its tax-exempt income, if any, for the year.

Each Fund intends to comply with these requirements. If a Fund were to fail to make sufficient distributions, it could be liable for corporate income tax and for excise tax in respect of the shortfall or, if the shortfall is large enough, the Fund could be disqualified as a regulated investment company. If for any taxable year a Fund were not to qualify as a regulated investment company, all its taxable income would be subject to tax at regular corporate rates without any deduction for distributions to shareholders. In that event, taxable shareholders would recognize dividend income on distributions (including distributions attributable to tax-exempt income) to the extent of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits, and corporate shareholders could be eligible for the dividends-received deduction.

The Code imposes a nondeductible 4% excise tax on regulated investment companies that fail to currently distribute an amount equal to specified percentages of their ordinary taxable income and capital gain net income (excess of capital gains over capital losses) by the end of each calendar year. Each Fund intends to make sufficient distributions or deemed distributions of its ordinary taxable income and capital gain net income each calendar year to avoid liability for this excise tax.

Each Fund intends to distribute annually to their shareholders substantially all of their investment company taxable income, and any net realized long-term capital gains in excess of net realized short-term capital losses (including any capital loss carryovers). However, if a Fund retains for investment an amount equal to all or a portion of its net long-term capital gains in excess of its net short-term capital losses (including any capital loss carryovers), it will be subject to a corporate tax (currently at a maximum rate of 21%) on the amount retained. In that event, such Fund may designate such retained amounts as undistributed capital gains in a notice to its shareholders who, in such case, (a) will be required to include in income for U.S. federal income tax purposes, as long-term capital gains, their proportionate shares of the undistributed amount; (b) will be entitled to credit their proportionate shares of the tax paid by such Fund on the undistributed amount against their U.S. federal income tax liabilities, if any, and to claim refunds to the extent their credits exceed their liabilities, if any; and (c) will be entitled to increase their tax basis, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in their shares by an amount equal to the amount of undistributed capital gains included in the shareholder's income reduced by their proportionate share of the taxes paid. Organizations or persons not subject to U.S. federal income tax on such capital gains will be entitled to a refund of their pro rata share of such taxes paid by such Fund upon filing appropriate returns or claims for refund with the Internal Revenue Service.

Distributions of net realized long-term capital gains, if any, that a Fund designates as capital gains dividends are taxable as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long a shareholder has held shares of such Fund. All other dividends of a Fund (including dividends from short-term capital gains) from its current and accumulated earnings and profits ("regular dividends") are generally subject to tax as ordinary income.

If an individual trust or estate receives a qualified dividend qualifying for the long-term capital gains rates and such dividend constitutes an "extraordinary dividend," and the individual subsequently recognizes a loss on the sale or exchange of stock in respect of which the extraordinary dividend was paid, then the loss will be long-term capital loss to the extent of such extraordinary dividend. An "extraordinary dividend" on common stock for this purpose is generally a dividend: (i) in an amount greater than or equal to 10% of the taxpayer's tax basis (or trading value) in a share of stock, aggregating dividends with ex-dividend dates within an 85-day period; or (ii) in an amount greater than 20% of the taxpayer's tax basis (or trading value) in a share of stock, aggregating dividends with ex-dividend dates within a 365-day period.

Distributions in excess of a Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits will, as to each shareholder, be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of a shareholder's basis in his shares of such Fund, and as a capital gain thereafter (if the shareholder holds his shares of such Fund as capital assets). Shareholders receiving dividends or distributions in the form of additional

shares should be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as receiving a distribution in an amount equal to the amount of money that the shareholders receiving cash dividends or distributions will receive, and should have a cost basis in the shares received equal to such amount. Dividends paid by a Fund that are attributable to dividends received by a Fund from domestic corporations may qualify for the federal dividends-received deduction for corporations.

Investors considering buying shares just prior to a dividend or capital gain distribution should be aware that, although the price of shares just purchased at that time may reflect the amount of the forthcoming distribution, such dividend or distribution may nevertheless be taxable to them. If a Fund is the holder of record of any stock on the record date for any dividends payable with respect to such stock, such dividends will be included in such Fund's gross income not as of the date received but as of the later of: (a) the date such stock became ex-dividend with respect to such dividends (that is, the date on which a buyer of the stock would not be entitled to receive the declared, but unpaid, dividends); or (b) the date such Fund acquired such stock. Accordingly, in order to satisfy its income distribution requirements, a Fund may be required to pay dividends based on anticipated earnings, and shareholders may receive dividends in an earlier year than would otherwise be the case.

BACK-UP WITHHOLDING

In certain cases, if a shareholder: (1) has failed to provide a correct taxpayer identification number; (2) is subject to backup withholding by the Internal Revenue Service; (3) has failed to certify to a Fund that such shareholder is not subject to backup withholding; or (4) has not certified that such shareholder is a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien), 24% of the dividends and distributions payable to such shareholder will be withheld and remitted to the U.S. Treasury.

SECTIONS 351 AND 362

The Trust on behalf of each Fund has the right to reject an order for a purchase of shares of a Fund if the purchaser (or group of purchasers) would, upon obtaining the shares so ordered, own 80% or more of the outstanding shares of a given Fund and if, pursuant to Sections 351 and 362 of the Code, that Fund would have a basis in the securities different from the market value of such securities on the date of deposit. If a Fund's basis in such securities on the date of deposit was less than market value on such date, such Fund, upon disposition of the securities, would recognize more taxable gain or less taxable loss than if its basis in the securities had been equal to market value. It is not anticipated that the Trust will exercise the right of rejection except in a case where the Trust determines that accepting the order could result in material adverse tax consequences to a Fund or its shareholders. The Trust also has the right to require information necessary to determine beneficial share ownership for purposes of the 80% determination.

QUALIFIED DIVIDEND INCOME

Distributions by each Fund of investment company taxable income (excluding any short-term capital gains) whether received in cash or shares will be taxable either as ordinary income or as qualified dividend income, eligible for the reduced maximum rate to individuals of 20% to the extent each Fund receives qualified dividend income on the securities it holds and such Fund designates the distribution as qualified dividend income. Qualified dividend income is, in general, dividend income from taxable domestic corporations and certain foreign corporations (e.g., foreign corporations incorporated in a possession of the United States or in certain countries with a comprehensive tax treaty with the United States, or the stock of which is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States). A dividend will not be treated as qualified dividend income to the extent that: (i) the shareholder has not held the shares on which the dividend was paid for more than 60 days during the 121-day period that begins on the date that is 60 days before the date on which the shares become ex dividend with respect to such dividend (and each Fund also satisfies those holding period requirements with respect to the securities it holds that paid the dividends distributed to the shareholder); (ii) the shareholder is under an obligation (whether pursuant to a short sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to substantially similar or related property; or (iii) the shareholder elects to treat such dividend as investment income under section 163(d)(4)(B) of the Code. Distributions by each Fund of its net short-term capital gains will be taxable as ordinary income. Capital gain distributions consisting of each Fund's net capital gains will be taxable as long-term capital gains except to the extent of any "unrecaptured section 1250 gains" which are taxed at a maximum rate of 25%.

CORPORATE DIVIDENDS RECEIVED DEDUCTION

A Fund's dividends that are paid to its corporate shareholders and are attributable to qualifying dividends it received from U.S. domestic corporations may be eligible, in the hands of such shareholders, for the corporate dividends received deduction, subject to certain holding period requirements and debt financing limitations.

NET CAPITAL LOSS CARRYFORWARDS

On December 22, 2010, the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 (the "Act") was enacted, which changed various technical rules governing the tax treatment of regulated investment companies. The changes are generally effective for taxable years beginning after the date of enactment. Under the Act, a Fund is permitted to carry forward capital losses incurred in taxable years beginning after the date of enactment for an unlimited period. The Funds have no pre-enactment loss carry forwards since the Funds commenced operations after the effective date of the Act. Post-enactment capital loss carry forwards will retain their character as either short-term or long-term capital losses rather than being considered all short-term as permitted under previous law.

EXCESS INCLUSION INCOME

Certain types of income received by a Fund from real estate investment Trusts ("REITs"), real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs"), taxable mortgage pools or other investments may cause a Fund to designate some or all of its distributions as "excess inclusion income." To Fund shareholders such excess inclusion income may: (1) constitute taxable income, as "unrelated business taxable income" ("UBTI") for those shareholders who would otherwise be tax-exempt such as individual retirement accounts, 401(k) accounts, Keogh plans, pension plans and certain charitable entities; (2) as UBTI cause a charitable remainder Trust to be subject to a 100% excise tax on its UBTI; (3) not be offset against net operating losses for tax purposes; (4) not be eligible for reduced U.S. withholding for non-U.S. shareholders even from tax treaty countries; and (5) cause a Fund to be subject to tax if certain "disqualified organizations" as defined by the Code are Fund shareholders.

TAXATION OF INCOME FROM CERTAIN FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, REITS AND PFICS

The tax principles applicable to transactions in financial instruments and futures contracts and options that may be engaged in by a Fund including the effect of fluctuations in the value of foreign currencies, and investments in REITS and passive foreign investment companies ("PFICs"), are complex and, in some cases, uncertain. Such transactions and investments may cause a Fund to recognize taxable income prior to the receipt of cash, thereby requiring such Fund to liquidate other positions, or to borrow money, so as to make sufficient distributions to shareholders to avoid corporate-level tax. Moreover, some or all of the taxable income recognized may be ordinary income or short-term capital gain, so that the distributions may be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income.

In addition, in the case of any shares of a PFIC in which a Fund invests, such Fund may be liable for corporate-level tax on any ultimate gain or distributions on the shares if such Fund fails to make an election to recognize income annually during the period of its ownership of the shares.

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "2017 Tax Act"), "qualified REIT dividends" (i.e., ordinary REIT dividends other than capital gain dividends and portions of REIT dividends designated as qualified dividend income) are eligible for a 20% deduction by individuals and other non-corporate taxpayers. On January 18, 2019, the Treasury Department released proposed regulations, on which taxpayers may rely pending the issuance of final regulations, that allows a regulated investment company (such as a Fund) to pay and report "section 199A dividends" to its shareholders with respect to the regulated investment company's qualified REIT dividends. Under the proposed regulations, the amount of section 199A dividends that a Fund may pay and report to its shareholders is limited to the excess of the "qualified REIT dividends" that the Fund receives from REITs for a taxable year over the Fund's expenses allocable to such dividends. A shareholder may treat section 199A dividends received with respect to a share of a Fund as "qualified REIT dividends" if the shareholder has held the share for more than 45 days during the 91-day period beginning 45 days before the date on which the share becomes ex-dividend, but only to the extent that the shareholder is not under an obligation (under a short-sale or otherwise) to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. A shareholder may include 20% of the shareholder's "qualified REIT dividends" in the computation of the shareholder's "combined qualified business income amount" under Code Section 199A. Code Section 199A allows a taxpayer (other than a corporation) a deduction for a taxable year equal to the lesser of (A) the taxpayer's "combined qualified business income amount" or (B) 20% of the excess of the taxpayer's taxable income over the taxpayer's net capital gain for the year.

SALES OF SHARES

Upon the sale or exchange of his shares, a shareholder will realize a taxable gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount realized and his basis in his shares. A redemption of shares by a Fund will be treated as a sale for this purpose. Except as provided below, such gain or loss will be treated as capital gain or loss if the shares are capital assets in the shareholder's hands, and will be long-term capital gain or loss if the shares are held for more than one year and short-term capital gain or loss if the shares are held for one year or less. Any loss realized on a sale or exchange will be disallowed to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced, including replacement through the reinvesting of dividends and capital gains distributions in a Fund, within a 61-day period beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the disposition of the shares. In such a case, the basis of the shares acquired will be increased to reflect the disallowed loss. Any loss realized by a shareholder on the sale of a Fund share held by the shareholder for six months or less will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any distributions or deemed distributions of long-term capital gains received by the shareholder with respect to such share.

OTHER TAXES

Dividends, distributions and redemption proceeds may also be subject to additional state, local and foreign taxes depending on each shareholder's particular situation.

TAXATION OF NON-U.S. SHAREHOLDERS

Dividends paid by a Fund to non-U.S. shareholders are generally subject to withholding tax at a 30% rate or a reduced rate specified by an applicable income tax treaty to the extent derived from investment income and short-term capital gains. In order to obtain a reduced rate of withholding, a non-U.S. shareholder will be required to provide an IRS Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable, certifying its entitlement to benefits under a treaty. Certain interest related dividends and short term capital gain dividends as designated by the Fund are not subject to this 30% withholding tax if the shareholder provides a properly completed Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, applicable. The withholding tax does not apply to regular dividends paid to a non-U.S. shareholder who provides a Form W-8ECL, certifying that the dividends are effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's conduct of a trade or business within the United States. Instead, the effectively connected dividends will be subject to regular U.S. income tax as if the non-U.S. shareholder were a U.S. shareholder. A non-U.S. corporation receiving effectively connected dividends may also be subject to additional "branch profits tax" imposed at a rate of 30% (or lower treaty rate). A non-U.S. shareholder who fails to provide an IRS Form W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E or other applicable form may be subject to backup withholding at the appropriate rate.

In general, United States federal withholding tax will not apply to any gain or income realized by a non-U.S. shareholder in respect of any distributions of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses, exempt-interest dividends, or upon the sale or other disposition of shares of a Fund.

Certain dividends paid to a non-U.S. shareholder that fails to make certain required certifications, or that is a "foreign financial institution" as defined in Section 1471 of the Code and that does not meet the requirements imposed on foreign financial institutions by Section 1471, are generally subject to a U.S. withholding tax at a 30% rate. The extent, if any, to which such withholding tax may be reduced or eliminated by an applicable tax treaty is unclear. A non-U.S. shareholder may be exempt from the withholding described in this paragraph under an intergovernmental agreement between the U.S. and a foreign government, provided that the shareholder and the applicable foreign government comply with the terms of such agreement.

REPORTING

If a shareholder recognizes a loss with respect to a Fund's shares of \$2 million or more for an individual shareholder or \$10 million or more for a corporate shareholder, the shareholder may be required to file with the Internal Revenue Service a disclosure statement on Form 8886. Direct shareholders of portfolio securities are in many cases exempted from this reporting requirement, but under current guidance, shareholders of a regulated investment company are not exempted. 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. Certain tax-exempt entities and their managers may be subject to excise tax if they are parties to certain reportable transactions.

The foregoing discussion is a summary only and is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning. Purchasers of shares should consult their own tax advisers as to the tax consequences of investing in such shares, including under state, local and foreign tax laws. Finally, the foregoing discussion is based on applicable provisions of the Code, regulations, judicial authority and administrative interpretations in effect on the date of this SAI. Changes in applicable authority could materially affect the conclusions discussed above, and such changes often occur.

NET ASSET VALUE

Net asset value is determined as indicated under “Determination of Net Asset Value” in the Funds’ Prospectus.

The time at which transactions and shares are priced and the time by which orders must be received may be changed in case of an emergency or if regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange is stopped at a time other than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The Trust reserves the right to advance the time by which purchase and redemption orders must be received for same business day credit as otherwise permitted by the SEC. In addition, each Fund may compute its NAV as of any time permitted pursuant to any exemption, order or statement of the SEC or its staff. The Trust reserves the right to reprocess purchase and redemption transactions that were processed at a NAV other than the Fund’s official closing NAV. For instance, if a pricing error is discovered that impacts a Fund’s NAV, the corrected NAV would be the official closing NAV and the erroneous NAV would be a NAV other than the Fund’s official closing NAV. Those transactions that were processed using the erroneous NAV may then be reprocessed using the official closing NAV.

DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL POLICIES

Dividends from net investment income, including any net foreign currency gains, are generally declared and paid at least quarterly and any net realized securities gains, if any, generally are distributed at least annually. In order to improve tracking error or comply with the distribution requirements of the Code, dividends may be declared and paid more frequently for certain Funds. Dividends and securities gains distributions are distributed in U.S. dollars and cannot be automatically reinvested in additional shares of the Funds. The Trust reserves the right to declare special distributions if, in its reasonable discretion, such action is necessary or advisable to preserve the status of the Fund as a RIC or to avoid imposition of income or excise taxes on undistributed income.

Dividends and other distributions on Fund Shares are distributed, as described below, on a pro rata basis to Beneficial Owners of such Shares. Dividend payments are made through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners then of record with proceeds received from the Fund.

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT SERVICE

No dividend reinvestment service is provided by the Trust. Broker-dealers may make available the DTC book-entry Dividend Reinvestment Service for use by Beneficial Owners of Funds for reinvestment of their dividend distributions. Beneficial Owners should contact their broker to determine the availability and costs of the service and the details of participation therein. Brokers may require Beneficial Owners to adhere to specific procedures and timetables. If this service is available and used, dividend distributions of both income and realized gains will be automatically reinvested in additional whole shares of the same Fund purchased in the secondary market.

OTHER INFORMATION

COUNSEL

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, with offices at One Logan Square, Ste. 2000, Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996, is counsel to the Trust.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Deloitte & Touche LLP, located at 111 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606-4301, serves as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Trust, audits the Funds' financial statements and may perform other services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Prospectus and this SAI do not contain all the information included in the Registration Statement filed with the SEC under the Securities Act with respect to the securities offered by the Trust's Prospectus. Certain portions of the Registration Statement have been omitted from the Prospectus and this SAI pursuant to the rules and regulations of the SEC. The Registration Statement, including the exhibits filed therewith, may be examined at the office of the SEC in Washington, D.C.

Statements contained in the Prospectus or in this SAI as to the contents of any contract or other documents referred to are not necessarily complete, and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which the Prospectus and this SAI form a part, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

APPENDIX A

Each Fund generally intends to effect deliveries of Creation Units and portfolio securities on a basis of “T” plus two business days. Each Fund may effect deliveries of Creation Units and portfolio securities on a basis other than T plus two business days in order to accommodate local holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates, or under certain other circumstances. The ability of the Trust to effect in-kind creations and redemptions within two business days, as applicable of receipt of an order in good form is subject, among other things, to the condition that, within the time period from the date of the order to the date of delivery of the securities, there are no days that are holidays in the applicable foreign market. For every occurrence of one or more intervening holidays in the applicable foreign market that are not holidays observed in the U.S. equity market, the redemption settlement cycle may be extended by the number of such intervening holidays. In addition to holidays, other unforeseeable closings in a foreign market due to emergencies may also prevent the Trust from delivering securities within the normal settlement period.

The securities delivery cycles currently practicable for transferring portfolio securities to redeeming investors, coupled with foreign market holiday schedules, may require a delivery process longer than seven calendar days for the FlexShares® Developed Markets ex-US Quality Low Volatility Index Fund and FlexShares® Emerging Markets Quality Low Volatility Index Fund in certain circumstances. The holidays applicable to these Funds through December 31, 2020 are listed below, as are instances where more than seven days may be needed to deliver redemption proceeds. Although certain holidays may occur on different dates in subsequent years, the number of days required to deliver redemption proceeds in any given year is not expected to exceed the maximum number of days listed below. The proclamation of new holidays, the treatment by market participants of certain days as “informal holidays” (e.g., days on which no or limited securities transactions occur, as a result of substantially shortened trading hours), the elimination of existing holidays, or changes in local securities delivery practices, could affect the information set forth herein at some time in the future.

Regular Holidays through December 31, 2019.

Australia

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 25, 2019 | October 7, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| January 28, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | November 5, 2019 | |
| March 11, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | August 5, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Austria

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 20, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| May 1, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Belgium

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

Brazil

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 24, 2019 |
| January 25, 2019 | June 20, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| March 4, 2019 | July 9, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| March 5, 2019 | November 15, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | November 20, 2019 | |

Britain

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 6, 2019 | June 17, 2019 | December 24, 2019 |
| January 2, 2019 | May 9, 2019 | June 21, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| January 21, 2019 | May 17, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| January 28, 2019 | May 20, 2019 | July 4, 2019 | December 27, 2019 |
| February 18, 2019 | May 27, 2019 | August 26, 2019 | December 30, 2019 |
| March 6, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | September 2, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 18, 2019 | May 31, 2019 | October 14, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | January 2, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | November 28, 2019 | |
| May 1, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 6, 2019 | |

Canada

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | June 24, 2019 | October 14, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| February 18, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | |
| April 19, 2019 | August 5, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| May 20, 2019 | September 2, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Chilé

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | July 16, 2019 | September 20, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | October 31, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| May 1, 2019 | September 18, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | |
| May 21, 2019 | September 19, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

China

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 5, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | October 7, 2019 |
| February 4, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | September 13, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| February 5, 2019 | April 22, 2019 | October 1, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| February 6, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 2, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| February 7, 2019 | May 13, 2019 | October 3, 2019 | |
| February 8, 2019 | June 7, 2019 | October 4, 2019 | |

Colombia

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | August 19, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| January 7, 2019 | June 3, 2019 | October 14, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| March 25, 2019 | June 24, 2019 | November 4, 2019 | |
| April 18, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | |
| April 19, 2019 | August 7, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

The Czech Republic

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 28, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 8, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | July 5, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

Denmark

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 17, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 18, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 31, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Egypt

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 7, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | July 23, 2019 | October 6, 2019 |
| April 25, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | August 11, 2019 | |
| April 28, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | |
| April 29, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | September 1, 2019 | |

The Egyptian market is closed every Friday.

Finland

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 6, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 21, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

France

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 6, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| March 28, 2019 | May 8, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 8, 2019 | May 20, 2019 | August 26, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 27, 2019 | October 31, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | |
| May 1, 2019 | May 31, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | |

Germany

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 3, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| March 4, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 20, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

Greece

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 22, 2019 | June 17, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| March 4, 2019 | April 26, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| March 11, 2019 | April 29, 2019 | October 28, 2019 |
| March 25, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 24, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |

Hong Kong

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 5, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | October 7, 2019 |
| February 4, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | September 13, 2019 | December 24, 2019 |
| February 5, 2019 | April 22, 2019 | October 1, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| February 6, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 2, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| February 7, 2019 | May 13, 2019 | October 3, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| February 8, 2019 | June 7, 2019 | October 4, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

Hungary

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 23, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| March 15, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | December 27, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | August 19, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | August 20, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

India

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 26, 2019 | April 13, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | October 7, 2019 |
| February 19, 2019 | April 17, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | October 29, 2019 |
| March 4, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | August 19, 2019 | October 30, 2019 |
| March 21, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | September 2, 2019 | November 9, 2019 |
| April 1, 2019 | May 18, 2019 | September 10, 2019 | November 12, 2019 |
| April 6, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | October 2, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |

Indonesia

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| February 5, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| March 7, 2019 | May 20, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | |
| April 3, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

Ireland

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 6, 2019 | August 5, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| March 18, 2019 | May 27, 2019 | August 26, 2019 | December 27, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 3, 2019 | October 28, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | July 12, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

Israel

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|
| March 21, 2019 | May 9, 2019 | September 18, 2019 | October 9, 2019 |
| April 26, 2019 | May 28, 2019 | September 19, 2019 | October 10, 2019 |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| April 8, 2019 | May 29, 2019 | September 20, 2019 | October 14, 2019 |
| April 9, 2019 | June 9, 2019 | September 30, 2019 | October 21, 2019 |
| April 15, 2019 | July 30, 2019 | October 1, 2019 | |
| April 29, 2019 | August 11, 2019 | October 8, 2019 | |

The Israeli market is closed every Friday.

Italy

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 25, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Japan

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | March 21, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | December 23, 2019 |
| January 2, 2019 | April 29, 2019 | September 16, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| January 3, 2019 | May 3, 2019 | September 23, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| January 14, 2019 | May 6, 2019 | October 14, 2019 | January 2, 2020 |
| February 11, 2019 | July 15, 2019 | November 4, 2019 | January 3, 2020 |

Luxembourg

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 23, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 22, 2019 | | | |

Malaysia

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | February 6, 2019 | May 31, 2019 | September 16, 2019 |
| January 21, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | October 29, 2019 |
| February 1, 2019 | May 22, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| February 5, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

Mexico

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 18, 2019 | September 16, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| February 4, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | November 18, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| March 18, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 12, 2019 | |

Morocco

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | August 14, 2019 | November 18, 2019 |
| January 11, 2019 | July 30, 2019 | August 20, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| May 1, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | August 21, 2019 | |
| June 5, 2019 | August 13, 2019 | November 6, 2019 | |

Netherlands

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 30, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

New Zealand

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | February 6, 2019 | June 3, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| January 2, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | October 28, 2019 | January 2, 2020 |
| January 21, 2019 | April 22, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| January 28, 2019 | April 25, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Norway

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 18, 2019 | May 17, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 20, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Pakistan

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 31, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| February 5, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | August 14, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| May 1, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | September 10, 2019 | |
| May 6, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | September 11, 2019 | |

Peru

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 8, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 18, 2019 | July 29, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | |
| April 19, 2019 | August 30, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

The Philippines

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | August 21, 2019 | December 30, 2019 |
| April 9, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | August 26, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 18, 2019 | June 12, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

Poland

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 3, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 20, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| May 1, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |

Portugal

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 25, 2019 | June 13, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| March 5, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | November 1, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 20, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | |

Qatar

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | December 18, 2019 |
| February 12, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | August 13, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| March 3, 2019 | August 11, 2019 | August 14, 2019 | |

Russia

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | February 18, 2019 | June 12, 2019 | November 28, 2019 |
| January 2, 2019 | March 8, 2019 | July 4, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| January 3, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | September 2, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| January 4, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 14, 2019 | January 2, 2020 |
| January 7, 2019 | May 9, 2019 | November 4, 2019 | January 3, 2020 |
| January 21, 2019 | May 27, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | January 4, 2020 |

Singapore

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | March 1, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | October 11, 2019 |
| February 4, 2019 | April 4, 2019 | June 7, 2019 | October 28, 2019 |
| February 5, 2019 | April 5, 2019 | August 9, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| February 6, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| February 7, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | September 13, 2019 | |
| February 28, 2019 | May 20, 2019 | October 10, 2019 | |

South Africa

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | August 9, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| March 21, 2019 | April 22, 2019 | September 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| March 29, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 16, 2019 | |
| April 1, 2019 | June 17, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

South Korea

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | September 13, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| February 4, 2019 | May 6, 2019 | October 3, 2019 | |
| February 5, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | October 9, 2019 | |
| February 6, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| March 1, 2019 | September 12, 2019 | December 31, 2019 | |

Spain

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | June 24, 2019 | November 1, 2019 |
| March 19, 2019 | May 2, 2019 | July 25, 2019 | December 6, 2019 |
| April 18, 2019 | May 15, 2019 | August 15, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | September 11, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 20, 2019 | September 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

Sweden

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 26, 2019 |
| April 18, 2019 | May 17, 2019 | June 21, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| April 22, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |

Switzerland

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| January 1, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | December 24, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| January 2, 2019 | May 30, 2019 | December 25, 2019 | |
| April 19, 2019 | June 10, 2019 | December 26, 2019 | |
| April 22, 2019 | August 1, 2019 | December 31, 2019 | |

Taiwan

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | February 7, 2019 | April 5, 2019 | October 10, 2019 |
| February 4, 2019 | February 28, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | October 11, 2019 |
| February 5, 2019 | March 1, 2019 | June 7, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| February 6, 2019 | April 4, 2019 | September 13, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

Thailand

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 16, 2019 | July 1, 2019 | December 5, 2019 |
| February 19, 2019 | May 1, 2019 | July 15, 2019 | December 10, 2019 |
| April 8, 2019 | May 6, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | December 31, 2019 |
| April 15, 2019 | May 20, 2019 | October 23, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

Turkey

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | October 28, 2019 |
| April 23, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | August 13, 2019 | October 29, 2019 |
| May 1, 2019 | June 7, 2019 | August 14, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |
| June 4, 2019 | July 15, 2019 | August 30, 2019 | |

United Arab Emirates

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | June 5, 2019 | August 31, 2019 | November 29, 2019 |
| February 18, 2019 | June 6, 2019 | September 1, 2019 | November 30, 2019 |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| April 2, 2019 | July 4, 2019 | September 2, 2019 | December 2, 2019 |
| April 3, 2019 | August 10, 2019 | October 14, 2019 | December 3, 2019 |
| April 19, 2019 | August 11, 2019 | November 9, 2019 | December 10, 2019 |
| May 27, 2019 | August 12, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | December 24, 2019 |
| June 4, 2019 | August 13, 2019 | November 28, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |

United States

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2019 | April 19, 2019 | September 2, 2019 | November 28, 2019 |
| January 21, 2019 | May 27, 2019 | October 14, 2019 | December 25, 2019 |
| February 18, 2019 | July 4, 2019 | November 11, 2019 | January 1, 2020 |

Regular Holidays through December 31, 2020.

Australia

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | August 3, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| January 27, 2020 | June 8, 2020 | November 3, 2020 | December 28, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | | | |

Austria

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| April 10, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | June 11, 2020 | December 8, 2020 |
| May 1, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | October 26, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |

Belgium

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | November 11, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | July 21, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |

Brazil

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | June 11, 2020 | November 2, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | July 9, 2020 | November 20, 2020 | |
| April 21, 2020 | September 7, 2020 | December 24, 2020 | |
| May 1, 2020 | October 12, 2020 | December 25, 2020 | |

Britain

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 4, 2020 | July 3, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| January 2, 2020 | May 8, 2020 | July 6, 2020 | December 28, 2020 |
| January 6, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | August 31, 2020 | December 29, 2020 |
| January 20, 2020 | May 22, 2020 | October 12, 2020 | December 30, 2020 |
| April 9, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | November 9, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | November 11, 2020 | |
| April 13, 2020 | June 5, 2020 | November 26, 2020 | |
| May 1, 2020 | June 19, 2020 | December 24, 2020 | |

Canada

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | July 1, 2020 | October 12, 2020 | December 28, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | August 3, 2020 | November 11, 2020 | |
| May 18, 2020 | September 7, 2020 | December 25, 2020 | |

Chilé

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | September 18, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | June 29, 2020 | October 12, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |
| May 1, 2020 | July 16, 2020 | December 8, 2020 | |

China

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 6, 2020 | June 25, 2020 | October 26, 2020 |
| January 27, 2020 | April 10, 2020 | July 1, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| January 28, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | October 1, 2020 | |
| January 29, 2020 | April 30, 2020 | October 2, 2020 | |
| January 30, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | October 5, 2020 | |

Colombia

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | August 17, 2020 | December 8, 2020 |
| January 6, 2020 | July 20, 2020 | November 2, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| May 1, 2020 | August 7, 2020 | November 16, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |

The Czech Republic

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | September 28, 2020 | December 24, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | October 28, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |

Denmark

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | May 22, 2020 | December 24, 2020 |
| April 9, 2020 | May 8, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | June 5, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |

Egypt

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| January 7, 2020 | April 20, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | August 20, 2020 |
| April 19, 2020 | May 24, 2020 | | |

The Egyptian market is closed every Friday.

Finland

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | December 24, 2020 |
| January 6, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | June 19, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | | | |

France

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | May 20, 2020 | November 11, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | May 4, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 13, 2020 | May 8, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | December 28, 2020 |

Germany

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | June 11, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | December 24, 2020 | |
| April 13, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | December 25, 2020 | |

Greece

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | March 25, 2020 | April 17, 2020 | June 8, 2020 |
| January 6, 2020 | April 10, 2020 | April 20, 2020 | December 24, 2020 |
| March 2, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |

Hong Kong

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | January 30, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | October 26, 2020 |
| January 24, 2020 | April 6, 2020 | June 25, 2020 | December 24, 2020 |
| January 27, 2020 | April 10, 2020 | July 1, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| January 28, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | October 1, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |
| January 29, 2020 | April 30, 2020 | October 2, 2020 | |

Hungary

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| April 10, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | August 20, 2020 | October 23, 2020 |
| April 13, 2020 | | | |

India

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| March 9, 2020 | April 10, 2020 | August 19, 2020 | November 17, 2020 |
| March 25, 2020 | April 14, 2020 | August 20, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 1, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | October 2, 2020 | |
| April 2, 2020 | May 7, 2020 | October 29, 2020 | |
| April 6, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | November 16, 2020 | |

Indonesia

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 8, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| March 24, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | August 17, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | August 20, 2020 | |
| May 1, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | October 29, 2020 | |

Ireland

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | August 3, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| March 17, 2020 | May 4, 2020 | August 31, 2020 | December 28, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | October 26, 2020 | December 29, 2020 |

Israel

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| March 10, 2020 | April 8, 2020 | April 15, 2020 | September 28, 2020 |
| April 2, 2020 | April 9, 2020 | April 29, 2020 | |
| April 3, 2020 | April 14, 2020 | July 30, 2020 | |

The Israeli market is closed every Friday.

Italy

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 10, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| January 6, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | December 8, 2020 | |

Japan

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 4, 2020 | August 10, 2020 | November 23, 2020 |
| January 2, 2020 | May 5, 2020 | August 11, 2020 | December 23, 2020 |
| January 3, 2020 | May 6, 2020 | September 21, 2020 | December 31, 2020 |
| January 13, 2020 | July 20, 2020 | September 22, 2020 | |
| March 20, 2020 | July 23, 2020 | October 12, 2020 | |
| April 29, 2020 | July 24, 2020 | November 3, 2020 | |

Luxembourg

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 13, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | | |

Malaysia

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| May 1, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | August 31, 2020 | November 16, 2020 |
| May 7, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | September 16, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| May 25, 2020 | August 20, 2020 | October 29, 2020 | |

Mexico

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| April 9, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | November 2, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | September 16, 2020 | November 16, 2020 | |

Morocco

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | August 21, 2020 | November 6, 2020 |
| May 1, 2020 | August 14, 2020 | October 29, 2020 | November 18, 2020 |
| July 30, 2020 | August 20, 2020 | October 30, 2020 | |

Netherlands

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | April 27, 2020 | May 5, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | April 30, 2020 | May 21, 2020 | |
| April 13, 2020 | May 1, 2020 | June 1, 2020 | |

New Zealand

April 10, 2020 April 27, 2020 December 25, 2020 December 28, 2020
April 13, 2020 June 1, 2020

Norway

January 1, 2020 April 13, 2020 June 1, 2020 December 31, 2020
April 9, 2020 May 1, 2020 December 24, 2020
April 10, 2020 May 21, 2020 December 25, 2020

Pakistan

January 1, 2020 May 1, 2020 May 25, 2020 December 25, 2020
April 24, 2020 May 22, 2020 October 29, 2020

Palestine

January 1, 2020 May 24, 2020 May 25, 2020 October 29, 2020
January 7, 2020

Peru

January 1, 2020 April 10, 2020 June 29, 2020 December 8, 2020
April 9, 2020 May 1, 2020 October 8, 2020 December 25, 2020

The Philippines

January 1, 2020 June 12, 2020 August 31, 2020 December 30, 2020
April 9, 2020 August 21, 2020 December 25, 2020 December 31, 2020
April 10, 2020

Poland

January 1, 2020 April 10, 2020 April 13, 2020 June 11, 2020
January 6, 2020

Portugal

January 1, 2020 May 1, 2020 December 1, 2020 December 24, 2020
April 10, 2020 October 5, 2020 December 8, 2020 December 25, 2020
April 13, 2020

Qatar

January 1, 2020 March 1, 2020 August 2, 2020 August 3, 2020

Russia

January 1, 2020 January 20, 2020 May 11, 2020 November 4, 2020
January 2, 2020 March 9, 2020 May 25, 2020 November 11, 2020
January 3, 2020 April 10, 2020 July 3, 2020 November 26, 2020
January 6, 2020 May 1, 2020 September 7, 2020 December 25, 2020
January 7, 2020

Saudi Arabia

May 24, 2020 July 29, 2020 July 30, 2020 September 23, 2020

Singapore

January 1, 2020 April 3, 2020 May 25, 2020 October 9, 2020
January 24, 2020 April 6, 2020 July 31, 2020 December 25, 2020
January 27, 2020 April 10, 2020 August 10, 2020
January 28, 2020 May 1, 2020 October 1, 2020
January 29, 2020 May 7, 2020 October 2, 2020

South Africa

January 1, 2020 April 27, 2020 September 24, 2020
April 10, 2020 June 16, 2020 December 16, 2020
April 13, 2020 August 10, 2020 December 25, 2020

South Korea

January 1, 2020 April 30, 2020 October 1, 2020 December 25, 2020
January 24, 2020 May 1, 2020 October 2, 2020 December 31, 2020
April 15, 2020 May 5, 2020 October 9, 2020

Spain

March 19, 2020 May 1, 2020 June 24, 2020 November 9, 2020
April 9, 2020 May 15, 2020 September 11, 2020 December 8, 2020
April 10, 2020 June 1, 2020 September 24, 2020 December 25, 2020
April 13, 2020 June 11, 2020 October 12, 2020

Sweden

January 1, 2020 April 13, 2020 June 19, 2020 December 25, 2020
January 6, 2020 May 1, 2020 June 26, 2020 December 31, 2020
April 10, 2020 May 21, 2020 December 24, 2020

Switzerland

January 1, 2020 April 13, 2020 June 1, 2020 December 31, 2020
January 2, 2020 May 1, 2020 December 24, 2020
April 10, 2020 May 21, 2020 December 25, 2020

Taiwan

April 3, 2020 June 25, 2020 October 2, 2020 October 9, 2020
April 6, 2020 October 1, 2020

Thailand

April 6, 2020 April 14, 2020 August 3, 2020 October 13, 2020
April 13, 2020 April 15, 2020 August 12, 2020 October 23, 2020

Turkey

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 19, 2020 | July 15, 2020 | August 3, 2020 |
| April 23, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | July 30, 2020 | October 28, 2020 |
| May 1, 2020 | May 26, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | October 29, 2020 |

United Arab Emirates

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | August 2, 2020 | November 26, 2020 |
| January 20, 2020 | May 26, 2020 | August 20, 2020 | November 30, 2020 |
| March 22, 2020 | July 3, 2020 | September 7, 2020 | December 2, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | July 30, 2020 | October 29, 2020 | December 3, 2020 |
| May 24, 2020 | July 31, 2020 | November 11, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |

United States

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| January 1, 2020 | May 25, 2020 | September 7, 2020 | November 26, 2020 |
| January 20, 2020 | July 3, 2020 | October 12, 2020 | December 25, 2020 |
| April 10, 2020 | July 4, 2020 | November 11, 2020 | |

Redemption. The longest redemption cycle for a Fund is a function of the longest redemption cycles among the countries whose securities comprise a Fund. Through December 31, 2019, the dates of regular holidays affecting the following securities markets present the worst-case redemption cycles* for a Fund as follows:

| Country | Trade Date | Settlement Date | Number of Days to Settle |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Britain | 12/20/2019 | 1/3/2020 | 14 |
| | 12/23/2019 | 1/6/2020 | 14 |
| China | 1/31/2019 | 2/11/2019 | 11 |
| | 1/31/2019 | 2/11/2019 | 11 |
| | 9/27/2019 | 10/8/2019 | 11 |
| | 2/1/2019 | 2/12/2019 | 11 |
| | 9/30/2019 | 10/9/2019 | 9 |
| Egypt | 4/24/2019 | 5/2/2019 | 8 |
| Hong Kong | 1/31/2019 | 2/11/2019 | 11 |
| | 9/27/2019 | 10/8/2019 | 11 |
| | 2/1/2019 | 2/12/2019 | 11 |
| | 9/30/2019 | 10/9/2019 | 9 |
| | 9/30/2019 | 10/9/2019 | 9 |
| Hungary | 12/23/2019 | 12/31/2019 | 8 |
| | 12/20/2019 | 12/30/2019 | 10 |
| Israel | 10/3/2019 | 10/15/2019 | 12 |
| | 10/7/2019 | 10/16/2019 | 9 |

| Country | Trade Date | Settlement Date | Number of Days to Settle |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Qatar | 8/9/2019 | 8/19/2019 | 10 |
| | 8/8/2019 | 8/19/2019 | 11 |
| | 8/7/2019 | 8/15/2019 | 8 |
| Russia | 12/28/2018 | 1/8/2019 | 11 |
| | 12/31/2018 | 1/9/2019 | 9 |
| Singapore | 1/31/2019 | 2/8/2019 | 8 |
| | 2/1/2019 | 2/11/2019 | 10 |
| Taiwan | 1/31/2019 | 2/8/2019 | 8 |
| | 2/1/2019 | 2/11/2019 | 10 |
| Turkey | 5/31/2019 | 6/10/2019 | 10 |
| | 6/3/2019 | 6/11/2019 | 8 |

* These worst-case redemption cycles are based on information regarding regular holidays, which may be out of date. Based on changes in holidays, longer (worse) redemption cycles are possible.

Redemption. The longest redemption cycle for a Fund is a function of the longest redemption cycles among the countries whose securities comprise a Fund. Through December 31, 2020, the dates of regular holidays affecting the following securities markets present the worst-case redemption cycles* for a Fund as follows:

| Country | Trade Date | Settlement Date | Number of Days to Settle |
|-----------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Britain | 12/22/2020 | 1/1/2021 | 10 |
| | 12/23/2020 | 1/4/2021 | 12 |
| China | 1/23/2020 | 1/31/2020 | 8 |
| | 1/24/2020 | 2/3/2020 | 10 |
| Hong Kong | 1/22/2020 | 1/31/2020 | 9 |
| | 1/23/2020 | 2/3/2020 | 11 |
| Russia | 12/30/2019 | 1/8/2020 | 9 |
| | 12/31/2019 | 1/9/2020 | 9 |
| Singapore | 1/22/2020 | 1/30/2020 | 8 |
| | 1/23/2020 | 1/31/2020 | 8 |

* These worst-case redemption cycles are based on information regarding regular holidays, which may be out of date. Based on changes in holidays, longer (worse) redemption cycles are possible.

APPENDIX B

As stated in the Prospectus, the Funds may enter into certain futures transactions. Some of these transactions are described in this Appendix. The Funds may also enter into other futures transactions or other securities and instruments that are available in the markets from time to time.

I. Index and Security Futures Contracts

A stock index assigns relative values to the stocks included in the index, which fluctuates with changes in the market values of the stocks included. Some stock index futures contracts are based on broad market indexes, such as the S&P 500 or the New York Stock Exchange Composite Index. In contrast, certain futures contracts relate to narrower market indexes, such as the S&P 100[®] or indexes based on an industry or market segment, such as oil and gas stocks. Since 2001, trading has been permitted in futures based on a single stock and on narrow-based security indexes (as defined in the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000) (together “security futures”; broader-based index futures are referred to as “index futures”). Some futures contracts are traded on organized exchanges regulated by the CFTC. These exchanges may be either designated by the CFTC as a contract market or registered with the CFTC as a Derivatives Transaction Execution Facility (DTEF). Transactions on such exchanges are cleared through a clearing corporation, which guarantees the performance of the parties to each contract. Futures contracts also may be traded on electronic trading facilities or over-the-counter. These various trading facilities are licensed and/or regulated by varying degrees by the CFTC. To the extent consistent with its investment objective, a Fund may also engage in transactions, from time to time, in foreign stock index futures such as the ALL-ORDS (Australia), CAC40 (France), TOPIX (Japan) and the FTSE-100 (United Kingdom).

II. Futures Contracts on Foreign Currencies

A futures contract on foreign currency creates a binding obligation on one party to deliver, and a corresponding obligation on another party to accept delivery of, a stated quantity of foreign currency for an amount fixed in U.S. dollars. Foreign currency futures may be used by a Fund to help the Fund track the price and yield performance of its Underlying Index.

III. Margin Payments

Unlike purchases or sales of portfolio securities, no price is paid or received by a Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Initially, the Funds will be required to deposit with the broker or in a segregated account with a custodian or sub-custodian an amount of liquid assets, known as initial margin, based on the value of the contract. The nature of initial margin in futures transactions is different from that of margin in security transactions in that futures contract margin does not involve the borrowing of funds by the customer to finance the transactions. Rather, the initial margin is in the nature of a performance bond or good faith deposit on the contract, which is returned to the Funds upon termination of the futures contract assuming all contractual obligations have been satisfied. Subsequent payments, called variation margin, to and from the broker, will be made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying instruments fluctuates making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as “marking-to-market.” For example, when a Fund has purchased a futures contract and the price of the contract has risen in response to a rise in the underlying instruments, that position will have increased in value and the Fund will be entitled to receive from the broker a variation margin payment equal to that increase in value. Conversely, where a Fund has purchased a futures contract and the price of the future contract has declined in response to a decrease in the underlying instruments, the position would be less valuable and the Fund would be required to make a variation margin payment to the broker. Prior to expiration of the futures contract, the Investment Adviser may elect to close the position by taking an opposite position, subject to the availability of a secondary market, which will operate to terminate a Fund’s position in the futures contract. A final determination of variation margin is then made, additional cash is required to be paid by or released to the Fund, and the Fund realizes a loss or gain.

IV. Risks of Transactions in Futures Contracts

There are several risks in connection with the use of futures by the Funds, even for futures that are used for hedging (non-speculative) purposes. One risk arises because of the imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the futures and movements in the price of the instruments which are the subject of the hedge. The price of the future may move more than or less than the price of the instruments being hedged. If the price of the futures moves less than the price of the instruments which are the subject

of the hedge, the hedge will not be fully effective but, if the price of the instruments being hedged has moved in an unfavorable direction, a Fund would be in a better position than if it had not hedged at all. If the price of the instruments being hedged has moved in a favorable direction, this advantage will be partially offset by the loss on the futures. If the price of the futures moves more than the price of the hedged instruments, the Fund involved will experience either a loss or gain on the futures which will not be completely offset by movements in the price of the instruments that are the subject of the hedge. To compensate for the imperfect correlation of movements in the price of instruments being hedged and movements in the price of futures contracts, the Funds may buy or sell futures contracts in a greater dollar amount than the dollar amount of instruments being hedged if the volatility over a particular time period of the prices of such instruments has been greater than the volatility over such time period of the futures, or if otherwise deemed to be appropriate by the Investment Adviser. Conversely, a Fund may buy or sell fewer futures contracts if the volatility over a particular time period of the prices of the instruments being hedged is less than the volatility over such time period of the futures contract being used, or if otherwise deemed to be appropriate by the Investment Adviser.

In addition to the possibility that there may be an imperfect correlation, or no correlation at all, between movements in the futures and the instruments being hedged, the price of futures may not correlate perfectly with movement in the cash market due to certain market distortions. Rather than meeting additional margin deposit requirements, investors may close futures contracts through off-setting transactions which could distort the normal relationship between the cash and futures markets. Second, with respect to financial futures contracts, the liquidity of the futures market depends on participants entering into off-setting 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 distortions. 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 also cause temporary price distortions. Due to the possibility of price distortion in the futures market, and because of the imperfect correlation between the movements in the cash market and movements in the price of futures, a correct forecast of general market trends or interest rate movements by the Investment Adviser may still not result in a successful hedging transaction over a short time frame.

In general, positions in futures may be closed out only on an exchange, board of trade or other trading facility, which provides a secondary market for such futures. Although the Funds intend to purchase or sell futures only on trading facilities where there appear to be active secondary markets, there is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on any trading facility will exist for any particular contract or at any particular time. In such an event, it may not be possible to close a futures investment position, and in the event of adverse price movements, the Funds would continue to be required to make daily cash payments of variation margin. However, in the event futures contracts have been used to hedge portfolio securities, such securities will not be sold until the futures contract can be terminated. In such circumstances, an increase in the price of the securities, if any, may partially or completely offset losses on the futures contract. However, as described above, there is no guarantee that the price of the securities will in fact correlate with the price movements in the futures contract and thus provide an offset on a futures contract.

Further, it should be noted that the liquidity of a secondary market in a futures contract may be adversely affected by "daily price fluctuation limits" established by commodity exchanges which limit the amount of fluctuation in a futures contract price during a single trading day. Once the daily limit has been reached in the contract, no trades may be entered into at a price beyond the limit, thus preventing the liquidation of open futures positions. The trading of futures contracts is also subject to the risk of trading halts, suspensions, exchange or clearing house equipment failures, government intervention, insolvency of a brokerage firm or clearing house or other disruptions of normal trading activity, which could at times make it difficult or impossible to liquidate existing positions or to recover excess variation margin payments.

Successful use of futures by Funds is also subject to the Investment Adviser's ability to predict correctly movements in the direction of the market. In addition, in such situations, if a Fund has insufficient cash, it may have to sell securities to meet daily variation margin requirements. Such sales of securities may be, but will not necessarily be, at increased prices which reflect the rising market. The Fund may have to sell securities at a time when it may be disadvantageous to do so.

Futures purchased or sold by a Fund (and related options) may be traded on foreign exchanges. Participation in foreign futures and foreign options transactions involves the execution and clearing of trades on or subject to the rules of a foreign board of trade. Neither the National Futures Association nor any domestic exchange regulates activities of any foreign boards of trade, including the execution, delivery and clearing of transactions, or has the power to compel enforcement of the rules of a foreign board

of trade or any applicable foreign law. This is true even if the exchange is formally linked to a domestic market so that a position taken on the market may be liquidated by a transaction on another market. Moreover, such laws or regulations will vary depending on the foreign country in which the foreign futures or foreign options transaction occurs. For these reasons, customers who trade foreign futures or foreign options contracts may not be afforded certain of the protective measures provided by the Commodity Exchange Act, the CFTC regulations and the rules of the National Futures Association and any domestic exchange or other trading facility (including the right to use reparations proceedings before the CFTC and arbitration proceedings provided by the National Futures Association or any domestic futures exchange), nor the protective measures provided by the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules relating to security futures. In particular, the investments of the Funds in foreign futures, or foreign options transactions may not be provided the same protections in respect to transactions on United States futures trading facilities. In addition, the price of any foreign futures or foreign options contract may be affected by any variance in the foreign exchange rate between the time an order is placed and the time it is liquidated, offset or exercised.

V. Options on Futures Contracts

The Funds may purchase and write options on the futures contracts described above. A futures option gives the holder, in return for the premium paid, the right to buy (call) from or sell (put) to the writer of the option of a futures contract at a specified price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise, the writer of the option is obligated to pay the difference between the cash value of the futures contract and the exercise price. Like the buyer or seller of a futures contract, the holder, or writer, of an option has the right to terminate its position prior to the scheduled expiration of the option by selling, or purchasing an option of the same series, at which time the person entering into the closing transaction will realize a gain or loss. A Fund will be required to deposit initial margin and variation margin with respect to put and call options on futures contracts written by it pursuant to brokers' requirements similar to those described above. Net option premiums received will be included as initial margin deposits.

Investments in futures options involve some of the same considerations that are involved in connection with investments in futures contracts (for example, the existence of a liquid secondary market). See "Risks of Transactions in Futures Contracts" above. In addition, the purchase or sale of an option also entails the risk that changes in the value of the underlying futures contract will not correspond to changes in the value of the option purchased. Depending on the pricing of the option compared to either the futures contract upon which it is based, or upon the price of the securities being hedged, an option may or may not be less risky than ownership of the futures contract or such securities. In general, the market prices of options can be expected to be more volatile than the market prices on the underlying futures contract. Compared to the purchase or sale of futures contracts, however, the purchase of call or put options on futures contracts may frequently involve less potential risk to the Fund because the maximum amount at risk is the premium paid for the options (plus transaction costs). The writing of an option on a futures contract involves risks similar to those risks relating to the sale of futures contracts.

VI. Other Matters

The Funds intend to comply with the regulations of the CFTC exempting it from registration as a "Commodity Pool Operator". The Funds are operated by persons who have claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term "Commodity Pool Operator" with respect to the Funds under the Commodity Exchange Act and, therefore, are not subject to registration or regulations as a pool operator with respect to the Funds under such Act. In order to continue to claim exclusion from registration as a "commodity pool operator" with respect to the Funds, each Fund is limited in its ability to use futures, options and swaps subject to regulation under the CEA for purposes other than bona fide hedging, which is narrowly defined. With respect to transactions other than for bona fide hedging purposes, either: (1) the aggregate initial margin and premiums required to establish the Fund's positions in such investments may not exceed 5% of the liquidation value of the Fund's assets (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such investments), or (2) the aggregate net notional value of such instruments may not exceed 100% of the liquidation value of the Fund's assets (after accounting for unrealized profits and unrealized losses on any such positions). In addition to meeting one of the foregoing trading limitations, a Fund may not market itself as a commodity pool or otherwise as a vehicle for trading in the futures, options or swaps markets. Accounting for futures contracts will be in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.