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Share Class

Service

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## Federated Hermes Quality Bond Fund II

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A Portfolio of Federated Hermes Insurance Series

A mutual fund seeking to provide current income by investing in a diversified portfolio of investment-grade, fixed-income securities.

As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Fund Shares are available exclusively as a funding vehicle for life insurance companies writing variable life insurance policies and variable annuity contracts. They are subject to investment limitations that do not apply to other mutual funds available directly to the general public. Therefore, any comparison of these two types of mutual funds would be inappropriate. This Prospectus should be accompanied by the Prospectuses for such variable contracts.

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# Fund Summary Information

## Federated Hermes Quality Bond Fund II (the "Fund")

### RISK/RETURN SUMMARY: INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund's investment objective is to provide current income.

### RISK/RETURN SUMMARY: FEES AND EXPENSES

Note: The table below and the Example that follows it relate exclusively to the Service Shares (S) of the Fund. They do not reflect any additional fees or expenses that may be imposed by separate accounts of insurance companies or in connection with any variable annuity or variable life insurance contract. If these had been included, your costs would be higher.

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy, hold and sell S class of the Fund. **You may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the tables and examples below.**

#### Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)

	\$
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price) .....	N/A
Maximum Deferred Sales Charge (Load) (as a percentage of original purchase price or redemption proceeds, as applicable) .....	N/A
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Reinvested Dividends (and other Distributions) (as a percentage of offering price) .....	N/A
Redemption Fee (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable) .....	N/A
Exchange Fee .....	N/A

#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

	\$
Management Fee .....	0.60%
Distribution (12b-1) Fee .....	0.25%
Other Expenses .....	0.21% <sup>1</sup>
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses .....	1.06%
Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>2</sup> .....	(0.07)%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements .....	0.99%

1 The Fund may incur and pay administrative service fees on its S class of up to a maximum amount of 0.25%. No such fees are currently incurred and paid by the S class of the Fund. The S class of the Fund will not incur and pay such fees until such time as approved by the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "Trustees").

2 The Adviser and certain of its affiliates on their own initiative have agreed to waive certain amounts of their respective fees and/or reimburse expenses. Total annual fund operating expenses (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, extraordinary expenses and proxy-related expenses paid by the Fund, if any) paid by the Fund's S class (after the voluntary waivers and/or reimbursements) will not exceed 0.99% (the "Fee Limit") up to but not including the later of (the "Termination Date"): (a) May 1, 2024; or (b) the date of the Fund's next effective Prospectus. While the Adviser and its affiliates currently do not anticipate terminating or increasing these arrangements prior to the Termination Date, these arrangements may only be terminated or the Fee Limit increased prior to the Termination Date with the agreement of the Trustees.

#### Example

This Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds.

The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 for the time periods indicated and then redeem or hold all of your Shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect sales charges (loads) on reinvested dividends. If these sales charges (loads) were included, your costs would be higher. Although your actual costs and returns may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	\$ 108
3 Years	\$ 337
5 Years	\$ 585
10 Years	\$1,294

## Portfolio Turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in Annual Fund Operating Expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund’s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 15% of the average value of its portfolio.

## RISK/RETURN SUMMARY: INVESTMENTS, RISKS AND PERFORMANCE

### What are the Fund’s Main Investment Strategies?

The Fund invests in a diversified portfolio of investment-grade, fixed-income securities consisting primarily of corporate debt securities, U.S. government and privately issued mortgage-backed securities, and U.S. Treasury and agency securities. The Fund’s investment adviser (the “Adviser”) seeks to enhance the Fund’s performance by allocating relatively more of its portfolio to the security type that the Adviser expects to offer the best balance between current income and risk. Investment-grade securities are rated in one of the four highest categories (BBB or higher) by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO) or, if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by the Adviser. A corporate debt security in which the Fund invests is considered a “foreign security” if the issuer derived in its most current fiscal year at least 50% of its total assets, capitalization, gross revenue or profit from goods produced, services performed or sales made in another country. The foreign securities in which the Fund invests will be predominately denominated in U.S. dollars. The Fund may invest in derivative contracts and/or hybrid instruments to implement elements of its investment strategy. For example, the Fund may use derivative contracts or hybrid instruments to increase or decrease the portfolio’s exposure to the investment(s) underlying the derivative contract or hybrid instrument in an attempt to benefit from changes in the value of the underlying investment(s). There can be no assurances that the Fund’s use of derivative contracts or hybrid instruments will work as intended. Derivative investments made by the Fund are included within the Fund’s 80% policy (as described below) and are calculated at market value. Consistent with the Fund’s benchmark, the Fund may, from time to time, have larger allocations to certain broad market sectors in attempting to achieve its investment objective.

Although the value of the Fund’s Shares will fluctuate, the Adviser will seek to manage the magnitude of fluctuation by limiting, under normal market conditions, the Fund’s dollar-weighted average maturity to between three and ten years and dollar-weighted average duration to between three and seven years. Maturity reflects the time until a fixed-income security becomes payable. Duration measures the price sensitivity of a fixed-income security to changes in interest rates.

The Fund intends to invest in the securities of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs), including GSE securities that are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, such as those issued by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. These entities are, however, supported through federal subsidies, loans or other benefits. The Fund may also invest in GSE securities that are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, such as those issued by the Government National Mortgage Association. Finally, to a lesser extent, the Fund may invest in GSE securities that have no explicit financial support, but which are regarded as having implied support because the federal government sponsors their activities. Such securities include those issued by the Farm Credit System.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest its assets so that at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) are invested in investment-grade, fixed-income investments. The Fund will notify shareholders at least 60 days in advance of any change in its investment policy that would enable the Fund to invest, under normal circumstances, less than 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes), in investment-grade, fixed-income investments.

### What are the Main Risks of Investing in the Fund?

All mutual funds take investment risks. Therefore, it is possible to lose money by investing in the Fund. The primary factors that may reduce the Fund’s returns include:

- **Issuer Credit Risk.** It is possible that interest or principal on securities will not be paid when due. Such non-payment or default may reduce the value of the Fund’s portfolio holdings, its share price and its performance.
- **Counterparty Credit Risk.** Credit risk includes the possibility that a party to a transaction involving the Fund will fail to meet its obligations. This could cause the Fund to lose money or to lose the benefit of the transaction or prevent the Fund from selling or buying other securities to implement its investment strategy.
- **Interest Rate Risk.** Prices of fixed-income securities generally fall when interest rates rise. The longer the duration of a fixed-income security, the more susceptible it is to interest rate risk. Recent and potential future changes in monetary policy made by central banks and/or their governments are likely to affect the level of interest rates.

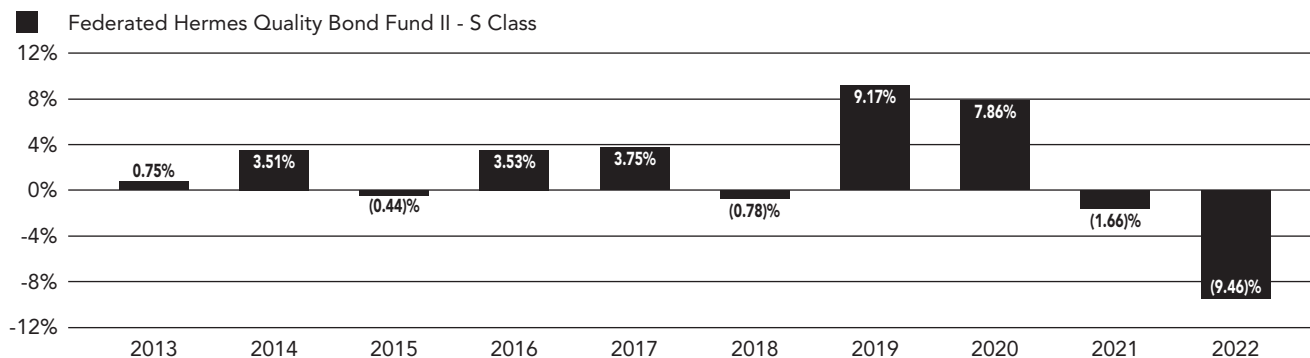
- **Liquidity Risk.** The fixed-income securities in which the Fund invests may be less readily marketable and may be subject to greater fluctuation in price than other securities. Liquidity risk also refers to the possibility that the Fund may not be able to sell a security or close out a derivative contract when it wants to. If this happens, the Fund could incur losses.
- **Risk of Foreign Investing.** Because the Fund invests in securities issued by foreign companies and national governments, the Fund's Share price may be more affected by foreign economic and political conditions, taxation policies and accounting and auditing standards than would otherwise be the case.
- **Call Risk.** The Fund's performance may be adversely affected by the possibility that an issuer of a security held by the Fund may redeem the security prior to maturity at a price below its current market value.
- **Prepayment and Extension Risk.** When homeowners prepay their mortgages in response to lower interest rates, the Fund will be required to reinvest the proceeds at the lower interest rates available. Also, when interest rates fall, the price of mortgage-backed securities may not rise to as great an extent as that of other fixed-income securities. When interest rates rise, homeowners are less likely to prepay their mortgages. A decreased rate of prepayments lengthens the expected maturity of a mortgage-backed security, and the price of mortgage-backed securities may decrease more than the price of other fixed-income securities when interest rates rise.
- **Leverage Risk.** Leverage risk is created when an investment exposes the Fund to a level of risk that exceeds the amount invested. Changes in the value of such an investment magnify the Fund's risk of loss and potential for gain.
- **Risk of Investing in Derivative Contracts and Hybrid Instruments.** Derivative contracts and hybrid instruments involve risks different from, or possibly greater than, risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. Specific risk issues related to the use of such contracts and instruments include valuation issues, increased potential for losses and/or costs to the Fund and a potential reduction in gains to the Fund. Each of these issues is described in greater detail in the Prospectus. Derivative contracts and hybrid instruments may also involve other risks described in the Prospectus, such as interest rate, credit, liquidity and leverage risks.
- **Risk Related to the Economy.** The value of the Fund's portfolio may decline in tandem with a drop in the overall value of the markets in which the Fund invests and/or other markets. Economic, political and financial conditions, industry or economic trends and developments or public health risks, such as epidemics or pandemics, may, from time to time, and for varying periods of time, cause the Fund to experience volatility, illiquidity, shareholder redemptions or other potentially adverse effects.
- **Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) Risk.** A rise in interest rates may cause the value of MBS held by the Fund to decline. Certain MBS issued by GSEs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. A non-agency MBS is subject to the risk that the value of such security will decline, because the security is not issued or guaranteed as to the principal or interest by the U.S. government or a GSE. The Fund's investments in collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) may entail greater market, prepayment and liquidity risks than other MBS.
- **Sector Risk.** Because the Fund may allocate relatively more assets to certain industry sectors than others, the Fund's performance may be more susceptible to any developments which affect those sectors emphasized by the Fund.
- **Technology Risk.** The Adviser uses various technologies in managing the Fund, consistent with its investment objective(s) and strategy described in this Prospectus. For example, proprietary and third-party data and systems are utilized to support decision-making for the Fund. Data imprecision, software or other technology malfunctions, programming inaccuracies and similar circumstances may impair the performance of these systems, which may negatively affect Fund performance.

The Shares offered by this Prospectus are not deposits or obligations of any bank, are not endorsed or guaranteed by any bank and are not insured or guaranteed by the U.S. government, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board or any other government agency.

## PERFORMANCE: BAR CHART AND TABLE

### Risk/Return Bar Chart

The bar chart and performance table below reflect historical performance data for the Fund's S class and are intended to help you analyze the Fund's investment risks in light of its historical returns. The bar chart shows the variability of the Fund's S class total returns on a calendar year-by-year basis. The Average Annual Total Return Table shows returns averaged over the stated periods, and includes comparative performance information. *The Fund's performance will fluctuate, and past performance is not necessarily an indication of future results.* For current performance information, contact your insurance company.



The total returns shown in the bar chart above are based upon net asset value and do not reflect the charges and expenses of a variable annuity or variable life insurance contract. If contract charges or fees had been included, the returns shown would have been lower.

Within the periods shown in the bar chart, the Fund's S class highest quarterly return was 8.24% (quarter ended June 30, 2020). Its lowest quarterly return was (5.11)% (quarter ended March 31, 2022).

### Average Annual Total Return Table

Return Before Taxes is shown for the Fund's S class.

(For the Period Ended December 31, 2022)

Share Class	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>S Class:</b>			
Return Before Taxes	(9.46)%	0.79%	1.50%
<b>Bloomberg US Intermediate Credit Index<sup>1</sup></b> (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	(9.10)%	1.08%	1.76%

<sup>1</sup> The Bloomberg US Intermediate Credit Index measures the investment-grade, U.S. dollar-denominated, fixed-rate, taxable corporate and government-related bond markets. The index only includes securities with maturity between one and ten years. It is composed of the Bloomberg US Corporate Index and a non-corporate component that includes foreign agencies, sovereigns, supranationals and local authorities.

### FUND MANAGEMENT

The Fund's Investment Adviser is Federated Investment Management Company.

Bryan J. Dingle, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund's portfolio manager since April of 2014.

Brian S. Ruffner, Senior Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund's portfolio manager since April of 2017.

### PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

Shares are used solely as an investment vehicle for separate accounts of participating insurance companies offering variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. The general public has access to the Fund only by purchasing a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy (thus becoming a contract owner). Shares are not sold directly to the general public.

Shares of the Fund can be purchased or redeemed by participating insurance companies on any day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open.

### TAX INFORMATION

The Fund expects, based on its investment objectives and strategies, that its distributions, if any, will consist of ordinary income, capital gains or some combination of both. Because shares of the Fund must be purchased through variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance contracts, such distribution will be exempt from current taxation if left to accumulate within the variable contract. You should ask your own tax advisor for more information on your own tax situation, including possible state or local taxes.

## PAYMENTS TO INSURANCE COMPANIES OR QUALIFYING DEALERS

Fund Shares are generally available only through participating insurance companies offering variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. Life insurance policies and variable annuities are generally purchased through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary. The Fund and/or its related companies may make payments to the participating insurance companies for services; some of the payments may go to broker-dealers and other intermediaries. These payments may create a conflict of interest for an intermediary, or be a factor in the participating insurance companies' decision to include the Fund as an underlying investment option in a variable contract. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## What are the Fund's Investment Strategies?

The Fund's investment objective is to provide current income. While there is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective, it endeavors to do so by following the strategies and policies described in this Prospectus.

The Fund's investment adviser (the "Adviser") actively manages the Fund's portfolio seeking current income within the Fund's investment policy parameters for limiting credit risk and Share price volatility attributable to interest rate risk. With respect to the limits on credit risk, the fixed-income securities in which the Fund invests consist exclusively of investment-grade, fixed-income securities consisting primarily of corporate debt securities, U.S. government and privately issued mortgage-backed securities, and U.S. Treasury and agency securities. Investment-grade securities are rated in one of the four highest categories (BBB or higher) by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO) or, if unrated, of comparable quality as determined by the Adviser. Consistent with the Fund's benchmark, the Fund may, from time to time, have larger allocations to certain broad market sectors in attempting to achieve its investment objective. A description of the various types of securities in which the Fund invests, and their risks, immediately follows this strategy section.

The Fund intends to invest in the securities of U.S. government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs), including GSE securities that are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, such as those issued by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. These entities are, however, supported through federal subsidies, loans or other benefits. The Fund may also invest in GSE securities that are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, such as those issued by the Government National Mortgage Association. Finally, to a lesser extent, the Fund may invest in GSE securities that have no explicit financial support, but which are regarded as having implied support because the federal government sponsors their activities. Such securities include those issued by the Farm Credit System.

The Fund's Share price volatility attributable to interest rate risk is managed by maintaining, under normal market conditions, a dollar-weighted average portfolio duration of between three and seven years. Further, the dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of the Fund will normally be between three and ten years.

Within the Fund's three- to seven-year portfolio duration range, the Adviser may seek to change the Fund's interest rate volatility exposure, by lengthening or shortening duration from time-to-time based on its interest rate outlook. If the Adviser expects interest rates to decline, it will generally lengthen the Fund's duration. If the Adviser expects interest rates to increase, it will generally shorten the Fund's duration. The Adviser formulates its interest rate outlook and otherwise attempts to anticipate changes in economic and market conditions by analyzing a variety of factors, such as:

- current and expected U.S. growth;
- current and expected interest rates and inflation;
- the Federal Reserve Board's monetary policy; and
- changes in the supply of or demand for U.S. government securities.

In addition to managing the Fund's portfolio duration, the Adviser may seek to enhance the Fund's total return, of which current income is a component, by selecting securities, within the Fund's credit-quality range, that the Adviser expects will offer the best relative value. In other words, in selecting securities, the Adviser assesses whether the Fund will be adequately compensated for assuming the risks (such as credit risk) of a particular security by comparing the security to other securities without those risks. The Adviser continually analyzes a variety of economic and market indicators in order to arrive at the projected yield "spread" of each security type. (The spread is the difference between the yield of a security versus the yield of a U.S. Treasury security with a comparable average life.) The security's projected spread is weighed against the security's credit risk (in the case of corporate securities) and its risk of prepayment (in the case of mortgage-backed securities) in order to complete the analysis.

Corporate debt securities generally offer higher yields than U.S. government securities to compensate for credit risk. Similarly, asset and mortgage-backed securities generally offer higher yields versus U.S. Treasury securities and non-mortgage-backed agency securities, to compensate for prepayment risk. The Adviser invests the Fund's portfolio seeking the higher relative returns of corporate debt securities and asset and mortgage-backed securities, when available, while maintaining appropriate portfolio diversification and attempting to limit the associated credit or prepayment risks.

The Adviser attempts to manage the Fund's credit risk by selecting corporate debt securities that make default in the payment of principal and interest less likely. The Adviser uses corporate earnings analysis to determine which business sectors and credit ratings are most advantageous for investment by the Fund. In selecting individual corporate fixed-income securities, the Adviser analyzes a company's business, competitive position and financial condition to assess whether the security's credit risk is commensurate with its potential return. Some of the corporate debt securities in which the Fund invests are considered to be "foreign securities," as that term is defined in this Prospectus. Foreign securities are securities of issuers based outside the United States. The Fund considers an issuer to be based outside the United States if it is organized under the laws of, or has its principal office located in another country, the principal trading market for its securities is in another country, or it (directly or through its consolidated subsidiaries) derived in its most current fiscal year at least 50% of its total assets, capitalization, gross revenue or profit from goods produced, services performed or sales made in another country. The foreign securities in which the Fund invests will be predominately denominated in the U.S. dollar.

The Adviser attempts to manage the Fund's prepayment risk by selecting mortgage-backed securities with characteristics that make prepayment less likely. Characteristics that the Adviser may consider in selecting securities include the average interest rates of the underlying mortgages and the federal agencies (if any) that securitize the mortgages. The Adviser attempts to assess the relative returns and risks for mortgage-backed securities by analyzing how the timing, amount and division of cash flows might change in response to changing economic and market conditions.

There is no assurance that the Adviser's efforts to forecast market interest rates and assess the impact of market interest rates in particular will be successful.

The Fund may use derivative contracts and/or hybrid instruments to implement elements of its investment strategy. For example, the Fund may use derivative contracts or hybrid instruments to increase or decrease the portfolio's exposure to the investment(s) underlying the derivative contract or hybrid instrument in an attempt to benefit from changes in the value of the underlying investment(s). Additionally, by way of example, the Fund may use derivative contracts in an attempt to:

- increase or decrease the effective duration of the Fund portfolio;
- obtain premiums from the sale of derivative contracts;
- realize gains from trading a derivative contract; or
- hedge against potential losses.

There can be no assurance that the Fund's use of derivative contracts or hybrid instruments will work as intended. Derivative investments made by the Fund are included within the Fund's 80% policy (as described below) and are calculated at market value.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest its assets so that at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of any borrowings for investment purposes) are invested in investment-grade, fixed-income investments. The Fund will notify shareholders at least 60 days in advance of any change in its investment policy that would enable the Fund to invest, under normal circumstances, less than 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes), in investment-grade, fixed-income investments.

#### **TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS**

The Fund may temporarily depart from its principal investment strategies by investing its assets in shorter-term debt securities and similar obligations or holding cash. It may do this in response to unusual circumstances, such as: adverse market, economic or other conditions (for example, to help avoid potential losses, or during periods when there is a shortage of appropriate securities); to maintain liquidity to meet shareholder redemptions; or to accommodate cash inflows. It is possible that such investments could affect the Fund's investment returns and/or the ability to achieve the Fund's investment objectives.

### **What are the Fund's Principal Investments?**

The following provides general information on the Fund's principal investments. The Fund's Statement of Additional Information (SAI) provides information about the Fund's non-principal investments and may provide additional information about the Fund's principal investments.



## **FIXED-INCOME SECURITIES**

Fixed-income securities pay interest, dividends or distributions at a specified rate. The rate may be a fixed percentage of the principal or may be adjusted periodically. In addition, the issuer of a fixed-income security must repay the principal amount of the security, normally within a specified time. Fixed-income securities provide more regular income than equity securities. However, the returns on fixed-income securities are limited and normally do not increase with the issuer's earnings. This limits the potential appreciation of fixed-income securities as compared to equity securities.

A security's yield measures the annual income earned on a security as a percentage of its price. A security's yield will increase or decrease depending upon whether it costs less (a "discount") or more (a "premium") than the principal amount. If the issuer may redeem the security before its scheduled maturity, the price and yield on a discount or premium security may change based upon the probability of an early redemption. Securities with higher risks generally have higher yields.

The following describes the fixed-income securities in which the Fund principally invests:

### **Corporate Debt Securities (A Type of Fixed-Income Security)**

Corporate debt securities are fixed-income securities issued by businesses. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most prevalent types of corporate debt securities. The Fund may also purchase interests in bank loans to companies. The credit risks of corporate debt securities vary widely among issuers.

In addition, the credit risk of an issuer's debt security may vary based on its priority for repayment. For example, higher ranking ("senior") debt securities have a higher priority than lower ranking ("subordinated") securities. This means that the issuer might not make payments on subordinated securities while continuing to make payments on senior securities. In addition, in the event of bankruptcy, holders of senior securities may receive amounts otherwise payable to the holders of subordinated securities. Some subordinated securities, such as trust-preferred and capital-securities notes, also permit the issuer to defer payments under certain circumstances. For example, insurance companies issue securities known as surplus notes that permit the insurance company to defer any payment that would reduce its capital below regulatory requirements.

### **Treasury Securities (A Type of Fixed-Income Security)**

Treasury securities are direct obligations of the federal government of the United States. Treasury securities are generally regarded as having minimal credit risks.

### **Government Securities (A Type of Fixed-Income Security)**

Government securities are issued or guaranteed by a federal agency or instrumentality acting under federal authority. Some government securities, including those issued by Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae"), are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States and are guaranteed only as to the timely payment of interest and principal.

Other government securities receive support through federal subsidies, loans or other benefits, but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. For example, the U.S. Treasury is authorized to purchase specified amounts of securities issued by (or otherwise make funds available to) the Federal Home Loan Bank System, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac") and Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae") in support of such obligations.

Some government agency securities have no explicit financial support and are supported only by the credit of the applicable agency, instrumentality or corporation. The U.S. government has provided financial support to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, but there is no assurance that it will support these or other agencies in the future.

The Fund treats mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by a federal agency or instrumentality as government securities. Although such a guarantee protects against credit risk, it does not eliminate it entirely or reduce other risks.

### **Asset-Backed Securities (A Type of Fixed-Income Security)**

Asset-backed securities are payable from pools of obligations other than mortgages. Most asset-backed securities involve consumer or commercial debts with maturities of less than 10 years. However, almost any type of fixed-income assets (including other fixed-income securities) may be used to create an asset-backed security. Asset-backed securities may take the form of commercial paper, notes or pass-through certificates. Asset-backed securities have prepayment risks. Like CMOs, asset-backed securities may be structured like Floaters, Inverse Floaters, IOs and POs.

### **Mortgage-Backed Securities (A Type of Fixed-Income Security)**

A mortgage-backed security (MBS) is a type of pass-through security, which is a pooled debt obligation repackaged as interests that pass principal and interest through an intermediary to investors. In the case of MBS, the ownership interests are issued by a trust and represent participation interests in pools of adjustable and fixed-rate mortgage loans. MBS are most commonly issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government (or one of its agencies or instrumentalities). Unlike

conventional debt obligations, MBS provide monthly payments derived from the monthly interest and principal payments (including any prepayments) made by the individual borrowers on the pooled mortgage loans. Most MBS make these payments monthly; however, certain MBS are backed by mortgage loans which do not generate monthly payments but rather generate payments less frequently.

The MBS acquired by the Fund could be secured by fixed-rate mortgages, adjustable rate mortgages or hybrid adjustable rate mortgages. Adjustable rate mortgages are mortgages whose interest rates are periodically reset when market rates change. A hybrid adjustable rate mortgage (“hybrid ARM”) is a type of mortgage in which the interest rate is fixed for a specified period and then resets periodically, or floats, for the remaining mortgage term. Hybrid ARMs are usually referred to by their fixed and floating periods. For example, a “5/1 ARM” refers to a mortgage with a five-year, fixed-interest rate period, followed by 25 annual interest rate adjustment periods.

Investments in MBS expose the Fund to interest rate, prepayment and credit risks.

#### **Government Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) (A Type of Fixed-Income Security)**

A government MBS is a type of pass-through security, which is a pooled debt obligation repackaged as interests that pass principal and interest through an intermediary to investors. In the case of government MBS, the ownership interest is issued by a trust and represents participation interests in pools of adjustable and fixed-rate mortgage loans. Government MBS are issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government (or one of its agencies or instrumentalities). Unlike conventional debt obligations, MBS provide monthly payments derived from the monthly interest and principal payments (including any prepayments) made by the individual borrowers on the pooled mortgage loans. Most government MBS make these payments monthly; however, certain MBS are backed by mortgage loans which do not generate monthly payments but rather generate payments less frequently.

Investments in government MBS expose the Fund to interest rate, prepayment and credit risks.

#### **Foreign Securities**

Foreign securities are securities of issuers based outside the United States. To the extent a Fund invests in securities included in its applicable broad-based securities market index, the Fund may consider an issuer to be based outside the United States if the applicable index classifies the issuer as based outside the United States. Accordingly, the Fund may consider an issuer to be based outside the United States if the issuer satisfies at least one, but not necessarily all, of the following:

- it is organized under the laws of, or has its principal office located in, another country;
- the principal trading market for its securities is in another country;
- it (directly or through its consolidated subsidiaries) derived in its most current fiscal year at least 50% of its total assets, capitalization, gross revenue or profit from goods produced, services performed or sales made in another country; or
- it is classified by an applicable index as based outside the United States.

The foreign securities in which the Fund invests will be predominately denominated in the U.S. dollar. Along with the risks normally associated with domestic securities of the same type, foreign securities are subject to currency risks and risks of foreign investing.

#### **DERIVATIVE CONTRACTS**

Derivative contracts are financial instruments that derive their value from underlying securities, commodities, currencies, indices, or other assets or instruments, including other derivative contracts (each a “Reference Instrument” and collectively, “Reference Instruments”). The most common types of derivative contracts are swaps, futures and options, and major asset classes include interest rates, equities, commodities and foreign exchange. Each party to a derivative contract may sometimes be referred to as a “counterparty.” Some derivative contracts require payments relating to an actual, future trade involving the Reference Instrument. These types of derivatives are frequently referred to as “physically settled” derivatives. Other derivative contracts require payments relating to the income or returns from, or changes in the market value of, a Reference Instrument. These types of derivatives are known as “cash-settled” derivatives since they require cash payments in lieu of delivery of the Reference Instrument.

Many derivative contracts are traded on exchanges. In these circumstances, the relevant exchange sets all the terms of the contract except for the price. Parties to an exchange-traded derivative contract make payments through the exchange. Most exchanges require traders to maintain margin accounts through their brokers to cover their potential obligations to the exchange. Parties to the contract make (or collect) daily payments to the margin accounts to reflect losses (or gains) in the value of their contracts. This protects traders against a potential default by their counterparty. Trading contracts on an exchange also allows traders to hedge or mitigate certain risks or carry out more complex trading strategies by entering into offsetting contracts.

The Fund may also trade derivative contracts over-the-counter (OTC), meaning off-exchange, in transactions negotiated directly between the Fund and an eligible counterparty, which may be a financial institution. OTC contracts do not necessarily have standard terms, so they may be less liquid and more difficult to close out than exchange-traded derivative contracts. In addition, OTC contracts with more specialized terms may be more difficult to value than exchange-traded contracts, especially in times of financial stress.

The market for swaps and other OTC derivatives was largely unregulated prior to the enactment of federal legislation known as the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”). Regulations enacted by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”) under the Dodd-Frank Act require the Fund to clear certain types of swap contracts (including certain interest rate and credit default swaps) through a central clearinghouse known as a derivatives clearing organization (DCO).

To clear a swap through a DCO, the Fund will submit the contract to, and post margin with, a futures commission merchant (FCM) that is a clearinghouse member. The Fund may enter into the swap with a counterparty other than the FCM and arrange for the contract to be transferred to the FCM for clearing or enter into the contract with the FCM itself. If the Fund must centrally clear a transaction, the CFTC’s regulations also generally require that the swap be executed on a registered exchange (either a designated contract market (DCM) or swap execution facility (SEF)). Central clearing is presently required only for certain swaps; the CFTC is expected to impose a mandatory central clearing requirement for additional derivative instruments over time.

DCOs, DCMs, SEFs and FCMs are all subject to regulatory oversight by the CFTC. In addition, certain derivative market participants that act as market makers and engage in a significant amount of “dealing” activity are also required to register as swap dealers with the CFTC. Among other things, swap dealers are subject to minimum capital requirements and business conduct standards and must also post and collect initial and variation margin on uncleared swaps with certain of their counterparties. Because of this, if the Fund enters into uncleared swaps with any swap dealers, it may be subject to initial and variation margin requirements that could impact the Fund’s ability to enter into swaps in the OTC market, including making transacting in uncleared swaps significantly more expensive.

At this point in time, most of the Dodd-Frank Act has been fully implemented, though a small number of remaining rulemakings are unfinished or are subject to phase-in periods. Any future regulatory or legislative activity would not necessarily have a direct, immediate effect upon the Fund, though it is within the realm of possibility that, upon implementation of these measures or any future measures, they could potentially limit or completely restrict the ability of the Fund to use these instruments as a part of its investment strategy, increase the costs of using these instruments or make them less effective.

Depending on how the Fund uses derivative contracts and the relationships between the market value of a derivative contract and the Reference Instrument, derivative contracts may increase or decrease the Fund’s exposure to the risks of the Reference Instrument and may also expose the Fund to liquidity and leverage risks. OTC contracts also expose the Fund to credit risks in the event that a counterparty defaults on the contract, although this risk may be mitigated by submitting the contract for clearing through a DCO, or certain other factors, such as collecting margin from the counterparty.

As discussed above, a counterparty’s exposure under a derivative contract may in some cases be required to be secured with initial and/or variation margin (a form of “collateral”).

The Fund may invest in a derivative contract if it is permitted to own, invest in, or otherwise have economic exposure to the Reference Instrument. The Fund is not required to own a Reference Instrument in order to buy or sell a derivative contract relating to that Reference Instrument. The Fund may trade in the following specific types and/or combinations of derivative contracts:

#### **Futures Contracts (A Type of Derivative)**

Futures contracts provide for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a Reference Instrument at a specified price, date and time. Entering into a contract to buy a Reference Instrument is commonly referred to as buying a contract or holding a long position in the asset. Entering into a contract to sell a Reference Instrument is commonly referred to as selling a contract or holding a short position in the Reference Instrument. Futures contracts are considered to be commodity contracts. The Adviser has claimed an exclusion from the definition of the term “commodity pool operator” under the Commodity Exchange Act with respect to the Fund, and therefore is not subject to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the Act with respect to the Fund. Futures contracts traded OTC are frequently referred to as forward contracts. The Fund can buy or sell financial futures (such as interest rate futures, index futures and security futures) as well as currency futures and currency forward contracts.

### **Option Contracts (A Type of Derivative)**

Option contracts (also called “options”) are rights to buy or sell a Reference Instrument for a specified price (the “exercise price”) during, or at the end of, a specified period. The seller (or “writer”) of the option receives a payment, or premium, from the buyer, which the writer keeps regardless of whether the buyer uses (or exercises) the option. A call option gives the holder (buyer) the right to buy the Reference Instrument from the seller (writer) of the option. A put option gives the holder the right to sell the Reference Instrument to the writer of the option. Options may be bought or sold on a wide variety of Reference Instruments. Options that are written on futures contracts will be subject to margin requirements similar to those applied to futures contracts.

### **Swap Contracts (A Type of Derivative)**

A swap contract (also known as a “swap”) is a type of derivative contract in which two parties agree to pay each other (swap) the returns derived from Reference Instruments. Swaps do not always involve the delivery of the Reference Instruments by either party, and the parties might not own the Reference Instruments underlying the swap. The payments are usually made on a net basis so that, on any given day, the Fund would receive (or pay) only the amount by which its payment under the contract is less than (or exceeds) the amount of the other party’s payment. Swap agreements are sophisticated instruments that can take many different forms and are known by a variety of names. Common types of swaps in which the Fund may invest include interest rate swaps, caps and floors, total return swaps, credit default swaps and currency swaps.

## **OTHER INVESTMENTS, TRANSACTIONS, TECHNIQUES**

### **Hybrid Instruments**

Hybrid instruments combine elements of two different kinds of securities or financial instruments (such as a derivative contract). Frequently, the value of a hybrid instrument is determined by reference to changes in the value of a Reference Instrument (that is a designated security, commodity, currency, index or other asset or instrument including a derivative contract). The Fund may use hybrid instruments only in connection with permissible investment activities. Hybrid instruments can take on many forms including, but not limited to, the following forms. First, a common form of a hybrid instrument combines elements of a derivative contract with those of another security (typically a fixed-income security). In this case all or a portion of the interest or principal payable on a hybrid security is determined by reference to changes in the price of a Reference Instrument. Second, hybrid instruments may include convertible securities with conversion terms related to a Reference Instrument.

Depending on the type and terms of the hybrid instrument, its risks may reflect a combination of the risks of investing in the Reference Instrument with the risks of investing in other securities, currencies and derivative contracts. Thus, an investment in a hybrid instrument may entail significant risks in addition to those associated with traditional investments or the Reference Instrument. Hybrid instruments are also potentially more volatile than traditional securities or the Reference Instrument. Moreover, depending on the structure of the particular hybrid, it may expose the Fund to leverage risks or carry liquidity risks.

### **Derivatives Regulation and Asset Coverage**

The regulation of the U.S. and non-U.S. derivatives markets has undergone substantial change in recent years and such change may continue. In addition, effective August 19, 2022, Rule 18f-4 (the “Derivatives Rule”) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), replaced the asset segregation framework previously used by funds to comply with limitations on leverage imposed by the 1940 Act. The Derivatives Rule generally mandates that a fund either limit derivatives exposure to 10% or less of its net assets, or in the alternative implement: (i) limits on leverage calculated based value-at-risk (VAR); (ii) a written derivatives risk management program (DRMP) administered by a derivatives risk manager appointed by the Fund’s Board, including a majority of the independent Board members, that is periodically reviewed by the Board; and (iii) new reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

As the Fund’s derivative exposure, if any, is 10% or less of its net assets, excluding certain currency and interest rate hedging transactions, the Fund is classified as a limited derivatives user under the Derivatives Rule and will not be subject to the full requirements of the Derivatives Rule as noted above, including VAR testing and stress testing and certain Board reporting requirements. However, the Fund is still required to implement written compliance policies and procedures reasonably designed to manage its derivatives risks and monitor its derivatives exposure daily.

### **Securities Lending**

The Fund may lend portfolio securities to borrowers that the Adviser deems creditworthy. In return, the Fund receives cash or liquid securities from the borrower as collateral. The borrower must furnish additional collateral if the market value of the loaned securities increases. Also, the borrower must pay the Fund the equivalent of any dividends or interest received on the loaned securities.

The Fund will reinvest cash collateral in securities that qualify as an acceptable investment for the Fund. However, the Fund must pay interest to the borrower for the use of cash collateral. An acceptable investment into which the Fund may reinvest cash collateral includes, among other acceptable investments, securities of affiliated money market funds (including affiliated institutional prime money market funds with a “floating” net asset value that can impose redemption fees and liquidity gates, impose certain operational impediments to investing cash collateral, and, if net asset value decreases, result in the Fund having to cover the decrease in the value of the cash collateral).

Loans are subject to termination at the option of the Fund or the borrower. The Fund will not have the right to vote on securities while they are on loan. However, the Fund will attempt to terminate a loan in an effort to reacquire the securities in time to vote on matters that are deemed to be material by the Adviser. There can be no assurance that the Fund will have sufficient notice of such matters to be able to terminate the loan in time to vote thereon. The Fund may pay administrative and custodial fees in connection with a loan and may pay a negotiated portion of the interest earned on the cash collateral to a securities lending agent or broker. Securities lending activities are subject to interest rate risks and credit risks.

#### **Investment Ratings for Investment-Grade Securities**

The Adviser will determine whether a security is investment grade based upon the credit ratings given by one or more NRSROs. For example, Standard & Poor’s, an NRSRO, assigns ratings to investment-grade securities (AAA, AA, A and BBB including modifiers, sub-categories and gradations) based on their assessment of the likelihood of the issuer’s inability to pay interest or principal (default) when due on each security. Lower credit ratings correspond to higher credit risk. If a security has not received a rating, the Fund must rely entirely upon the Adviser’s credit assessment that the security is comparable to investment grade. The presence of a ratings modifier, sub-category or gradation (for example, a (+) or (-)) is intended to show relative standing within the major rating categories and does not affect the security credit rating for purposes of the Fund’s investment parameters. If a security is downgraded below the minimum quality grade discussed above, the Adviser will reevaluate the security, but will not be required to sell it.

#### **Additional Information Regarding the Security Selection Process**

As part of analysis in its security selection process, among other factors, the Adviser also evaluates whether environmental, social and governance factors could have a positive or negative impact on the risk profiles of many issuers or guarantors in the universe of securities in which the Fund may invest. The Adviser may also consider information derived from active engagements conducted by its in-house stewardship team with certain issuers or guarantors on environmental, social and governance topics. This qualitative analysis does not automatically result in including or excluding specific securities but may be used by Federated Hermes as an additional input in its primary analysis.

### **What are the Specific Risks of Investing in the Fund?**

The following provides general information on the risks associated with the Fund’s principal investments. Any additional risks associated with the Fund’s non-principal investments are described in the Fund’s SAI. The Fund’s SAI also may provide additional information about the risks associated with the Fund’s principal investments.

#### **ISSUER CREDIT RISK**

It is possible that interest or principal on securities will not be paid when due. Such non-payment or default may reduce the value of the Fund’s portfolio holdings, its share price and its performance.

Many fixed-income securities receive credit ratings from nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSROs) such as Fitch Rating Service, Moody’s Investor Services, Inc. and Standard & Poor’s that assign ratings to securities by assessing the likelihood of an issuer and/or guarantor default. Higher credit ratings correspond to lower perceived credit risk and lower credit ratings correspond to higher perceived credit risk. Credit ratings may be upgraded or downgraded from time to time as an NRSRO’s assessment of the financial condition of a party obligated to make payments with respect to such securities and credit risk changes. The impact of any credit rating downgrade can be uncertain. Credit rating downgrades may lead to increased interest rates and volatility in financial markets, which in turn could negatively affect the value of the Fund’s portfolio holdings, its share price and its investment performance. Credit ratings are not a guarantee of quality. Credit ratings may lag behind the current financial conditions of the issuer and/or guarantor and do not provide assurance against default or other loss of money. Credit ratings do not protect against a decline in the value of a security. If a security has not received a rating, the Fund must rely entirely upon the Adviser’s credit assessment.

Fixed-income securities generally compensate for greater credit risk by paying interest at a higher rate. The difference between the yield of a security and the yield of a U.S. Treasury security or other appropriate benchmark with a comparable maturity (the “spread”) measures the additional interest paid for risk. Spreads may increase generally in response to adverse economic or market conditions. A security’s spread may also increase if the security’s rating is lowered, or the security is perceived to have an increased credit risk. An increase in the spread will cause the price of the security to decline if interest rates remain unchanged.

#### **COUNTERPARTY CREDIT RISK**

Credit risk includes the possibility that a party to a transaction involving the Fund will fail to meet its obligations. This could cause the Fund to lose money or to lose the benefit of the transaction or prevent the Fund from selling or buying other securities to implement its investment strategy.

#### **INTEREST RATE RISK**

Prices of fixed-income securities rise and fall in response to changes in interest rates. Generally, when interest rates rise, prices of fixed-income securities fall. However, market factors, such as the demand for particular fixed-income securities, may cause the price of certain fixed-income securities to fall while the prices of other securities rise or remain unchanged.

The longer the duration of a fixed-income security, the more susceptible it is to interest rate risk. The duration of a fixed-income security may be equal to or shorter than the stated maturity of a fixed-income security. Recent and potential future changes in monetary policy made by central banks and/or their governments are likely to affect the level of interest rates. Duration measures the price sensitivity of a fixed-income security given a change in interest rates. For example, if a fixed-income security has an effective duration of three years, a 1% increase in general interest rates would be expected to cause the security’s value to decline about 3% while a 1% decrease in general interest rates would be expected to cause the security’s value to increase about 3%.

#### **LIQUIDITY RISK**

Trading opportunities are more limited for fixed-income securities that have not received any credit ratings, have received ratings below investment grade or are not widely held.

Trading opportunities are more limited for CMOs that have complex terms or that are not widely held. These features may make it more difficult to sell or buy a security at a favorable price or time. Consequently, the Fund may have to accept a lower price to sell a security, sell other securities to raise cash or give up an investment opportunity, any of which could have a negative effect on the Fund’s performance. Infrequent trading of securities may also lead to an increase in their price volatility.

Liquidity risk also refers to the possibility that the Fund may not be able to sell a security or close out a derivative contract when it wants to. If this happens, the Fund will be required to continue to hold the security or keep the position open and the Fund could incur losses.

OTC derivative contracts generally carry greater liquidity risk than exchange-traded contracts. This risk may be increased in times of financial stress, if the trading market for OTC derivative contracts becomes restricted.

#### **RISK OF FOREIGN INVESTING**

Foreign securities pose additional risks because foreign economic or political conditions may be less favorable than those of the United States. Securities in foreign markets may also be subject to taxation policies that reduce returns for U.S. investors.

Foreign companies may not provide information (including financial statements) as frequently or to as great an extent as companies in the United States. Foreign companies may also receive less coverage than U.S. companies by market analysts and the financial press. In addition, foreign countries may lack uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards or regulatory requirements comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies. These factors may prevent the Fund and its Adviser from obtaining information concerning foreign companies that is as frequent, extensive and reliable as the information available concerning companies in the United States.

Foreign countries may have restrictions on foreign ownership of securities or may impose exchange controls, capital flow restrictions or repatriation restrictions which could adversely affect the liquidity of the Fund’s investments.

#### **CALL RISK**

Call risk is the possibility that an issuer may redeem a fixed-income security before maturity (a “call”) at a price below its current market price. An increase in the likelihood of a call may reduce the security’s price.

If a fixed-income security is called, the Fund may have to reinvest the proceeds in other fixed-income securities with lower interest rates, higher credit risks or other less favorable characteristics.

## **PREPAYMENT AND EXTENSION RISK**

Unlike traditional fixed-income securities, which pay a fixed rate of interest until maturity (when the entire principal amount is due), payments on mortgage-backed securities include both interest and a partial payment of principal. Partial payment of principal may be comprised of scheduled principal payments as well as unscheduled payments from the voluntary prepayment, refinancing or foreclosure of the underlying loans. These unscheduled prepayments of principal create risks that can adversely affect a fund holding mortgage-backed securities.

For example, when interest rates decline, the values of mortgage-backed securities generally rise. However, when interest rates decline, unscheduled prepayments can be expected to accelerate, and the Fund would be required to reinvest the proceeds of the prepayments at the lower interest rates then available. Unscheduled prepayments would also limit the potential for capital appreciation on mortgage-backed securities.

Conversely, when interest rates rise, the values of mortgage-backed securities generally fall. Since rising interest rates typically result in decreased prepayments, this could lengthen the average lives of mortgage-backed securities, and cause their value to decline more than traditional fixed-income securities.

Generally, mortgage-backed securities compensate for the increased risk associated with prepayments by paying a higher yield. The additional interest paid for risk is measured by the difference between the yield of a mortgage-backed security and the yield of a U.S. Treasury security or other appropriate benchmark with a comparable maturity (the “spread”). An increase in the spread will cause the price of the mortgage-backed security to decline. Spreads generally increase in response to adverse economic or market conditions. Spreads may also increase if the security is perceived to have an increased prepayment risk or is perceived to have less market demand.

## **LEVERAGE RISK**

Leverage risk is created when an investment, which includes, for example, an investment in a derivative contract, exposes the Fund to a level of risk that exceeds the amount invested. Changes in the value of such an investment magnify the Fund’s risk of loss and potential for gain. Investments can have these same results if their returns are based on a multiple of a specified index, security or other benchmark.

## **RISK OF INVESTING IN DERIVATIVE CONTRACTS AND HYBRID INSTRUMENTS**

The Fund’s exposure to derivative contracts and hybrid instruments (either directly or through its investment in another investment company) involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. First, changes in the value of the derivative contracts and hybrid instruments in which the Fund invests may not be correlated with changes in the value of the underlying Reference Instruments or, if they are correlated, may move in the opposite direction than originally anticipated. Second, while some strategies involving derivatives may reduce the risk of loss, they may also reduce potential gains or, in some cases, result in losses by offsetting favorable price movements in portfolio holdings. Third, there is a risk that derivative contracts and hybrid instruments may be erroneously priced or improperly valued and, as a result, the Fund may need to make increased cash payments to the counterparty. Fourth, a common provision in OTC derivative contracts permits the counterparty to terminate any such contract between it and the Fund, if the value of the Fund’s total net assets declines below a specified level over a given time period. Factors that may contribute to such a decline (which usually must be substantial) include significant shareholder redemptions and/or a marked decrease in the market value of the Fund’s investments. Any such termination of the Fund’s OTC derivative contracts may adversely affect the Fund (for example, by increasing losses and/or costs, and/or preventing the Fund from fully implementing its investment strategies). Fifth, the Fund may use a derivative contract to benefit from a decline in the value of a Reference Instrument. If the value of the Reference Instrument declines during the term of the contract, the Fund makes a profit on the difference (less any payments the Fund is required to pay under the terms of the contract). Any such strategy involves risk. There is no assurance that the Reference Instrument will decline in value during the term of the contract and make a profit for the Fund. The Reference Instrument may instead appreciate in value creating a loss for the Fund. Sixth, a default or failure by a CCP or an FCM (also sometimes called a “futures broker”), or the failure of a contract to be transferred from an Executing Dealer to the FCM for clearing, may expose the Fund to losses, increase its costs, or prevent the Fund from entering or exiting derivative positions, accessing margin, or fully implementing its investment strategies. The central clearing of a derivative and trading of a contract over a SEF could reduce the liquidity in, or increase costs of entering into or holding, any contracts. Finally, derivative contracts and hybrid instruments may also involve other risks described in this Prospectus such as interest rate, credit, liquidity and leverage risks.

## **RISK RELATED TO THE ECONOMY**

The value of the Fund's portfolio may decline in tandem with a drop in the overall value of the markets in which the Fund invests and/or other markets based on negative developments in the U.S. and global economies. Economic, political and financial conditions, or industry or economic trends and developments, may, from time to time, and for varying periods of time, cause volatility, illiquidity or other potentially adverse effects in the financial markets, including the fixed-income market. The commencement, continuation or ending of government policies and economic stimulus programs, changes in monetary policy, increases or decreases in interest rates, or other factors or events that affect the financial markets, including the fixed-income markets, may contribute to the development of or increase in volatility, illiquidity, shareholder redemptions and other adverse effects which could negatively impact the Fund's performance. For example, the value of certain portfolio securities may rise or fall in response to changes in interest rates, which could result from a change in government policies, and has the potential to cause investors to move out of certain portfolio securities, including fixed-income securities, on a large scale. This may increase redemptions from funds that hold large amounts of certain securities and may result in decreased liquidity and increased volatility in the financial markets. Market factors, such as the demand for particular portfolio securities, may cause the price of certain portfolio securities to fall while the prices of other securities rise or remain unchanged.

### **Epidemic and Pandemic Risk**

An outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus was first detected in China in late 2019 and subsequently spread globally. This coronavirus has resulted in, and may continue to result in, closed borders, enhanced health screenings, disruptions to healthcare service preparation and delivery, quarantines, cancellations and disruptions to supply chains, workflow operations and consumer activity, as well as general concern and uncertainty. The impact of this coronavirus has resulted in substantial economic volatility. Health crises caused by outbreaks, such as the coronavirus outbreak, may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks. The impact of this outbreak, and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future, could continue to negatively affect the worldwide economy, as well as the economies of individual countries, individual companies, including certain Fund service providers and issuers of the Fund's investments, and the markets in general in significant and unforeseen ways. In addition, governments, their regulatory agencies, or self-regulatory organizations may take actions in response to the pandemic, including significant fiscal and monetary policy changes, that may affect the instruments in which the Fund invests or the issuers of such instruments. Any such impact could adversely affect the Fund's performance.

## **MBS RISK**

MBS have unique risks. A rise in interest rates may cause the value of MBS held by the Fund to decline. The mortgage loans underlying MBS generally are subject to a greater rate of principal prepayments in a declining interest rate environment and to a lesser rate of principal prepayments in an increasing interest rate environment. If the underlying mortgages are paid off sooner than expected, the Fund may have to reinvest this money in mortgage-backed or other securities that have lower yields. Hybrid ARMs also involve special risks. Like ARMs, hybrid ARMs have periodic and lifetime limitations on the increases that can be made to the interest rates that mortgagors pay. Therefore, if during a floating rate period, interest rates rise above the interest rate limits of the hybrid ARM, the Fund will not benefit from further increases in interest rates. See "Prepayment and Extension Risk" and "Interest Rate Risk." CMOs with complex or highly variable prepayment terms generally entail greater market, prepayment and liquidity risks than other MBS. For example, their prices are more volatile and their trading market may be more limited.

MBS are subject to the risk that payments made on a security will not be made when due. Payments on MBS are primarily derived from the interest and principal payments of the underlying mortgages. Some MBS also have guarantees or other structural features that provide additional support for interest and principal payments on the MBS if payments on the underlying mortgages are not made. MBS are subject to the risk that the underlying mortgage borrowers fail to make timely payments of interest and principal and that any guarantee or other structural feature, if present, is insufficient to enable the timely payment of interest and principal on the MBS. The structure of certain CMO interests held by the Fund may cause the Fund to be paid interest and/or principal on its investment only after holders of other interests in that particular CMO have received the full repayment of principal or interest on their investments. MBS are most commonly issued or guaranteed by GSEs, but also may be issued or guaranteed by private entities, which generally entail greater risk. Certain MBS issued by GSEs are not backed by or entitled to the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, but are, however, supported through federal subsidies, loans or other benefits. The Fund also may invest in certain MBS issued by GSEs that have no explicit financial support, and are supported only by the credit of the applicable GSEs (in addition to



the underlying mortgages and related debt service payments). The U.S. government has provided financial support to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, but there is no assurance that it will support these or other GSEs in the future. Although certain MBS are guaranteed as to timely payment of interest and principal by a GSE, the market prices for such securities are not guaranteed and will fluctuate.

#### **SECTOR RISK**

Companies with similar characteristics may be grouped together in broad categories called sectors. Sector risk is the possibility that a certain sector may underperform other sectors or the market as a whole. To the extent the Fund invests in a particular sector or sectors, its performance will be more susceptible to economic, business or other developments and risks affecting that sector. Such factors may vary depending upon the sector and economic conditions at the time.

#### **TECHNOLOGY RISK**

The Adviser uses various technologies in managing the Fund, consistent with its investment objective(s) and strategy described in this Prospectus. For example, proprietary and third-party data and systems are utilized to support decision-making for the Fund. Data imprecision, software or other technology malfunctions, programming inaccuracies and similar circumstances may impair the performance of these systems, which may negatively affect Fund performance.

## **What Do Shares Cost?**

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

When the Fund receives your transaction request in proper form (as described in this Prospectus under the section entitled “How to Purchase and Redeem Shares”), it is processed at the next calculated net asset value of a Share (NAV). A Share’s NAV is determined as of the end of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) each day the NYSE is open. The Fund calculates the NAV of each class by valuing the assets allocated to the Share’s class, subtracting the liabilities allocated to each class and dividing the balance by the number of Shares of the class outstanding. The NAV for each class of Shares may differ due to the level of expenses allocated to each class as well as a result of the variance between the amount of accrued investment income and capital gains or losses allocated to each class and the amount actually distributed to shareholders of each class.

Shares can be purchased or redeemed by participating insurance companies any day the NYSE is open.

When the Fund holds securities that trade principally in foreign markets on days the NYSE is closed, the value of the Fund’s assets may change on days you cannot purchase or redeem Shares. This may also occur when the U.S. markets for fixed-income securities are open on a day the NYSE is closed.

In calculating its NAV, the Fund generally values investments as follows:

- Fixed-income securities are fair valued using price evaluations provided by a pricing service approved by the Adviser.
- Derivative contracts listed on exchanges are valued at their reported settlement or closing price, except that options are valued at the mean of closing bid and ask quotations.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) derivative contracts are fair valued using price evaluations provided by a pricing service approved by the Adviser.

If any price, quotation, price evaluation or other pricing source is not readily available when the NAV is calculated, if the Fund cannot obtain price evaluations from a pricing service or from more than one dealer for an investment within a reasonable period of time as set forth in the Adviser’s valuation policies and procedures, or if information furnished by a pricing service, in the opinion of the Valuation Committee, is deemed not representative of the fair value of such security, the Fund uses the fair value of the investment determined in accordance with the procedures generally described below. There can be no assurance that the Fund could obtain the fair value assigned to an investment if it sold the investment at approximately the time at which the Fund determines its NAV per share.

Shares of other mutual funds are valued based upon their reported NAVs. The prospectuses for these mutual funds explain the circumstances under which they will use fair value pricing and the effects of using fair value pricing.

#### **FAIR VALUATION AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS PROCEDURES**

Pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, the Board has designated the Adviser as the Fund’s valuation designee to perform the fair valuation determination for securities and other assets held by the Fund. The Adviser, acting through its “Valuation Committee,” is responsible for determining the fair value of investments for which market quotations are not readily available. The Valuation Committee is comprised of officers of the Adviser and certain of the Adviser’s affiliated companies and determines fair value and oversees the calculation of the NAV. The Valuation Committee is subject to Board oversight and certain reporting and other requirements intended to provide the Board the information it needs to oversee the Adviser’s fair value determinations.

The Valuation Committee is also authorized to use pricing services to provide price evaluations of the current fair value of certain investments for purposes of calculating the NAV. In the event that market quotations and price evaluations are not available for an investment, the Valuation Committee determines the fair value of the investment in accordance with procedures adopted by the Adviser as the valuation designee. The Board periodically reviews the fair valuations made by the Valuation Committee. The Board has also approved the Adviser's fair valuation and significant events procedures as part of the Fund's compliance program and will review any changes made to the procedures. The Fund's SAI discusses the methods used by pricing services and the Valuation Committee in valuing investments.

Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from an investment's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other registered funds to calculate their NAVs. The application of the fair value procedures to an investment represents a good faith determination of such investment's fair value. There can be no assurance that the Fund could obtain the fair value assigned to an investment if it sold the investment at approximately the time at which the Fund determines its NAV per share, and the actual value could be materially different.

The Adviser also has adopted procedures requiring an investment to be priced at its fair value whenever the Valuation Committee determines that a significant event affecting the value of the investment has occurred between the time as of which the price of the investment would otherwise be determined and the time as of which the NAV is computed. An event is considered significant if there is both an affirmative expectation that the investment's value will change in response to the event and a reasonable basis for quantifying the resulting change in value.

Examples of significant events that may occur after the close of the principal market on which a security is traded, or after the time of a price evaluation provided by a pricing service or a dealer, include:

- With respect to securities traded principally in foreign markets, significant trends in U.S. equity markets or in the trading of foreign securities index futures contracts;
- Political or other developments affecting the economy or markets in which an issuer conducts its operations or its securities are traded; and
- Announcements concerning matters such as acquisitions, recapitalizations or litigation developments or a natural disaster affecting the issuer's operations or regulatory changes or market developments affecting the issuer's industry.

The Adviser has adopted procedures whereby the Valuation Committee uses a pricing service to provide factors to update the fair value of equity securities traded principally in foreign markets from the time of the close of their respective foreign stock exchanges to the pricing time of the Fund. For other significant events, the Fund may seek to obtain more current quotations or price evaluations from alternative pricing sources. If a reliable alternative pricing source is not available, the Valuation Committee will determine the fair value of the investment. The Board periodically reviews fair valuations made in response to significant events.

The fair valuation of securities following a significant event can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities for short-term traders to profit at the expense of long-term investors in the Fund. For example, such arbitrage opportunities may exist when the market on which portfolio securities are traded closes before the Fund calculates its NAV, which is typically the case with Asian and European markets. However, there is no assurance that these significant event procedures will prevent dilution of the NAV by short-term traders. See "Account and Share Information – Frequent Trading Policies" for other procedures the Fund employs to deter such short-term trading.

## How is the Fund Sold?

The Fund offers the following Share classes: Primary Shares (P) and Service Shares (S), each representing interests in a single portfolio of securities. This Prospectus relates only to Service Shares. All Share classes have different expenses which affect their performance. Contact your insurance company or call 1-800-341-7400 for more information concerning the other class.

The Fund's Distributor, Federated Securities Corp. (the "Distributor"), markets the Shares described in this Prospectus to insurance companies as funding vehicles for variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies issued by the insurance companies. Under the Distributor's Contract with the Fund, the Distributor offers Shares on a continuous, best-efforts basis. The Distributor is a subsidiary of Federated Hermes, Inc. ("Federated Hermes," formerly Federated Investors, Inc.).

### **Intra-Fund Share Conversion Program**

A shareholder in the Fund's Shares may convert their Shares at net asset value to any other share class of the Fund if the shareholder meets the investment minimum and eligibility requirements for the share class into which the conversion is sought, as applicable. Such conversion of classes should not result in a realization event for tax purposes. Contact your financial intermediary or call 1-800-341-7400 to convert your Shares.

## Payments to Insurance Companies

The Fund and its affiliated service providers may pay fees as described below for services provided to the Fund.

### **RULE 12b-1 FEES**

The Board has adopted a Rule 12b-1 Plan, which allows payment of marketing fees of up to 0.25% of average net assets to the Distributor for the sale, distribution, administration and customer servicing of the Fund's Service Shares. When the Distributor receives Rule 12b-1 Fees, it may pay some or all of them to financial intermediaries whose customers select the Shares as part of their variable contracts. Because these Shares pay marketing fees on an ongoing basis, your investment cost may be higher over time than other shares with different marketing fees.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE FEES**

The Fund may pay Administrative Service Fees of up to 0.25% of average net assets to insurance companies for providing services to shareholders and maintaining shareholder accounts. The S class of the Fund has no present intention of paying, accruing or incurring any such fee until such time as approved by the Fund's Board of Trustees.

### **ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS**

The Distributor may pay out of its own resources amounts to certain insurance companies that support the sale of Shares or provide services to Fund shareholders. The amounts of these payments could be significant, and may create an incentive for the insurance company or its employees or associated persons to recommend or sell Shares of the Fund to you. Not all insurance companies receive such payments, and the amount of compensation may vary by insurance company. In some cases, such payments may be made by or funded from the resources of companies affiliated with the Distributor (including the Adviser). These payments are not reflected in the fees and expenses listed in the fee table section of the Fund's Prospectus and described above because they are not paid by the Fund.

These payments are negotiated and may be based on such factors as the number or value of Shares that the insurance company sells or may sell; the value of client assets invested; or the type and nature of services or support furnished by the insurance company; or the Fund's and/or other Federated Hermes funds' relationship with the insurance company. These payments may be in addition to payments, as described above, made by the Fund to the insurance company. In connection with these payments, the insurance company may elevate the prominence or profile of the Fund and/or other Federated Hermes funds within the insurance company's organization by, for example, placement on a list of preferred or recommended funds, and/or granting the Distributor preferential or enhanced opportunities to promote the funds in various ways within the insurance company's organization. You can ask your insurance company for information about any payments it receives from the Distributor or the Fund and any services provided, as well as about fees it charges.

## How to Purchase and Redeem Shares

Shares are used solely as the investment vehicle for separate accounts of participating insurance companies offering variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. The general public has access to the Fund only by purchasing a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy (thus becoming a contract owner). Shares are not sold directly to the general public.

Purchase and redemption orders must be received by your participating insurance company by 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time). The purchase order will be processed at the NAV calculated on that day if the Fund receives your order from the participating insurance company in accordance with requirements of the Fund's Participation Agreement among the Fund, the Distributor and your participating insurance company. The Fund reserves the right to reject any purchase order.

Redemption proceeds normally are wired or mailed within one business day for each method of payment after receiving a timely request in proper form. Depending upon the method of payment, when shareholders receive redemption proceeds can differ. Payment may be delayed for up to seven days under certain circumstances (see "Limitations on Redemption Proceeds").

### **METHODS THE FUND MAY USE TO MEET REDEMPTION REQUESTS**

The Fund intends to pay Share redemptions in cash. To ensure that the Fund has cash to meet Share redemptions on any day, the Fund typically expects to hold a cash or cash equivalent reserve or sell portfolio securities.

In unusual or stressed circumstances, the Fund may generate cash in the following ways:

- **Inter-fund Borrowing and Lending.** The SEC has granted an exemption that permits the Fund and all other funds advised by subsidiaries of Federated Hermes ("Federated Hermes funds") to lend and borrow money for certain temporary purposes directly to and from other Federated Hermes funds. Inter-fund borrowing and lending is permitted only: (a) to meet shareholder redemption requests; (b) to meet commitments arising from "failed" trades; and (c) for other temporary purposes. All inter-fund loans must be repaid in seven days or less.

- **Committed Line of Credit.** The Fund participates with certain other Federated Hermes funds, on a several basis, in an up to \$500,000,000 unsecured, 364-day, committed, revolving line of credit (LOC) agreement. The LOC was made available to temporarily finance the repurchase or redemption of shares of the funds, failed trades, payment of dividends, settlement of trades and for other short-term, temporary or emergency general business purposes. The Fund cannot borrow under the LOC if an inter-fund loan is outstanding.
- **Redemption in Kind.** Although the Fund intends to pay Share redemptions in cash, it reserves the right to pay the redemption price in whole or in part by an “in-kind” distribution of the Fund’s portfolio securities. Because the Fund has elected to be governed by Rule 18f-1 under the 1940 Act, the Fund is obligated to pay Share redemptions to any one shareholder in cash only up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the net assets represented by such Share class during any 90-day period. Redemptions in kind are made consistent with the procedures adopted by the Fund’s Board, which generally include distributions of a pro rata share of the Fund’s portfolio assets. Redemption in kind is not as liquid as a cash redemption. If redemption is made in kind, securities received may be subject to market risk and the shareholder could incur taxable gains and brokerage or other charges in converting the securities to cash.

#### **LIMITATIONS ON REDEMPTION PROCEEDS**

Unless provided otherwise in applicable variable annuity contracts, redemption proceeds normally are wired or mailed within one business day after receiving a request in proper form. Payment may be delayed for up to seven days:

- During periods of market volatility;
- When a shareholder’s trade activity or amount adversely impacts the Fund’s ability to manage its assets; or
- During any period when the Federal Reserve wire or applicable Federal Reserve banks are closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings.

In addition, the right of redemption may be suspended, or the payment of proceeds may be delayed, during any period:

- When the NYSE is closed, other than customary weekend and holiday closings;
- When trading on the NYSE is restricted, as determined by the SEC; or
- In which an emergency exists, as determined by the SEC, so that disposal of the Fund’s investments or determination of its NAV is not reasonably practicable.

## **Security and Privacy Protection**

#### **ONLINE ACCOUNT AND TELEPHONE ACCESS SECURITY**

Federated Hermes will not be responsible for losses that result from unauthorized transactions, unless Federated Hermes does not follow procedures designed to verify your identity. When initiating a transaction by telephone or online, shareholders should be aware that any person with access to your account and other personal information including PINs (Personal Identification Numbers) may be able to submit instructions by telephone or online. Shareholders are responsible for protecting their identity by using strong usernames and complex passwords which utilize combinations of mixed case letters, numbers and symbols, and change passwords and PINs frequently.

Using [FederatedInvestors.com](http://FederatedInvestors.com)’s Account Access website means you are consenting to sending and receiving personal financial information over the Internet, so you should be sure you are comfortable with the risks. You will be required to accept the terms of an online agreement and to establish and utilize a password in order to access online account services. The Transfer Agent has adopted security procedures to confirm that Internet instructions are genuine. The Transfer Agent will also send you written confirmation of share transactions. The Transfer Agent, the Fund and any of its affiliates will not be liable for losses or expenses that occur from fraudulent Internet instructions reasonably believed to be genuine.

The Transfer Agent or the Fund will employ reasonable procedures to confirm that telephone transaction requests are genuine, which may include recording calls, asking the caller to provide certain personal identification information, sending you written confirmation, or requiring other confirmation security procedures. The Transfer Agent, the Fund and any of its affiliates will not be liable for relying on instructions submitted by telephone that the Fund reasonably believes to be genuine.

#### **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COMPLIANCE**

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, federal law requires financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each new customer who opens a Fund account and to determine whether such person’s name appears on governmental lists of known or suspected terrorists or terrorist organizations. Pursuant to the requirements under the USA PATRIOT Act, the information obtained will be used for compliance with the USA PATRIOT Act or other applicable laws, regulations and rules in connection with money laundering, terrorism or other illicit activities.

Information required includes your name, residential or business address, date of birth (for an individual), and other information that identifies you, including your social security number, tax identification number or other identifying number. The Fund cannot waive these requirements. The Fund is required by law to reject your Account Application if the required information is not provided. If, after reasonable effort, the Fund is unable to verify your identity or that of any other person(s) authorized to act on your behalf, or believes it has identified potentially suspicious, fraudulent or criminal activity, the Fund reserves the right to close your account and redeem your shares at the next calculated NAV without your permission. Any applicable contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) will be assessed upon redemption of your shares.

The Fund has a strict policy designed to protect the privacy of your personal information. A copy of Federated Hermes' privacy policy notice was given to you at the time you opened your account. The Fund sends a copy of the privacy notice to you annually. You may also obtain the privacy notice by calling the Fund, or through [FederatedInvestors.com](https://www.federatedinvestors.com).

## Account and Share Information

### **SPECIAL PROVISION FOR ABANDONED OR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**

Certain states, including the State of Texas, have laws that allow shareholders to designate a representative to receive abandoned or unclaimed property ("escheatment") notifications by completing and submitting a designation form that generally can be found on the official state website. If a shareholder resides in an applicable state, and elects to designate a representative to receive escheatment notifications, escheatment notices generally will be delivered as required by such state laws, including, as applicable, to both the shareholder and the designated representative. A completed designation form may be mailed to the Fund (if Shares are held directly with the Fund) or to the shareholder's insurance company (if Shares are not held directly with the Fund). Shareholders should refer to relevant state law for the shareholder's specific rights and responsibilities under his or her state's escheatment law(s), which can generally be found on a state's official website.

### **DIVIDENDS**

The Fund declares and pays any dividends annually to shareholders. Dividends are paid to all shareholders invested in the Fund on the record date. The record date is the date on which a shareholder must officially own Shares in order to earn a dividend.

Under the federal securities laws, the Fund is required to provide a notice to shareholders regarding the source of distributions made by the Fund if such distributions are from sources other than ordinary investment income. In addition, important information regarding the Fund's distributions, if applicable, is available via the link to the Fund and share class name at [FederatedInvestors.com/FundInformation](https://www.federatedinvestors.com/FundInformation).

### **TAX INFORMATION**

The Fund intends to comply with the diversification requirements imposed on variable contracts by the Internal Revenue Code and corresponding regulations. If the Fund fails to comply with these requirements, contracts invested in the Fund will not be treated as annuity, endowment or life insurance contracts under the Internal Revenue Code.

Contract owners should review the applicable contract prospectus for information concerning the federal income tax treatment of their contracts and distributions from the Fund to the separate accounts.

Contract owners are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding the status of their contracts under state and local tax laws.

### **FREQUENT TRADING POLICIES**

Frequent or short-term trading into and out of the Fund can have adverse consequences for the Fund and shareholders who use the Fund as a long-term investment vehicle. Such trading in significant amounts can disrupt the Fund's investment strategies (e.g., by requiring it to sell investments at inopportune times or maintain excessive short-term or cash positions to support redemptions) and increase brokerage and administrative costs. Investors engaged in such trading may also seek to profit by anticipating changes in the Fund's NAV in advance of the time as of which NAV is calculated. This may be particularly likely where a Fund invests in high-yield securities or securities priced in foreign markets.

The Fund's Board has approved policies and procedures intended to discourage excessive frequent or short-term trading of the Fund's Shares. The Fund's fair valuations procedures are intended in part to discourage short-term trading by reducing the potential for these strategies to succeed. See "What Do Shares Cost?" The Fund also monitors trading in Fund Shares in an effort to identify potential disruptive trading activity. The Fund monitors trades into and out of the Fund within a period of 30 days or less. The Fund may also monitor trades into and out of the Fund for potentially disruptive trading activity over periods longer than 30 days. The size of Share transactions subject to monitoring varies. Where it is determined that a shareholder has exceeded the detection amounts twice within a period of 12 months, the Fund will temporarily prohibit the shareholder from making further purchases or exchanges of Fund Shares. If the shareholder

continues to exceed the detection amounts for specified periods the Fund will impose lengthier trading restrictions on the shareholder, up to and including permanently prohibiting the shareholder from making any further purchases or exchanges of Fund Shares. Because the Fund's Shares are held exclusively by insurance company separate accounts, rather than directly by the individual contract owners of the separate accounts, the Fund is not in a position to determine directly whether a separate account's purchase or sale of Fund Shares on any given day represents transactions by a single or multiple investors. It is also not able to determine directly whether multiple purchases and sales by a separate account over any given period represent the activity of the same or of different investors. However, where trading activity in an insurance company separate account exceeds the monitoring limits, the Fund will request the insurance company to provide information on individual investor trading activity, and if such information is provided and if it is determined from this information that an investor has engaged in excessive short-term trading, the Fund will ask that the investor be prohibited from further purchases of Fund Shares. There can be no assurance that an insurance company will cooperate in prohibiting an investor from further purchases of Fund Shares, and there may be contractual limits on its ability to do so.

The Fund's frequent trading restrictions do not apply to purchases and sales of Fund Shares by other Federated Hermes funds. These funds impose the same frequent trading restrictions as the Fund at their shareholder level. In addition, allocation changes of the investing Federated Hermes fund are monitored, and the managers of the recipient fund must determine that there is no disruption to their management activity. The intent of this exception is to allow investing fund managers to accommodate cash flows and other activity that result from non-abusive trading in the investing fund, without being stopped from such trading because the aggregate of such trades exceeds the monitoring limits. Nonetheless, as with any trading in Fund Shares, purchases and redemptions of Fund Shares by other Federated Hermes funds could adversely affect the management of the Fund's portfolio and its performance.

The Fund will not restrict transactions made on a non-discretionary basis by certain asset allocation programs, wrap programs, fund of funds, collective funds or other similar accounts that have been pre-approved by Federated Hermes ("Approved Accounts"). The Fund will continue to monitor transactions by the Approved Accounts and will seek to limit or restrict even non-discretionary transactions by Approved Accounts that are determined to be disruptive or harmful to the Fund.

The Fund's objective is that its restrictions on short-term trading should apply to all shareholders that are subject to the restrictions, regardless of the number or type of accounts in which Shares are held. However, the Fund anticipates that limitations on its ability to identify trading activity to specific shareholders will mean that these restrictions may not be able to be applied uniformly in all cases.

Please refer to the prospectus for your variable insurance product contract to determine what policies or procedures may have been adopted by your insurance company to discourage frequent or short-term trading of the Fund and the other variable investment options offered under your contract. Whatever policies and procedures may have been adopted by your insurance company to discourage frequent or short-term trading, please note that the Fund is also used as an investment option for variable product contracts of other insurance companies. These other insurance companies may not have adopted policies and procedures to discourage frequent or short-term trading or may have different policies and procedures than those described in your variable insurance product prospectus.

To the extent that the policies and procedures of the Fund and/or participating insurance companies are not effective in discouraging frequent trading of Fund Shares, such trading may have the adverse consequences discussed above for the Fund and its long-term Shareholders. No matter how the Fund or a participating insurance company defines its limits on frequent trading of Fund Shares, other purchases and sales of Fund Shares may have adverse effects on the management of the Fund's portfolio and its performance.

#### **PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION**

Information concerning the Fund's portfolio holdings is available via the link to the Fund and share class name at [FederatedInvestors.com/FundInformation](https://www.federatedinvestors.com/FundInformation). A complete listing of the Fund's portfolio holdings as of the end of each calendar quarter is posted on the website 30 days (or the next business day) after the end of the quarter and remains posted for six months thereafter. Summary portfolio composition information as of the close of each month is posted on the website 15 days (or the next business day) after month-end and remains posted until replaced by the information for the succeeding month. The summary portfolio composition information may include identification of the Fund's top 10 holdings, and a percentage breakdown of the portfolio by sector and credit quality.

You may also access portfolio information as of the end of the Fund's fiscal quarters via the link to the Fund and share class name at [FederatedInvestors.com](https://www.federatedinvestors.com). The Fund's Annual and Semi-Annual Shareholder Reports contain complete listings of the Fund's portfolio holdings as of the end of the Fund's second and fourth fiscal quarters. Fiscal quarter information is made available on the website within 70 days after the end of the fiscal quarter. This information is also available in reports filed with the SEC at the SEC's website at [sec.gov](https://www.sec.gov).

Each fiscal quarter, the Fund will file with the SEC a complete schedule of its monthly portfolio holdings on “Form N-PORT.” The Fund’s holdings as of the end of the third month of every fiscal quarter, as reported on Form N-PORT, will be publicly available on the SEC’s website at [sec.gov](http://sec.gov) within 60 days of the end of the fiscal quarter upon filing. You may also access this information via the link to the Fund and share class name at [FederatedInvestors.com](http://FederatedInvestors.com).

In addition, from time to time (for example, during periods of unusual market conditions), additional information regarding the Fund’s portfolio holdings and/or composition may be posted to [FederatedInvestors.com](http://FederatedInvestors.com). If and when such information is posted, its availability will be noted on, and the information will be accessible from, the home page of the website.

## Who Manages the Fund?

The Board governs the Fund. The Board selects and oversees the Adviser, Federated Investment Management Company. The Adviser manages the Fund’s assets, including buying and selling portfolio securities. Federated Advisory Services Company (FASC), an affiliate of the Adviser, provides certain support services to the Adviser. The fee for these services is paid by the Adviser and not by the Fund. The address of the Adviser and FASC is 1001 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3779.

The Adviser and other advisory subsidiaries of Federated Hermes combined, advise approximately 102 registered investment companies spanning equity, fixed-income and money market mutual funds and also manage a variety of other pooled investment vehicles, private investment companies and customized separately managed accounts (including non-U.S./offshore funds). Federated Hermes’ assets under management totaled approximately \$668.9 billion as of December 31, 2022. Federated Hermes was established in 1955 as Federated Investors, Inc. and is one of the largest investment managers in the United States with nearly 2,000 employees. Federated Hermes provides investment products to more than 11,000 investment professionals and institutions.

The Adviser advises approximately 73 registered investment companies and also manages sub-advised funds. The Adviser’s assets under management totaled approximately \$399.6 billion as of December 31, 2022.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

### **Bryan J. Dingle**

Bryan J. Dingle, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund’s portfolio manager since April of 2014.

Mr. Dingle is responsible for day to day management of the Fund focusing on asset allocation, interest rate strategy and security selection. He has been with the Adviser or an affiliate since 2006; has worked in investment management since 1995; has managed investment portfolios since 2009. Education: B.S., University of Delaware; M.B.A., University of Maryland.

### **Brian S. Ruffner**

Brian S. Ruffner, Senior Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund’s portfolio manager since April of 2017.

Mr. Ruffner is responsible for providing research and advice on sector allocation and security selection. He has been with the Adviser or an affiliate since 1994; has worked in investment management since 2001; has managed investment portfolios since 2009. Education: B.S., Indiana University of Pennsylvania; M.B.A., Duquesne University.

The Fund’s SAI provides additional information about the Portfolio Managers’ compensation, management of other accounts and ownership of securities in the Fund.

## ADVISORY FEES

The Fund’s investment advisory contract provides for payment to the Adviser of an annual investment advisory fee of 0.60% of the Fund’s average daily net assets. The Adviser may voluntarily waive a portion of its fee or reimburse the Fund for certain operating expenses. The Adviser and its affiliates have also agreed to certain “Fee Limits” as described in the footnote to the “Risk/Return Summary: Fees and Expenses” table found in the “Fund Summary” section of the Prospectus.

A discussion of the Board’s review of the Fund’s investment advisory contract is available in the Fund’s Annual and Semi-Annual Shareholder Reports for the periods ended December 31 and June 30, respectively.

## Financial Information

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Financial Highlights will help you understand the Fund's financial performance for its past five fiscal years. Some of the information is presented on a per Share basis. Total returns represent the rate an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Fund, assuming reinvestment of any dividends and capital gains. The total return information shown in the Financial Highlights table does not reflect the fees and expenses of any separate account that may use the Fund as its underlying investment medium or of any variable insurance contract that may be funded in such a separate account. If these fees and expenses were included, the total return figures for all periods shown would be reduced.

This information has been audited by KPMG LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Fund's audited financial statements, is included in the Annual Report.



## Financial Highlights – Service Shares

(For a Share Outstanding Throughout Each Period)

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$11.23</b>	<b>\$11.79</b>	<b>\$11.28</b>	<b>\$10.62</b>	<b>\$11.01</b>
<b>Income From Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment income (loss) <sup>1</sup>	0.22	0.22	0.26	0.28	0.27
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(1.26)	(0.42)	0.57	0.68	(0.36)
TOTAL FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS	(1.04)	(0.20)	0.83	0.96	(0.09)
<b>Less Distributions:</b>					
Distributions from net investment income	(0.24)	(0.26)	(0.29)	(0.30)	(0.30)
Distributions from net realized gain	(0.16)	(0.10)	(0.03)	(0.00) <sup>2</sup>	—
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	(0.40)	(0.36)	(0.32)	(0.30)	(0.30)
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Period</b>	<b>\$9.79</b>	<b>\$11.23</b>	<b>\$11.79</b>	<b>\$11.28</b>	<b>\$10.62</b>
<b>Total Return<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>(9.46)%</b>	<b>(1.66)%</b>	<b>7.86%</b>	<b>9.17%</b>	<b>(0.78)%</b>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets:</b>					
Net expenses <sup>4</sup>	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%	0.99%
Net investment income	2.19%	1.92%	2.25%	2.54%	2.58%
Expense waiver/reimbursement <sup>5</sup>	0.07%	0.06%	0.07%	0.08%	0.07%
<b>Supplemental Data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (000 omitted)	\$12,873	\$16,287	\$18,302	\$18,776	\$19,344
Portfolio turnover <sup>6</sup>	15%	27%	24%	21%	19%

1 Per share numbers have been calculated using the average shares method.

2 Represents less than \$0.01.

3 Based on net asset value. Total returns do not reflect any additional fees or expenses that may be imposed by separate accounts of insurance companies or in connection with any variable annuity or variable life insurance contract.

4 Amount does not reflect net expenses incurred by investment companies in which the Fund may invest.

5 This expense decrease is reflected in both the net expense and the net investment income ratios shown above. Amount does not reflect expense waiver/reimbursement recorded by investment companies in which the Fund may invest.

6 Securities that mature are considered sales for purposes of this calculation.

Further information about the Fund's performance is contained in the Fund's Annual Report, dated December 31, 2022, which can be obtained free of charge.

## Appendix A: Hypothetical Investment and Expense Information

The following chart provides additional hypothetical information about the effect of the Fund's expenses, including investment advisory fees and other Fund costs, on the Fund's assumed returns over a 10-year period. The chart shows the estimated expenses that would be incurred in respect of a hypothetical investment of \$10,000, assuming a 5% return each year, and no redemption of Shares. The chart also assumes that the Fund's annual expense ratio stays the same throughout the 10-year period and that all dividends and distributions are reinvested. The annual expense ratio used in the chart is the same as stated in the "Fees and Expenses" table of this Prospectus (and thus: (1) does not reflect any fee waiver or expense reimbursement currently in effect; and (2) does not reflect any additional fees or expenses that may be imposed by separate accounts of insurance companies in connection with any variable annuity or variable life insurance contract which, if included, would make your costs higher). Variable investment option returns, as well as fees and expenses, may fluctuate over time, and your actual investment returns and total expenses may be higher or lower than those shown below.

### FEDERATED HERMES QUALITY BOND FUND II - S CLASS

**ANNUAL EXPENSE RATIO: 1.06%**

**MAXIMUM FRONT-END SALES CHARGE: N/A**

Year	Hypothetical Beginning Investment	Hypothetical Performance Earnings	Investment After Returns	Hypothetical Expenses	Hypothetical Ending Investment
1	\$10,000.00	\$500.00	\$10,500.00	\$108.09	\$10,394.00
2	\$10,394.00	\$519.70	\$10,913.70	\$112.35	\$10,803.52
3	\$10,803.52	\$540.18	\$11,343.70	\$116.77	\$11,229.18
4	\$11,229.18	\$561.46	\$11,790.64	\$121.37	\$11,671.61
5	\$11,671.61	\$583.58	\$12,255.19	\$126.16	\$12,131.47
6	\$12,131.47	\$606.57	\$12,738.04	\$131.13	\$12,609.45
7	\$12,609.45	\$630.47	\$13,239.92	\$136.29	\$13,106.26
8	\$13,106.26	\$655.31	\$13,761.57	\$141.66	\$13,622.65
9	\$13,622.65	\$681.13	\$14,303.78	\$147.24	\$14,159.38
10	\$14,159.38	\$707.97	\$14,867.35	\$153.05	\$14,717.26
Cumulative		\$5,986.37		\$1,294.11	

# Notes

An SAI dated April 30, 2023, is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus. Additional information about the Fund and its investments is contained in the Fund's SAI and Annual and Semi-Annual Reports to shareholders as they become available. The Annual Report's Management's Discussion of Fund Performance discusses market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance during its last fiscal year. The SAI contains a description of the Fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of its portfolio securities. To obtain the SAI, Annual Report, Semi-Annual Report and other information without charge, and to make inquiries, call your insurance company or the Fund at 1-800-341-7400.

The Fund's shareholder reports will be made available on [FederatedInvestors.com/FundInformation](https://www.federatedinvestors.com/fundinformation), and you will be notified and provided with a link each time a report is posted to the website. You may request to receive paper reports from the Fund or from your financial intermediary, free of charge, at any time. You may also request to receive documents through e-delivery.

These documents, as well as additional information about the Fund (including portfolio holdings and distributions), are also available on [FederatedInvestors.com](https://www.federatedinvestors.com).

You can obtain information about the Fund (including the SAI) by accessing Fund information from the EDGAR Database on the SEC's website at [sec.gov](https://www.sec.gov). You can purchase copies of this information by contacting the SEC by email at [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).



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