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Share Class

Service

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## Federated Hermes High Income Bond Fund II

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A Portfolio of Federated Hermes Insurance Series

A mutual fund seeking high current income by investing primarily in a professionally managed, diversified portfolio of 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.

**CONTENTS**

Fund Summary Information..... 1

What are the Fund’s Investment Strategies? ..... 5

What are the Fund’s Principal Investments? ..... 5

What are the Specific Risks of Investing in the Fund? ..... 10

What Do Shares Cost? ..... 14

How is the Fund Sold? ..... 15

Payments to Insurance Companies ..... 16

How to Purchase and Redeem Shares ..... 16

Security and Privacy Protection ..... 17

Account and Share Information ..... 18

Who Manages the Fund? ..... 20

Financial Information ..... 21

Appendix A: Hypothetical Investment and Expense Information ..... 23

# Fund Summary Information

## Federated Hermes High Income Bond Fund II (the "Fund")

### RISK/RETURN SUMMARY: INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund's investment objective is to seek high 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 .....	0.28% <sup>1</sup>
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses .....	1.13%
Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements <sup>2</sup> .....	(0.07)%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements .....	1.06%

1 The Fund may incur and pay administrative service fees on its S class 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, if any) paid by the Fund's S class (after the voluntary waivers and/or reimbursements) will not exceed 1.06% (the "Fee Limit") up to but not including the later of (the "Termination Date"): (a) May 1, 2025; 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	\$ 115
3 Years	\$ 359
5 Years	\$ 622
10 Years	\$1,375

## 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 16% of the average value of its portfolio.

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

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

The Fund pursues its investment objective by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of high-yield, lower-rated corporate bonds (also known as “junk bonds”). The Fund primarily invests in domestic high-yield, lower-rated bonds, but may invest a portion of its portfolio in securities of issuers based outside of the United States (so-called “foreign securities”) in both emerging and developed markets. The Fund’s investment adviser (the “Adviser”) does not target an average maturity for the Fund’s portfolio.

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 contracts or hybrid instruments in an attempt to benefit from changes in the value of the underlying investment(s). 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.

The Fund will invest its assets so that at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) are invested in lower-rated 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 lower-rated 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:

- **Risk Associated with Noninvestment-Grade Securities.** Securities rated below investment-grade may be subject to greater interest rate, credit and liquidity risks than investment-grade securities. These securities are considered speculative with respect to the issuer’s ability to pay interest and repay principal.
- **Issuer Credit Risk.** It is possible that interest or principal on securities will not be paid when due. Noninvestment-grade securities generally have a higher default risk than investment-grade securities. 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.
- **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. Among other investments, lower-grade bonds and loans may be particularly sensitive to changes in the economy.
- **Liquidity Risk.** Liquidity of individual corporate bonds varies considerably. Low-grade corporate bonds have less liquidity than investment-grade securities, which means that it may be more difficult to sell or buy a security at a favorable price or time.
- **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.
- **Call Risk.** There is a possibility that an issuer of fixed-income securities in which the Fund may invest may redeem a 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.
- **Risk of Foreign Investing.** Because the Fund invests in securities issued by foreign companies, the Fund’s Share price may be more affected by foreign economic and political conditions, taxation policies and accounting and auditing standards than could otherwise be the case.

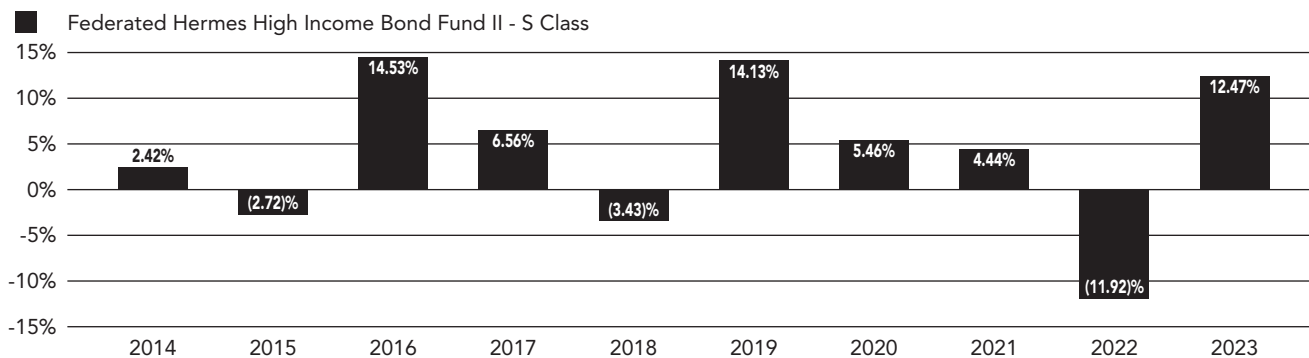
- **Currency Risk.** Exchange rates for currencies fluctuate daily. Foreign securities are normally denominated and traded in foreign currencies. As a result, the value of the Fund’s foreign investments and the value of the shares may be affected favorably or unfavorably by changes in currency exchange rates relative to the U.S. dollar.
- **European Union and Eurozone Related Risk.** A number of countries in the European Union (EU), including certain countries within the EU that have adopted the euro (Eurozone), have experienced, and may continue to experience, severe economic and financial difficulties. Additional countries within the EU may also fall subject to such difficulties. These events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the Fund’s investments in euro-denominated securities and derivatives contracts, securities of issuers located in the EU or with significant exposure to EU issuers or countries.
- **Leverage Risk.** Leverage risk is created when an investment exposes the Fund to a level of risk that exceeds the amount invested.
- **Risk of Investing in Emerging Market Countries.** Securities issued or traded in emerging markets generally entail greater risks than securities issued or traded in developed markets. Emerging market economies may also experience more severe downturns (with corresponding currency devaluations) than developed economies.
- **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, counterparty credit, currency, liquidity and leverage risks.
- **Technology Risk.** The Adviser uses various technologies in managing the Fund, consistent with its investment objective 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. The performance information shown below will 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 9.25% (quarter ended June 30, 2020). Its lowest quarterly return was (12.39)% (quarter ended March 31, 2020).

## Average Annual Total Return Table

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

(For the Period Ended December 31, 2023)

Share Class	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>S Class:</b>			
Return Before Taxes	12.47%	4.49%	3.87%
<b>Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield 2% Issuer Capped Index<sup>1</sup></b> (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	13.44%	5.35%	4.59%
<b>Lipper Variable Underlying High Yield Funds Average<sup>2</sup></b>	11.81%	4.78%	3.90%

1 The Bloomberg US Corporate High-Yield 2% Issuer Capped Index is an issuer-constrained version of the Bloomberg US Corporate High-Yield Index that measures the market of USD-denominated, noninvestment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bonds. The index follows the same rules as the uncapped index but limits the exposure of each issuer to 2% of the total market value and redistributes any excess market value index-wide on a pro-rata basis. The index is not adjusted to reflect sales charges, expenses or other fees that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) requires to be reflected in the Fund's performance. The index is unmanaged and, unlike the Fund, is not affected by cash flows. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

2 Lipper figures represent the average total returns reported by all of the funds serving as underlying investment options for variable insurance contracts designated by Lipper, Inc. as falling into the category indicated. They do not reflect sales charges.

## FUND MANAGEMENT

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

Mark E. Durbiano, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund's portfolio manager since its inception in August of 1993.

Kathryn P. Glass, CFA, Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund's portfolio manager since September of 2023.

Randal Stuckwish, CFA, Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund's portfolio manager since September of 2023.

## 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 seek high 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 provides exposure to the high-yield, lower-rated corporate bond market. The Fund's investment adviser (the "Adviser") actively manages the Fund's portfolio seeking to realize the potentially higher returns of high-yield, lower-rated bonds (also known as "junk bonds"), compared to returns of high-grade securities by seeking to minimize default risk and other risks through careful security selection and diversification. The Fund primarily invests in domestic high-yield, lower-rated bonds but may invest a portion of its portfolio in securities of issuers based outside of the United States (so-called "foreign securities") in both emerging and developed markets. A description of the various types of securities in which the Fund invests, and their risks, immediately follows the strategy discussion.

The Adviser selects securities that it believes have attractive risk-return characteristics. The securities in which the Fund invests have high yields primarily because of the market's greater uncertainty about the issuer's ability to make all required interest and principal payments, and therefore about the return that will, in fact, be realized by the Fund.

The Adviser attempts to select bonds for investment by the Fund which offer high potential returns for the default risks being assumed. The Adviser's security selection process consists of a credit-intensive, fundamental analysis of the issuing firm. The Adviser's analysis focuses on the financial condition of the issuing firm, together with the issuer's business and product strength, competitive position and management expertise. Further, the Adviser considers current economic, financial market and industry factors, which may affect the issuer.

The Adviser attempts to minimize the Fund's portfolio credit risk through diversification. The Adviser selects securities to maintain broad portfolio diversification both by company and industry. The Adviser does not target an average maturity for the Fund's portfolio.

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 contracts or hybrid instruments 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.

The Fund will invest its assets so that at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) are invested in lower rated 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 lower rated 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 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.

### **Lower-Rated, Fixed-Income Securities**

Lower-rated, fixed-income securities are securities rated below investment grade (i.e., BB or lower) by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSRO). There is no minimal acceptable rating for a security to be purchased or held by the Fund and the Fund may purchase or hold unrated securities and securities whose issuers are in default.

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

Zero-coupon securities do not pay interest or principal until final maturity unlike debt securities that provide periodic payments of interest (referred to as a coupon payment). Investors buy zero-coupon securities at a price below the amount payable at maturity. The difference between the purchase price and the amount paid at maturity represents interest on the zero-coupon security. Investors must wait until maturity to receive interest and principal, which increases the interest rate and credit risks of a zero-coupon security.

There are many forms of zero-coupon securities. Some are issued at a discount and are referred to as zero coupon or capital appreciation bonds. Others are created from interest-bearing bonds by separating the right to receive the bond's coupon payments from the right to receive the bond's principal due at maturity, a process known as coupon stripping. In addition, some securities give the issuer the option to deliver additional securities in place of cash interest payments, thereby increasing the amount payable at maturity. These are referred to as pay-in-kind, PIK securities or toggle securities.

### **Demand Instruments (A Type of Corporate Debt Security)**

Demand instruments are corporate debt securities that require the issuer or a third party, such as a dealer or bank (the "Demand Provider"), to repurchase the security for its face value upon demand. Some demand instruments are "conditional," so that the occurrence of certain conditions relieves the Demand Provider of its obligation to repurchase the security. Other demand instruments are "unconditional," so that there are no conditions under which the Demand Provider's obligation to repurchase the security can terminate. The Fund treats demand instruments as short-term securities, even though their stated maturity may extend beyond one year.

### **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, such as corporate debt securities) may be used to create an asset-backed security. Asset-backed securities may take the form of notes or pass-through certificates.



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

Convertible securities are fixed-income securities that the Fund has the option to exchange for equity securities at a specified conversion price. The option allows the Fund to realize additional returns if the market price of the equity securities exceeds the conversion price. For example, the Fund may hold fixed-income securities that are convertible into shares of common stock at a conversion price of \$10 per share. If the market value of the shares of common stock reached \$12, the Fund could realize an additional \$2 per share by converting its fixed-income securities.

Convertible securities have lower yields than comparable fixed-income securities. In addition, at the time a convertible security is issued, the conversion price exceeds the market value of the underlying equity securities. Thus, convertible securities may provide lower returns than nonconvertible, fixed-income securities or equity securities depending upon changes in the price of the underlying equity securities. However, convertible securities permit the Fund to realize some of the potential appreciation of the underlying equity securities with less risk of losing its initial investment.

The Fund treats convertible securities as fixed-income securities for purposes of its investment policies and limitations, because of their unique characteristics.

### **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.

While the Fund typically invests in U.S. dollar denominated foreign securities, the Fund may also invest in foreign securities that are denominated in foreign currencies. 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. Trading in certain foreign markets may also be subject to liquidity risks.

### **Foreign Exchange Contracts**

In order to convert U.S. dollars into the currency needed to buy a foreign security, or to convert foreign currency received from the sale of a foreign security into U.S. dollars, or to decrease or eliminate the Fund's exposure to foreign currencies in which a portfolio security is denominated, the Fund may enter into spot currency trades. In a spot trade, the Fund agrees to exchange one currency for another at the current exchange rate. The Fund may also enter into derivative contracts in which a foreign currency is an underlying asset. The exchange rate for currency derivative contracts may be higher or lower than the spot exchange rate. Use of these derivative contracts may increase or decrease the Fund's exposure to currency risks.

### **Preferred Stocks**

Preferred stocks have the right to receive specified dividends or distributions before the issuer makes payments on its common stock. Some preferred stocks also participate in dividends and distributions paid on common stock. Preferred stocks may also permit the issuer to redeem the stock. The Fund may also treat such redeemable preferred stock as a fixed-income security.

### **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.

### **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.

#### **RISK ASSOCIATED WITH NONINVESTMENT-GRADE SECURITIES**

Securities rated below investment grade, also known as junk bonds, generally entail greater economic, credit and liquidity risks than investment-grade securities. For example, their prices are more volatile, economic downturns and financial setbacks may affect their prices more negatively, and their trading market may be more limited. These securities are considered speculative with respect to the issuer's ability to pay interest and repay principal.

#### **ISSUER CREDIT RISK**

It is possible that interest or principal on securities will not be paid when due. Noninvestment-grade securities generally have a higher default risk than investment-grade securities.

The high-yield bonds in which the Fund invests have a higher default risk than investment-grade securities. Such non-payment or default may reduce the value of the Fund's portfolio holdings, its share price and its performance. Low-grade bonds may be uncollateralized and subordinated to other debt that a firm has outstanding.

Many fixed-income securities receive credit ratings from services 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 downgrade in a credit rating 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 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 relative to higher-quality instruments.

#### **COUNTERPARTY CREDIT RISK**

Counterparty 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.

#### **RISKS 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, industry or economic trends and developments or public health risks, such as epidemic or pandemics, may, from time to time, and for varying periods of time, cause volatility, illiquidity and/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. Among other investments, lower-grade bonds and loans may be particularly sensitive to changes in the economy.

#### **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.

Also, if dealer capacity has not kept, or does not keep pace with market growth, or if regulatory changes or other certain developments warrant, dealer inventories of securities (such as corporate bonds) may reach low levels and impact a dealer's ability to "make markets" (or buy or sell a security at a quoted bid and ask price).

These factors 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 or not 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. A significant reduction in dealer inventories or "market makers," or other factors resulting in infrequent trading of securities, can lead to decreased liquidity and may also lead to an increase in their price volatility. These affects may be exacerbated during times of economic or political stress. Noninvestment-grade securities generally have less liquidity than investment-grade 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 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.

Loan instruments may not be readily marketable and may be subject to restrictions on resale. In some cases, negotiations involved in disposing of loans may require weeks to complete. Additionally, collateral on loan instruments may consist of assets that may not be readily liquidated, and there is no assurance that the liquidation of such assets will satisfy a borrower's obligations under the instrument.

Increased Fund redemption activity, which may occur in a rising interest rate environment or for other reasons, also may increase liquidity risk due to the need of the Fund to sell portfolio securities and may negatively impact Fund performance.

#### **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%.

The impact of interest rate changes on the value of floating rate investments is typically reduced by periodic interest rate resets. Variable and floating rate loans and securities generally are less sensitive to interest rate changes, but may decline in value if their interest rates do not rise as much or as quickly as interest rates in general. Conversely, variable and floating rate loans and securities generally will not increase in value as much as fixed rate debt instruments if interest rates decline.

#### **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.

## **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.

Since many loan instruments involve parties (for example, lenders, borrowers and agent banks) located in multiple jurisdictions outside of the United States, there is a risk that a security interest in any related collateral may be unenforceable and obligations under the related loan agreements may not be binding.

## **CURRENCY RISK**

Exchange rates for currencies fluctuate daily. The combination of currency risk and market risks tends to make securities traded in foreign markets more volatile than securities traded exclusively in the United States. The Adviser attempts to manage currency risk by limiting the amount the Fund invests in securities denominated in a particular currency. However, diversification will not protect the Fund against a general increase in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies.

Investing in currencies or securities denominated in a foreign currency entails risk of being exposed to a currency that may not fully reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the economy of the country or region utilizing the currency. Currency risk includes both the risk that currencies in which the Fund's investments are traded, or currencies in which the Fund has taken an active investment position, will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar and, in the case of hedging positions, that the U.S. dollar will decline in value relative to the currency being hedged. In addition, it is possible that a currency (such as, for example, the euro) could be abandoned in the future by countries that have already adopted its use, and the effects of such an abandonment on the applicable country and the rest of the countries utilizing the currency are uncertain but could negatively affect the Fund's investments denominated in the currency. If a currency used by a country or countries is replaced by another currency, the Fund's Adviser would evaluate whether to continue to hold any investments denominated in such currency, or whether to purchase investments denominated in the currency that replaces such currency, at the time. Such investments may continue to be held, or purchased, to the extent consistent with the Fund's investment objective(s) and permitted under applicable law.

Many countries rely heavily upon export-dependent businesses and any strength in the exchange rate between a currency and the U.S. dollar or other currencies can have either a positive or a negative effect upon corporate profits and the performance of investments in the country or region utilizing the currency. Adverse economic events within such country or region may increase the volatility of exchange rates against other currencies, subjecting the Fund's investments denominated in such country's or region's currency to additional risks. In addition, certain countries, particularly emerging market countries, may impose foreign currency exchange controls or other restrictions on the transferability, repatriation or convertibility of currency.

## **EUROPEAN UNION AND EUROZONE RELATED RISK**

A number of countries in the European Union (EU), including certain countries within the EU that have adopted the euro (Eurozone), have experienced, and may continue to experience, severe economic and financial difficulties. Additional countries within the EU may also fall subject to such difficulties. These events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments in euro-denominated securities and derivatives contracts, securities of issuers located in the EU or with significant exposure to EU issuers or countries. If the euro is dissolved entirely, the legal and contractual consequences for holders of euro-denominated obligations and derivative contracts would be determined by laws in effect at such time. Such investments may continue to be held, or purchased, to the extent consistent with the Fund's investment objective(s) and permitted under applicable law. These potential developments, or market perceptions concerning these and related issues, could adversely affect the value of the Shares.

Certain countries in the EU have had to accept assistance from supra-governmental agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, the European Stability Mechanism (the "ESM") or other supra-governmental agencies. The European Central Bank has also been intervening to purchase Eurozone debt in an attempt to stabilize markets and reduce borrowing costs. There can be no assurance that these agencies will continue to intervene or provide further assistance and markets

may react adversely to any expected reduction in the financial support provided by these agencies. Responses to the financial problems by European governments, central banks and others including austerity measures and reforms, may not work, may result in social unrest and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences.

In addition, one or more countries may withdraw from the EU, and one or more countries within the Eurozone may abandon the euro. The impact of these actions, especially if they occur in a disorderly fashion, could be significant and far-reaching. On January 31, 2020, the United Kingdom (UK) left the EU, commonly referred to as “Brexit,” and there commenced a transition period during which the EU and UK negotiated and agreed on the nature of their future relationship, with such agreements becoming effective on December 31, 2020. There is significant market uncertainty regarding Brexit’s ramifications, and the range and potential implications of possible political, regulatory, economic and market outcomes are difficult to predict. This long-term uncertainty may affect other countries in the EU and elsewhere and may cause volatility within the EU, triggering prolonged economic downturns in certain countries within the EU. In addition, Brexit may create additional and substantial economic stresses for the UK, including a contraction of the UK economy and price volatility in UK stocks, decreased trade, capital outflows, devaluation of the British pound, wider corporate bond spreads due to uncertainty and declines in business and consumer spending as well as foreign direct investment. Brexit may also adversely affect UK-based financial firms, including certain sub-advisers to the Federated Hermes Funds, that have counterparties in the EU or participate in market infrastructure (trading venues, clearinghouses, settlement facilities) based in the EU. These events and the resulting market volatility may have an adverse effect on the performance of the Fund.

#### **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. 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 EMERGING MARKET COUNTRIES**

Securities issued or traded in emerging markets generally entail greater risks than securities issued or traded in developed markets. For example, the prices of such securities may be significantly more volatile than prices of securities in developed countries. Emerging market economies may also experience more severe downturns (with corresponding currency devaluations) than developed economies.

Emerging market countries may have relatively unstable governments and may present the risks of nationalization of businesses, expropriation, confiscatory taxation or, in certain instances, reversion to closed market, centrally planned economies.

#### **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, counterparty credit, currency, liquidity and leverage risks.

#### **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 fair 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 [FederatedHermes.com/us](https://FederatedHermes.com/us)’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 [FederatedHermes.com/us](https://www.federatedhermes.com/us).

## 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 [FederatedHermes.com/us/FundInformation](https://www.federatedhermes.com/us/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 or through an overall strategy to buy and sell Shares in response to incremental changes in the Fund's NAV. 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 [FederatedHermes.com/us/FundInformation](https://www.federatedhermes.com/us/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, credit quality and asset class.

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 [FederatedHermes.com/us](https://www.federatedhermes.com/us). 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 [FederatedHermes.com/us](http://FederatedHermes.com/us).

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 [FederatedHermes.com/us](http://FederatedHermes.com/us). 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 101 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 \$757.6 billion as of December 31, 2023. Federated Hermes was established in 1955 as Federated Investors, Inc. and is one of the largest investment managers in the United States with more than 2,000 employees. Federated Hermes provides investment products to more than 10,000 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 \$468.4 billion as of December 31, 2023.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

### Mark E. Durbiano

Mark E. Durbiano, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund’s portfolio manager since its inception in August of 1993.

Mr. Durbiano is Head of the Domestic High Yield Group and Head of the Bond Sector Pod/Committee. He is responsible for day to day management of the Fund focusing on asset allocation and security selection. He has been with the Adviser or an affiliate since 1982; has worked in investment management since 1982; has managed investment portfolios since 1986. Education: B.A., Dickinson College; M.B.A., University of Pittsburgh.

### Kathryn P. Glass

Kathryn P. Glass, CFA, Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund’s portfolio manager since September of 2023.

Ms. Glass is responsible for providing research and advice on security selection. She has been with the Adviser or an affiliate since 1999, has worked in investment management since 1999, and has managed investment portfolios since 2014. Education: B.A., University of Pittsburgh; M.A., Cornell University; M.S.I.A., Carnegie Mellon University.

### Randal Stuckwisch

Randal Stuckwisch, CFA, Portfolio Manager, has been the Fund’s portfolio manager since September of 2023.

Mr. Stuckwisch is responsible for providing research and advice on security selection. He has been with the Adviser or an affiliate since 2013, has worked in investment management since 2013, and has managed investment portfolios since 2021. Education: B.S., Bethany College; M.B.A., Tepper School of Business Carnegie Mellon 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,				
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$5.31</b>	<b>\$6.35</b>	<b>\$6.38</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>	<b>\$6.04</b>
<b>Income From Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment income (loss) <sup>1</sup>	0.29	0.27	0.26	0.28	0.31
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.34	(1.00)	0.01	(0.03)	0.52
<b>TOTAL FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>(0.73)</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.83</b>
<b>Less Distributions:</b>					
Distributions from net investment income	(0.31)	(0.31)	(0.30)	(0.36)	(0.38)
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Period</b>	<b>\$5.63</b>	<b>\$5.31</b>	<b>\$6.35</b>	<b>\$6.38</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>
<b>Total Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>12.47%</b>	<b>(11.92)%</b>	<b>4.44%</b>	<b>5.46%</b>	<b>14.13%</b>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets:</b>					
Net expenses <sup>3</sup>	1.06%	1.06%	1.06%	1.06%	1.06%
Net investment income	5.44%	4.92%	4.16%	4.70%	4.99%
Expense waiver/reimbursement <sup>4</sup>	0.06%	0.05%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%
<b>Supplemental Data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (000 omitted)	\$50,747	\$47,172	\$57,578	\$50,322	\$58,591
Portfolio turnover <sup>5</sup>	16%	13%	39%	36%	31%

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

2 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.

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

4 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.

5 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, 2023, 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 HIGH INCOME BOND FUND II - S CLASS

**ANNUAL EXPENSE RATIO: 1.13%**

**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	\$115.19	\$10,387.00
2	\$10,387.00	\$519.35	\$10,906.35	\$119.64	\$10,788.98
3	\$10,788.98	\$539.45	\$11,328.43	\$124.27	\$11,206.51
4	\$11,206.51	\$560.33	\$11,766.84	\$129.08	\$11,640.20
5	\$11,640.20	\$582.01	\$12,222.21	\$134.08	\$12,090.68
6	\$12,090.68	\$604.53	\$12,695.21	\$139.27	\$12,558.59
7	\$12,558.59	\$627.93	\$13,186.52	\$144.66	\$13,044.61
8	\$13,044.61	\$652.23	\$13,696.84	\$150.26	\$13,549.44
9	\$13,549.44	\$677.47	\$14,226.91	\$156.07	\$14,073.80
10	\$14,073.80	\$703.69	\$14,777.49	\$162.11	\$14,618.46
Cumulative		\$5,966.99		\$1,374.63	

An SAI dated April 30, 2024, 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 [FederatedHermes.com/us/FundInformation](https://FederatedHermes.com/us/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 [FederatedHermes.com/us](https://FederatedHermes.com/us).

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://sec.gov). You can purchase copies of this information by contacting the SEC by email at [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).



Federated Hermes High Income Bond Fund II  
Federated Hermes Funds  
4000 Ericsson Drive  
Warrendale, PA 15086-7561

Contact us at [FederatedHermes.com/us](https://FederatedHermes.com/us)  
or call 1-800-341-7400.

Federated Securities Corp., Distributor

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