

# Annual Financial Statements and Additional Information



October 31, 2024

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Share Class | Ticker

A | FHEQX

Institutional | FHESX

R6 | FHERX

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## Federated Hermes SDG Engagement Equity Fund

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A Portfolio of Federated Hermes Adviser Series

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**Not FDIC Insured • May Lose Value • No Bank Guarantee**

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# Portfolio of Investments

October 31, 2024

Shares		Value in U.S. Dollars
	COMMON STOCKS—98.9%	
	<b>Australia—2.0%</b>	
102,919	Ansell Ltd.	\$ 2,082,065
	<b>Finland—1.6%</b>	
40,618	Huhtamaki Oyj	1,597,752
	<b>France—0.8%</b>	
10,525	<sup>1</sup> Silicon-On-Insulator Technologies (SOITEC)	835,305
	<b>Hong Kong—3.1%</b>	
225,740	Techtronic Industries Co.	3,233,755
	<b>India—2.4%</b>	
349,040	Varun Beverages Ltd.	2,476,507
	<b>Ireland—1.7%</b>	
107,055	Glanbia PLC	1,772,664
	<b>Italy—2.2%</b>	
210,219	Technogym SpA	2,268,148
	<b>Japan—8.1%</b>	
27,150	Horiba Ltd.	1,663,051
60,305	NIFCO, Inc.	1,406,131
32,266	Nissan Chemical Industries	1,087,358
32,580	Open House Co. Ltd.	1,198,740
49,913	Yaoko Co. Ltd.	3,037,834
	TOTAL	8,393,114
	<b>Netherlands—1.9%</b>	
52,590	Aalberts NV	1,908,033
	<b>Peru—2.1%</b>	
11,815	Credicorp Ltd.	2,175,496
	<b>Singapore—1.6%</b>	
897,731	Mapletree Industrial Trust	1,629,241
	<b>Spain—2.8%</b>	
96,253	Merlin Properties Socimi SA	1,075,873
27,790	Viscofan Industria Navarra De Envolturas Celulosicas SA	1,856,662
	TOTAL	2,932,535
	<b>Sweden—2.6%</b>	
81,005	Trelleborg AB, Class B	2,707,729
	<b>Switzerland—2.0%</b>	
2,867	Burckhardt Compression Holdings AG	2,099,754
	<b>United Kingdom—8.8%</b>	
2,673,408	<sup>1</sup> AFC Energy PLC	282,622
238,681	Breedon Group PLC	1,352,906
577,230	Central Asia Metals PLC	1,305,347
32,070	DCC PLC	2,029,062
506,648	Harworth Group PLC	1,167,193
263,733	<sup>1</sup> Molten Ventures PLC	1,156,875
530,709	SSP Group PLC	1,100,344
60,700	<sup>1</sup> Vistry Group PLC	717,799
	TOTAL	9,112,148
	<b>United States—55.2%</b>	
29,895	Alliant Energy Corp.	1,793,700
25,922	<sup>1</sup> AMN Healthcare Services, Inc.	983,481
18,647	AptarGroup, Inc.	3,131,018

Shares		Value in U.S. Dollars
	COMMON STOCKS—continued	
	<b>United States—continued</b>	
8,513	Assurant, Inc.	\$ 1,631,942
31,338	Brunswick Corp.	2,498,892
13,592	<sup>1</sup> Chart Industries, Inc.	1,640,826
8,686	<sup>1</sup> Clean Harbors, Inc.	2,008,724
10,938	<sup>1</sup> Cooper Cos., Inc.	1,144,990
111,860	<sup>2</sup> Diversified Energy Co. PLC	1,342,967
8,248	Eagle Materials, Inc.	2,354,474
9,405	Equifax, Inc.	2,492,513
24,389	Fortune Brands Innovations, Inc.	2,032,335
14,259	<sup>1</sup> Kirby Corp.	1,636,363
6,744	Littelfuse, Inc.	1,649,785
46,871	LKQ Corp.	1,724,384
32,265	nVent Electric PLC	2,406,001
16,877	<sup>1</sup> PTC, Inc.	3,127,814
14,393	Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.	3,038,074
129,656	Retail Opportunity Investments Corp.	2,009,668
22,559	RPM International, Inc.	2,867,475
734,920	Samsonite International SA	1,725,867
19,573	<sup>1</sup> Silicon Laboratories, Inc.	2,032,852
13,247	Simpson Manufacturing Co., Inc.	2,381,678
11,785	STERIS PLC	2,614,502
5,284	West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.	1,627,102
12,121	<sup>1</sup> WEX, Inc.	2,092,085
25,891	Wintrust Financial Corp.	3,000,508
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56,990,020</b>
	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT IN SECURITIES—98.9%</b> (IDENTIFIED COST \$76,959,094) <sup>3</sup>	<b>102,214,266</b>
	<b>OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - NET—1.1%</b> <sup>4</sup>	<b>1,086,685</b>
	<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS—100%</b>	<b>\$103,300,951</b>

1 Non-income-producing security.

2 Denotes a restricted security that either: (a) cannot be offered for public sale without first being registered, or availing of an exemption from registration, under the Securities Act of 1933; or (b) is subject to a contractual restriction on public sales. At October 31, 2024, these restricted securities amounted to \$1,342,967, which represented 1.3% of total net assets.

3 The cost of investments for federal tax purposes amounts to \$81,405,561.

4 Assets, other than investments in securities, less liabilities. See Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Note: The categories of investments are shown as a percentage of total net assets at October 31, 2024.

Various inputs are used in determining the value of the Fund's investments. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1—quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2—other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.). Also includes securities valued at amortized cost.

Level 3—significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the inputs used, as of October 31, 2024, in valuing the Fund's assets carried at fair value:

**Valuation Inputs**

	Level 1— Quoted Prices	Level 2— Other Significant Observable Inputs	Level 3— Significant Unobservable Inputs	Total
<b>Equity Securities:</b>				
Common Stocks				
Domestic	\$53,921,186	\$ 3,068,834	\$—	\$ 56,990,020
International	2,175,496	43,048,750	—	45,224,246
<b>TOTAL SECURITIES</b>	<b>\$56,096,682</b>	<b>\$46,117,584</b>	<b>\$—</b>	<b>\$102,214,266</b>

See Notes which are an integral part of the Financial Statements

## Financial Highlights – Class A Shares

(For a Share Outstanding Throughout Each Period)

	Year Ended October 31,				Period
	2024	2023	2022	2021	Ended 10/31/2020 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$11.41</b>	<b>\$11.11</b>	<b>\$13.98</b>	<b>\$10.31</b>	<b>\$11.24</b>
<b>Income From Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment income <sup>2</sup>	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.04	0.07
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	2.55	0.22	(2.92)	3.74	(0.83)
TOTAL FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS	2.67	0.31	(2.83)	3.78	(0.76)
<b>Less Distributions:</b>					
Distributions from net investment income	(0.11)	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.11)	(0.12)
Distributions from net realized gain	—	—	—	—	(0.05)
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	(0.11)	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.11)	(0.17)
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Period</b>	<b>\$13.97</b>	<b>\$11.41</b>	<b>\$11.11</b>	<b>\$13.98</b>	<b>\$10.31</b>
<b>Total Return<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>23.47%</b>	<b>2.83%</b>	<b>(20.31)%</b>	<b>36.82%</b>	<b>(6.87)%</b>

### Ratios to Average Net Assets:

Net expenses <sup>4</sup>	1.19% <sup>5</sup>	1.19% <sup>5</sup>	1.19%	1.19% <sup>5</sup>	1.19% <sup>5,6</sup>
Net investment income	0.84%	0.71%	0.69%	0.34%	0.70% <sup>6</sup>
Expense waiver/reimbursement <sup>7</sup>	0.32%	0.38%	0.57%	0.62%	1.31% <sup>6</sup>

### Supplemental Data:

Net assets, end of period (000 omitted)	\$648	\$256	\$156	\$194	\$158
Portfolio turnover <sup>8</sup>	19%	14%	15%	13%	52% <sup>9</sup>

1 Reflects operations for the period from November 5, 2019 (commencement of operations) to October 31, 2020.

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

3 Based on net asset value, which does not reflect the sales charge, redemption fee or contingent deferred sales charge, if applicable. Total returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized.

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

5 The net expense ratios are calculated without reduction for expense offset arrangements. The net expense ratios are 1.18%, 1.19%, 1.18% and 1.17% for the years ended October 31, 2024, 2023, 2021 and the period ended October 31, 2020, respectively, after taking into account these expense reductions.

6 Computed on an annualized basis.

7 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.

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

9 Portfolio turnover is calculated at the Fund level. Percentage indicated was calculated for the fiscal period ended October 31, 2020.

See Notes which are an integral part of the Financial Statements

# Financial Highlights – Institutional Shares

(For a Share Outstanding Throughout Each Period)

	Year Ended October 31,				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$11.44</b>	<b>\$11.14</b>	<b>\$14.05</b>	<b>\$10.34</b>	<b>\$11.05</b>
<b>Income From Investment Operations:</b>					
Net investment income <sup>1</sup>	0.15	0.12	0.12	0.07	0.07
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	2.57	0.22	(2.93)	3.75	(0.61)
TOTAL FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS	2.72	0.34	(2.81)	3.82	(0.54)
<b>Less Distributions:</b>					
Distributions from net investment income	(0.13)	(0.04)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.12)
Distributions from net realized gain	—	—	—	—	(0.05)
TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS	(0.13)	(0.04)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.17)
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Period</b>	<b>\$14.03</b>	<b>\$11.44</b>	<b>\$11.14</b>	<b>\$14.05</b>	<b>\$10.34</b>
<b>Total Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>23.84%</b>	<b>3.08%</b>	<b>(20.11)%</b>	<b>37.11%</b>	<b>(4.99)%</b>
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets:</b>					
Net expenses <sup>3</sup>	0.94% <sup>4</sup>	0.94% <sup>4</sup>	0.94%	0.94% <sup>4</sup>	0.94% <sup>4</sup>
Net investment income	1.08%	0.98%	0.93%	0.55%	0.70%
Expense waiver/reimbursement <sup>5</sup>	0.30%	0.33%	0.53%	0.60%	1.13%
<b>Supplemental Data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (000 omitted)	\$102,477	\$85,874	\$59,692	\$63,268	\$39,785
Portfolio turnover <sup>6</sup>	19%	14%	15%	13%	52%

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

2 Based on net asset value.

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

4 The net expense ratios are calculated without reduction for expense offset arrangements. The net expense ratios are 0.93%, 0.94%, 0.94% and 0.92% for the years ended October 31, 2024, 2023, 2021 and 2020, respectively, after taking into account these expense reductions.

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

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

See Notes which are an integral part of the Financial Statements

## Financial Highlights – Class R6 Shares

(For a Share Outstanding Throughout Each Period)

	Year Ended October 31,			Period
	2024	2023	2022 <sup>1</sup>	Ended 10/31/2021 <sup>1,2</sup>
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$11.45</b>	<b>\$11.15</b>	<b>\$14.05</b>	<b>\$13.83</b>
<b>Income From Investment Operations:</b>				
Net investment income (loss) <sup>3</sup>	0.15	0.13	(0.01)	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	2.58	0.21	(2.79)	0.18
TOTAL FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS	2.73	0.34	(2.80)	0.22
<b>Less Distributions:</b>				
Distributions from net investment income	(0.13)	(0.04)	(0.10)	—
<b>Net Asset Value, End of Period</b>	<b>\$14.05</b>	<b>\$11.45</b>	<b>\$11.15</b>	<b>\$14.05</b>
<b>Total Return<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>23.95%</b>	<b>3.08%</b>	<b>(20.04)%</b>	<b>1.59%</b>

### Ratios to Average Net Assets:

Net expenses <sup>5</sup>	0.89% <sup>6</sup>	0.89% <sup>6</sup>	0.89%	0.87% <sup>6,7</sup>
Net investment income (loss)	1.10%	1.03%	(0.13)%	0.28% <sup>7</sup>
Expense waiver/reimbursement <sup>8</sup>	0.27%	0.31%	0.65%	0.00% <sup>7,9</sup>

### Supplemental Data:

Net assets, end of period (000 omitted)	\$176	\$144	\$140	\$0 <sup>10</sup>
Portfolio turnover <sup>11</sup>	19%	14%	15%	13% <sup>12</sup>

1 Certain ratios included in Ratios to Average Net Assets and per share amounts may be inflated or deflated as compared to the fee structure for each respective share class as a result of daily systematic allocations being rounded to the nearest penny for fund level income, expense and realized gain/loss amounts. Such differences are immaterial.

2 Reflects operations for the period from June 11, 2021 (commencement of operations) to October 31, 2021.

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

4 Based on net asset value. Total returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized.

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

6 The net expense ratios are calculated without reduction for expense offset arrangements. The net expense ratios are 0.88%, 0.89% and 0.86% for the years ended October 31, 2024, 2023 and the period ended October 31, 2021, respectively, after taking into account these expense reductions.

7 Computed on an annualized basis.

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

9 Represents less than 0.01%.

10 Represents less than \$1,000.

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

12 Portfolio turnover is calculated at the Fund level. Percentage indicated was calculated for the fiscal period ended October 31, 2021.

See Notes which are an integral part of the Financial Statements



# Statement of Assets and Liabilities

October 31, 2024

## Assets:

Investment in securities, at value (identified cost \$76,959,094)	\$102,214,266
Cash	1,351,065
Cash denominated in foreign currencies	57,458
Income receivable	167,356
Receivable for shares sold	25,117
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>103,815,262</b>

## Liabilities:

Payable for capital gains taxes withheld	\$ 297,014
Payable for portfolio accounting fees	92,777
Payable for auditing fees	32,896
Payable for shares redeemed	29,345
Payable for custodian fees	23,930
Payable for share registration costs	13,074
Payable for investment adviser fee (Note 5)	2,783
Payable for administrative fee (Note 5)	285
Payable for other service fees (Notes 2 and 5)	218
Accrued expenses (Note 5)	21,989
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>514,311</b>

Net assets for 7,362,193 shares outstanding \$103,300,951

## Net Assets Consist of:

Paid-in capital	\$ 80,900,355
Total distributable earnings (loss)	22,400,596
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$103,300,951</b>

## Net Asset Value, Offering Price and Redemption Proceeds Per Share:

### Class A Shares:

Net asset value per share (\$647,998 ÷ 46,371 shares outstanding), no par value, unlimited shares authorized	\$13.97
Offering price per share (100/94.50 of \$13.97)	\$14.78
Redemption proceeds per share	\$13.97

### Institutional Shares:

Net asset value per share (\$102,476,846 ÷ 7,303,284 shares outstanding), no par value, unlimited shares authorized	\$14.03
Offering price per share	\$14.03
Redemption proceeds per share	\$14.03

### Class R6 Shares:

Net asset value per share (\$176,107 ÷ 12,538 shares outstanding), no par value, unlimited shares authorized	\$14.05
Offering price per share	\$14.05
Redemption proceeds per share	\$14.05

See Notes which are an integral part of the Financial Statements

# Statement of Operations

Year Ended October 31, 2024

## Investment Income:

Dividends (net of foreign taxes withheld of \$90,245)	\$ 2,102,841
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## Expenses:

Investment adviser fee (Note 5)	\$ 782,708
Administrative fee (Note 5)	82,289
Custodian fees	39,632
Transfer agent fees (Note 2)	98,292
Directors'/Trustees' fees (Note 5)	1,120
Auditing fees	34,161
Legal fees	10,592
Other service fees (Notes 2 and 5)	1,347
Portfolio accounting fees	142,116
Share registration costs	48,453
Printing and postage	22,526
Miscellaneous (Note 5)	34,726
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,297,962</b>

## Waiver, Reimbursement and Reduction:

Waiver of investment adviser fee (Note 5)	(277,730)
Reimbursement of other operating expenses (Notes 2 and 5)	(32,863)
Reduction of custodian fees (Note 6)	(10,504)
<b>TOTAL WAIVER, REIMBURSEMENT AND REDUCTION</b>	<b>(321,097)</b>

Net expenses	976,865
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Net investment income	1,125,976
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## Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments and Foreign Currency Transactions:

Net realized gain on investments and foreign currency transactions (Including realized foreign capital gains tax of \$63,701)	926,228
Net change in unrealized appreciation of investments and translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currency (including increase in payable for capital gains taxes withheld of \$132,816)	18,415,395
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions	19,341,623
Change in net assets resulting from operations	\$20,467,599

See Notes which are an integral part of the Financial Statements

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended October 31	2024	2023
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>		
<b>Operations:</b>		
Net investment income	\$ 1,125,976	\$ 896,967
Net realized gain	926,228	1,292,718
Net change in unrealized appreciation/depreciation	18,415,395	648,214
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS	20,467,599	2,837,899
<b>Distributions to Shareholders:</b>		
Class A Shares	(3,434)	(232)
Institutional Shares	(989,342)	(311,512)
Class R6 Shares	(1,720)	(555)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS	(994,496)	(312,299)
<b>Share Transactions:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of shares	22,748,514	36,626,388
Net asset value of shares issued to shareholders in payment of distributions declared	974,071	305,977
Cost of shares redeemed	(26,168,985)	(13,171,406)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM SHARE TRANSACTIONS	(2,446,400)	23,760,959
Change in net assets	17,026,703	26,286,559
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Beginning of period	86,274,248	59,987,689
End of period	\$103,300,951	\$ 86,274,248

See Notes which are an integral part of the Financial Statements

# Notes to Financial Statements

October 31, 2024

## 1. ORGANIZATION

Federated Hermes Adviser Series (the "Trust") is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "Act"), as an open-end management investment company. The Trust consists of 11 portfolios. The financial statements included herein are only those of the Federated Hermes SDG Engagement Equity Fund (the "Fund"), a diversified portfolio. The financial statements of the other portfolios are presented separately. The assets of each portfolio are segregated and a shareholder's interest is limited to the portfolio in which shares are held. Each portfolio pays its own expenses. The Fund offers three classes of shares: Class A Shares, Institutional Shares and Class R6 Shares. All shares of the Fund have equal rights with respect to voting, except on class-specific matters. The Fund's investment objective is to provide long-term capital appreciation alongside positive societal impact.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements. These policies are in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

### Investment Valuation

In calculating its net asset value (NAV), the Fund generally values investments as follows:

- Equity securities listed on an exchange or traded through a regulated market system are valued at their last reported sale price or official closing price in their principal exchange or market.
- Shares of other mutual funds or non-exchange-traded investment companies are valued based upon their reported NAVs, or NAV per share practical expedient, as applicable.
- 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 Federated Global Investment Management Corp. (the "Adviser").
- For securities that are fair valued in accordance with procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Adviser, certain factors may be considered, such as: the last traded or purchase price of the security, information obtained by contacting the issuer or dealers, analysis of the issuer's financial statements or other available documents, fundamental analytical data, the nature and duration of restrictions on disposition, the movement of the market in which the security is normally traded, public trading in similar securities or derivative contracts of the issuer or comparable issuers, movement of a relevant index, or other factors including but not limited to industry changes and relevant government actions.

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 for the Fund, or if information furnished by a pricing service, in the opinion of the Adviser's valuation committee ("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 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, and the actual value obtained could be materially different.

### Fair Valuation and Significant Events Procedures

Pursuant to Rule 2a-5 under the Act, the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "Trustees") has designated the Adviser as the Fund's valuation designee to perform any fair value determinations for securities and other assets held by the Fund. The Adviser is subject to the Trustees' oversight and certain reporting and other requirements intended to provide the Trustees the information needed to oversee the Adviser's fair value determinations.

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 also authorized to use pricing services to provide fair value evaluations of the current value of certain investments for purposes of calculating the NAV. The Valuation Committee employs various methods for reviewing third-party pricing-service evaluations including periodic reviews of third-party pricing services' policies, procedures and valuation methods (including key inputs, methods, models and assumptions), transactional back-testing, comparisons of evaluations of different pricing services, and review of price challenges by the Adviser based on recent market activity. 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. The Trustees periodically review the fair valuations made by the Valuation Committee. The Trustees have 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.

Factors considered by pricing services in evaluating an investment include the yields or prices of investments of comparable quality, coupon, maturity, call rights and other potential prepayments, terms and type, reported transactions, indications as to values from dealers and general market conditions. Some pricing services provide a single price evaluation reflecting the bid-side of the market for an investment (a "bid" evaluation). Other pricing services offer both bid evaluations and price evaluations indicative of a price between the prices bid and ask for the investment (a "mid" evaluation). The Fund normally uses bid evaluations for any U.S. Treasury and Agency securities, mortgage-backed securities and municipal securities. The Fund normally uses mid evaluations for any other types of fixed-income securities and any OTC derivative contracts. In the event that market quotations and price evaluations are not available for an investment, the fair value of the investment is determined in accordance with procedures adopted by the Adviser.

The Adviser has also 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;
- Announcements concerning matters such as acquisitions, recapitalizations, 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 in accordance with the fair valuation procedures approved by the Adviser. The Trustees periodically review fair valuations made in response to significant events.

### Investment Income, Gains and Losses, Expenses and Distributions

Investment transactions are accounted for on a trade-date basis. Realized gains and losses from investment transactions are recorded on an identified-cost basis. Interest income and expenses are accrued daily. Dividend income and distributions to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Foreign dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date or when the Fund is informed of the ex-dividend date. Distributions of net investment income, if any, are declared and paid annually. Non-cash dividends included in dividend income, if any, are recorded at fair value. Amortization/accretion of premium and discount is included in investment income. Investment income, realized and unrealized gains and losses, and certain fund-level expenses are allocated to each class based on relative average daily net assets, except that select classes will bear certain expenses unique to those classes. The detail of the total fund expense waiver, reimbursement and reduction of \$321,097 is disclosed in this Note 2, Note 5 and Note 6. Dividends are declared separately for each class. No class has preferential dividend rights; differences in per share dividend rates are generally due to differences in separate class expenses.

### Transfer Agent Fees

For the year ended October 31, 2024, transfer agent fees for the Fund were as follows:

	Transfer Agent Fees Incurred	Transfer Agent Fees Reimbursed
Class A Shares	\$ 628	\$ (290)
Institutional Shares	97,641	(32,573)
Class R6 Shares	23	—
TOTAL	\$98,292	\$(32,863)

### Other Service Fees

The Fund may pay other service fees up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets of the Fund's Class A Shares and Institutional Shares to financial intermediaries or to Federated Shareholder Services Company (FSSC) for providing services to shareholders and maintaining shareholder accounts. Subject to the terms described in the Expense Limitation note, FSSC may voluntarily reimburse the Fund for other service fees. For the year ended October 31, 2024, other service fees for the Fund were as follows:

	Other Service Fees Incurred
Class A Shares	\$1,347

For the year ended October 31, 2024, the Fund's Institutional Shares did not incur other service fees.

### Federal Taxes

It is the Fund's policy to comply with the Subchapter M provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and to distribute to shareholders each year substantially all of its income. Accordingly, no provision for federal income tax is necessary. As of and during the year ended October 31, 2024, the Fund did not have a liability for any uncertain tax positions. The Fund recognizes interest and penalties, if any, related to tax liabilities as income tax expense in the Statement of Operations. As of October 31, 2024, tax years 2021 through 2024 remain subject to examination by the Fund's major tax jurisdictions, which include the United States of America and the State of Delaware.

The Fund may be subject to taxes imposed by governments of countries in which it invests. Such taxes are generally based on either income or gains earned or repatriated. The Fund accrues and applies such taxes to net investment income, net realized gains and net unrealized gains as income and/or gains are earned.

### When-Issued and Delayed-Delivery Transactions

The Fund may engage in when-issued or delayed-delivery transactions. The Fund records when-issued securities on the trade date and maintains security positions such that sufficient liquid assets will be available to make payment for the securities purchased. Securities purchased on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis are marked to market daily and begin earning interest on the settlement date. Losses may occur on these transactions due to changes in market conditions or the failure of counterparties to perform under the contract.

### Foreign Currency Translation

The accounting records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. All assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars based on the rates of exchange of such currencies against U.S. dollars on the date of valuation. Purchases and sales of securities, income and expenses are translated at the rate of exchange quoted on the respective date that such transactions are recorded. The Fund does not isolate that portion of the results of operations resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates on investments from the fluctuations arising from changes in market prices of securities held. Such fluctuations are included with the net realized and unrealized gain or loss from investments.

Reported net realized foreign exchange gains or losses arise from sales of foreign currencies, currency gains or losses realized between the trade and settlement dates on securities transactions, the difference between the amounts of dividends, interest and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the Fund's books and the U.S. dollar equivalent of the amounts actually received or paid. Net unrealized foreign exchange gains and losses arise from changes in the value of assets and liabilities other than investments in securities at period end, resulting from changes in the exchange rate.

### Restricted Securities

The Fund may purchase securities which are considered restricted. Restricted securities are securities that either: (a) cannot be offered for public sale without first being registered, or being able to take advantage of an exemption from registration, under the Securities Act of 1933; or (b) are subject to contractual restrictions on public sales. In some cases, when a security cannot be offered for public sale without first being registered, the issuer of the restricted security has agreed to register such securities for resale, at the issuer's expense, either upon demand by the Fund or in connection with another registered offering of the securities. Many such restricted securities may be resold in the secondary market in transactions exempt from registration. Restricted securities may be determined to be liquid under criteria established by the Trustees. The Fund will not incur any registration costs upon such resales. The Fund's restricted securities, like other securities, are priced in accordance with procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Adviser.

Additional information on restricted securities held at October 31, 2024, is as follows:

Security	Acquisition Date	Acquisition Cost	Value
Diversified Energy Co. PLC	7/24/2020-5/9/2024	\$2,361,354	\$1,342,967

### Other

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts of assets, liabilities, expenses and revenues reported in the financial statements. Actual results could differ materially from those estimated. The Fund applies investment company accounting and reporting guidance.

### 3. SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST

The following tables summarize share activity:

Class A Shares:	Year Ended 10/31/2024		Year Ended 10/31/2023	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	27,362	\$ 372,127	11,800	\$ 142,722
Shares issued to shareholders in payment of distributions declared	255	3,432	20	232
Shares redeemed	(3,704)	(48,855)	(3,433)	(43,076)
NET CHANGE RESULTING FROM CLASS A SHARE TRANSACTIONS	23,913	\$ 326,704	8,387	\$ 99,878

Institutional Shares:	Year Ended 10/31/2024		Year Ended 10/31/2023	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	1,624,242	\$ 22,376,387	3,196,591	\$ 36,483,666
Shares issued to shareholders in payment of distributions declared	71,899	970,639	26,540	305,745
Shares redeemed	(1,897,320)	(26,120,130)	(1,075,002)	(13,128,330)
NET CHANGE RESULTING FROM INSTITUTIONAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS	(201,179)	\$ (2,773,104)	2,148,129	\$ 23,661,081

Class R6 Shares:	Year Ended 10/31/2024		Year Ended 10/31/2023	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold	—	\$ —	—	\$ —
Shares issued to shareholders in payment of distributions declared	—	—	—	—
Shares redeemed	—	—	—	—
NET CHANGE RESULTING FROM CLASS R6 SHARE TRANSACTIONS	—	\$ —	—	\$ —
NET CHANGE RESULTING FROM TOTAL FUND SHARE TRANSACTIONS	(177,266)	\$ (2,446,400)	2,156,516	\$ 23,760,959

#### 4. FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION

The tax character of distributions as reported on the Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the years ended October 31, 2024 and 2023, were as follows:

	2024	2023
Ordinary income <sup>1</sup>	\$994,496	\$312,299

<sup>1</sup> For tax purposes, short-term capital gain distributions are considered ordinary income distributions.

As of October 31, 2024, the components of distributable earnings on a tax-basis were as follows:

Undistributed ordinary income	\$ 1,200,463
Undistributed long-term capital gains	\$ 691,072
Net unrealized appreciation	\$20,808,705
Other timing differences	\$ (299,644)
TOTAL	\$22,400,596

At October 31, 2024, the cost of investments for federal tax purposes was \$81,405,561. The net unrealized appreciation of investments for federal tax purposes was \$20,808,705. This consists of unrealized appreciation from investments for those securities having an excess of value over cost of \$25,187,261 and unrealized depreciation from investments for those securities having an excess of cost over value of \$4,378,556. The difference between book-basis and tax-basis unrealized depreciation is attributable to differing treatments for the deferral of losses on wash sales and passive foreign investment companies.

#### 5. INVESTMENT ADVISER FEE AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

##### Investment Adviser Fee

The advisory agreement between the Fund and the Adviser provides for an annual fee equal to 0.75% of the Fund's average daily net assets. Subject to the terms described in the Expense Limitation note, the Adviser may voluntarily choose to waive any portion of its fee and/or reimburse certain operating expenses of the Fund for competitive reasons such as to maintain the Fund's expense ratio, or as and when appropriate, to maintain positive or zero net yields. For the year ended October 31, 2024, the Adviser voluntarily waived \$277,730 of its fee and voluntarily reimbursed \$32,863 of transfer agent fees.

Certain of the Fund's assets are managed by Hermes Investment Management Limited (the "Sub-Adviser"). Under the terms of a sub-advisory agreement between the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, the Sub-Adviser receives an annual fee equal to 0.50% of the daily net assets of the Fund. The fee is paid by the Adviser out of its resources and is not an incremental Fund expense. The Sub-Adviser may from time to time, and for such periods as it deems appropriate, reduce its compensation. The Sub-Adviser agrees to share pro rata in any fee waivers, or expense assumptions and reimbursements, imposed or made by the Adviser or its affiliates.

For the year ended October 31, 2024, the Sub-Adviser received a net fee of \$336,660 after waivers and reimbursements.

##### Administrative Fee

Federated Administrative Services (FAS), under the Administrative Services Agreement, provides the Fund with administrative personnel and services. For purposes of determining the appropriate rate breakpoint, "Investment Complex" is defined as all of the Federated Hermes Funds subject to a fee under the Administrative Services Agreement. The fee paid to FAS is based on the average daily net assets of the Investment Complex as specified below:

Administrative Fee	Average Daily Net Assets of the Investment Complex
0.100%	on assets up to \$50 billion
0.075%	on assets over \$50 billion

Subject to the terms described in the Expense Limitation note, FAS may voluntarily choose to waive any portion of its fee. For the year ended October 31, 2024, the annualized fee paid to FAS was 0.079% of average daily net assets of the Fund.

In addition, FAS may charge certain out-of-pocket expenses to the Fund.

## Distribution Services Fee

The Fund has adopted a Distribution Plan (the "Plan") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Act. Under the terms of the Plan, the Fund will compensate Federated Securities Corp. (FSC), the principal distributor, from the daily net assets of the Fund's Class A Shares to finance activities intended to result in the sale of these shares. The Plan provides that the Fund may incur and pay distribution expenses at the following percentage of average daily net assets annually, to compensate FSC:

	Percentage of Average Daily Net Assets of Class
Class A Shares	0.05%

Subject to the terms described in the Expense Limitation note, FSC may voluntarily choose to waive any portion of its fee.

When FSC receives fees, it may pay some or all of them to financial intermediaries whose customers purchase shares.

For the year ended October 31, 2024, the Fund's Class A Shares did not incur a distribution services fee; however, it may begin to incur this fee upon approval of the Trustees.

## Sales Charges

Front-end sales charges and contingent deferred sales charges do not represent expenses of the Fund. They are deducted from the proceeds of sales of Fund shares prior to investment or from redemption proceeds prior to remittance, as applicable. For the year ended October 31, 2024, FSC did not retain any sales charges from the sale of Class A Shares.

## Expense Limitation

The Adviser and certain of its affiliates (which may include FSSC, FAS or FSC) on their own initiative have agreed to waive certain amounts of their respective fees and/or reimburse expenses. Total annual fund operating expenses (as shown in the financial highlights, excluding tax reclaim recovery expenses, interest expense, extraordinary expenses and proxy-related expenses, if any) paid by the Fund's Class A Shares, Institutional Shares and Class R6 Shares (after the voluntary waivers and/or reimbursements) will not exceed 1.19%, 0.94% and 0.89% (the "Fee Limit"), respectively, up to but not including the later of (the "Termination Date"): (a) January 1, 2026; 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 additional arrangements prior to the Termination Date, these additional arrangements may only be terminated or the Fee Limit increased prior to the Termination Date with the agreement of the Trustees.

## Directors'/Trustees' and Miscellaneous Fees

Certain Officers and Trustees of the Fund are Officers and Directors or Trustees of certain of the above companies. To efficiently facilitate payment, Independent Directors'/Trustees' fees and certain expenses related to conducting meetings of the Directors/Trustees and other miscellaneous expenses are paid by an affiliate of the Adviser which in due course are reimbursed by the Fund. These expenses related to conducting meetings of the Directors/Trustees and other miscellaneous expenses may be included in Accrued and Miscellaneous Expenses on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Operations, respectively.

## 6. EXPENSE REDUCTION

Through arrangements with the Fund's custodian, net credits realized as a result of uninvested cash balances were used to offset custody expenses. For the year ended October 31, 2024, the Fund's expenses were offset by \$10,504 under these arrangements.

## 7. INVESTMENT TRANSACTIONS

Purchases and sales of investments, excluding long-term U.S. government securities and short-term obligations, for the year ended October 31, 2024, were as follows:

Purchases	\$19,104,502
Sales	\$21,365,438

## 8. CONCENTRATION AND CREDIT RISK

The Fund invests in securities of non-U.S. issuers and may invest a portion of its assets in securities of companies that are deemed by the Fund's management to be classified in similar business sectors. Political or economic developments may have an effect on the liquidity and volatility of portfolio securities and currency holdings.

The Fund may place its cash on deposit with financial institutions in the United States, which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company ("FDIC") up to \$250,000. The Fund's credit risk in the event of failure of these financial institutions is represented by the difference between the FDIC limit and the total amounts on deposit. The Fund from time to time may have amounts on deposit in excess of the insured limits.

## 9. 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 dated June 18, 2024. The LOC was made available to temporarily finance the repurchase or redemption of shares of the Fund, 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. The Fund's ability to borrow under the LOC also is subject to the limitations of the Act and various conditions precedent that must be satisfied before the Fund can borrow. Loans under the LOC are charged interest at a fluctuating rate per annum equal to (a) the highest,



on any day, of (i) the federal funds effective rate, (ii) the published secured overnight financing rate plus an assigned percentage, and (iii) 0.0%, plus (b) a margin. Any fund eligible to borrow under the LOC pays its pro rata share of a commitment fee based on the amount of the lenders' commitment that has not been utilized, quarterly in arrears and at maturity. As of October 31, 2024, the Fund had no outstanding loans. During the year ended October 31, 2024, the Fund did not utilize the LOC.

#### **10. INTERFUND LENDING**

Pursuant to an Exemptive Order issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Fund, along with other funds advised by subsidiaries of Federated Hermes, Inc., may participate in an interfund lending program. This program provides an alternative credit facility allowing the Fund to borrow from other participating affiliated funds. As of October 31, 2024, there were no outstanding loans. During the year ended October 31, 2024, the program was not utilized.

#### **11. INDEMNIFICATIONS**

Under the Fund's organizational documents, its Officers and Directors/Trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Fund (other than liabilities arising out of their willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of their duties to the Fund). In addition, in the normal course of business, the Fund provides certain indemnifications under arrangements with third parties. Typically, obligations to indemnify a third party arise in the context of an arrangement entered into by the Fund under which the Fund agrees to indemnify such third party for certain liabilities arising out of actions taken pursuant to the arrangement, provided the third party's actions are not deemed to have breached an agreed-upon standard of care (such as willful misfeasance, bad faith, gross negligence or reckless disregard of their duties under the contract). The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet arisen. The Fund does not anticipate any material claims or losses pursuant to these arrangements at this time, and accordingly expects the risk of loss to be remote.

#### **12. FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION (UNAUDITED)**

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2024, 100% of total ordinary income (including short-term capital gains) distributions made by the Fund are qualifying dividends which may be subject to a maximum tax rate of 15%, as provided for by the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Act of 2003. Complete information is reported in conjunction with the reporting of your distributions on Form 1099-DIV.

Of the ordinary income (including short-term capital gains) distributions made by the Fund during the year ended October 31, 2024, 71.1% qualify for the dividend received deduction available to corporate shareholders.

# Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

## TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FEDERATED HERMES ADVISER SERIES AND SHAREHOLDERS OF FEDERATED HERMES SDG ENGAGEMENT EQUITY FUND:

### Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of Federated Hermes SDG Engagement Equity Fund (the “Fund”) (one of the portfolios constituting Federated Hermes Adviser Series (the “Trust”)), including the portfolio of investments, as of October 31, 2024, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statement of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended and the related notes (collectively referred to as the “financial statements”). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund (one of the portfolios constituting Federated Hermes Adviser Series) at October 31, 2024, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and its financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

### Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Trust’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund’s financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (“PCAOB”) and are required to be independent with respect to the Trust in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Trust is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of the Trust’s internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust’s internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of October 31, 2024, by correspondence with the custodian, brokers, and others; when replies were not received from brokers or others, we performed other auditing procedures. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*Ernst + Young LLP*

We have served as the auditor of one or more Federated Hermes investment companies since 1979.

Boston, Massachusetts  
December 23, 2024

## Shareholder Meeting Results (unaudited)

At a Special Meeting held on October 25, 2024, shareholders of the Federated Hermes Adviser Series (the “Trust”) elected Trustees of the Trust. Shareholders of the Trust elected three new individuals to serve as Trustees effective January 1, 2025, who will serve on the Board with current Trustees Messrs. J. Christopher Donahue, John B. Fisher, John G. Carson, G. Thomas Hough, Thomas M. O’Neill, John S. Walsh and Ms. Madelyn A. Reilly. Under the Trust’s Director Service Policy, existing Trustees Judge Maureen Lally-Green and Mr. P. Jerome Richey are expected to retire from the Board on December 31, 2024. The number of votes cast for, against or withheld, as well as the number of abstentions and broker non-votes with respect to the election of each nominee for office, is included below.

<b>Trustee:</b>	<b>Voted For</b>	<b>Withheld Authority</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Broker Non-Votes</b>
J. Christopher Donahue	160,690,352.404	890,094.408	0	N/A
John B. Fisher	160,666,838.142	913,608.670	0	N/A
John G. Carson	160,630,876.524	949,570.288	0	N/A
G. Thomas Hough	160,606,554.123	973,892.689	0	N/A
Karen L. Larrimer	160,707,789.945	872,656.867	0	N/A
Max F. Miller	160,201,753.374	1,378,693.438	0	N/A
Frank J. Nasta	160,655,205.430	925,241.382	0	N/A
Thomas M. O’Neill	160,116,012.722	1,464,434.090	0	N/A
Madelyn A. Reilly	160,152,080.357	1,428,366.455	0	N/A
John S. Walsh	159,741,470.299	1,838,976.513	0	N/A

## Evaluation and Approval of Advisory Contract – May 2024

### **FEDERATED HERMES SDG ENGAGEMENT EQUITY FUND (THE “FUND”)**

At its meetings in May 2024 (the “May Meetings”), the Fund’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”), including those Trustees who are not “interested persons” of the Fund, as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “Independent Trustees”), reviewed and unanimously approved the continuation of the investment advisory contract between the Fund and Federated Global Investment Management Corp. (the “Adviser”) and the investment sub-advisory contract between the Adviser and Hermes Investment Management Limited (the “Sub-Adviser” and together with the Adviser, the “Advisers”) with respect to the Fund (together, the “Contracts”) for an additional one-year term. The Board’s determination to approve the continuation of the Contracts reflects the exercise of its business judgment after considering all of the information and factors believed to be relevant and appropriate on whether to approve the continuation of the existing arrangements. The information, factors and conclusions that formed the basis for the Board’s approval are summarized below.

### ***Information Received and Review Process***

At the request of the Independent Trustees, the Fund’s Chief Compliance Officer (the “CCO”) furnished to the Board in advance of its May Meetings an independent written evaluation of the Fund’s management fee (the “CCO Fee Evaluation Report”). The Board considered the CCO Fee Evaluation Report, along with other information, in evaluating the reasonableness of the Fund’s management fee and in determining to approve the continuation of the Contracts.

In addition to the extensive materials that comprise and accompany the CCO Fee Evaluation Report, the Board considered information specifically prepared in connection with the approval of the continuation of the Contracts that was presented at the May Meetings. In this regard, in the months preceding the May Meetings, the Board requested and reviewed written responses and supporting materials prepared by the Advisers and their affiliates (collectively, “Federated Hermes”) in response to requests posed to Federated Hermes by independent legal counsel on behalf of the Independent Trustees encompassing a wide variety of topics, including those summarized below. The Board also considered such additional matters as the Independent Trustees deemed reasonably necessary to evaluate the Contracts, which included detailed information about the Fund and Federated Hermes furnished to the Board at its meetings throughout the year and in between regularly scheduled meetings on particular matters as the need arose.

The Board’s consideration of the Contracts included review of materials and information covering the following matters, among others: (1) copies of the Contracts; (2) the nature, quality and extent of the advisory and other services provided to the Fund by Federated Hermes; (3) Federated Hermes’ business and operations; (4) the Advisers’ investment philosophy, personnel and processes; (5) the Fund’s investment objectives and strategies; (6) the Fund’s short-term and long-term performance - in absolute terms (both on a gross basis and net of expenses) and relative an appropriate group of peer funds and its benchmark; (7) the Fund’s fees and expenses, including the advisory fee and the overall expense structure of the Fund - in absolute terms and relative to an appropriate group of peer funds, with due regard for contractual or voluntary expense limitations (if any); (8) the financial condition of Federated Hermes; (9) the Adviser’s profitability with respect to managing the Fund; (10) distribution and sales activity for the Fund; and (11) the use and allocation of brokerage commissions derived from trading the Fund’s portfolio securities (if any).

The Board also considered judicial decisions concerning allegedly excessive investment advisory fees charged to other registered funds in evaluating the Contracts. Using these judicial decisions as a guide, the Board considered several factors they deemed relevant to an adviser’s fiduciary duty with respect to its receipt of compensation from a fund, including: (1) the nature and quality of the services provided by the adviser to the fund and its shareholders, including the performance of the fund, its benchmark and comparable funds; (2) the adviser’s cost of providing the services and the profitability to the adviser of providing advisory services to the fund; (3) the extent to which the adviser may realize “economies of scale” as the fund grows larger and, if such economies of scale exist, whether they have been appropriately shared with the fund and its shareholders or the family of funds; (4) any “fall-out” benefits that accrue to the adviser because of its relationship with the fund, including research services received from brokers that execute fund trades and any fees paid to affiliates of the adviser for services rendered to the fund; (5) comparative fees and expenses, including a comparison of management fees paid to the adviser with those paid by similar funds managed by the same adviser or other advisers as well as management fees charged to institutional and other advisory clients of the same adviser for what might be viewed as like services; and (6) the extent of care, conscientiousness and independence with which the fund’s board members perform their duties and their expertise, including whether they are fully informed about all facts the board deems relevant to its consideration of the adviser’s services and fees. The Board considered that the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) disclosure requirements regarding the basis for a fund board’s approval of the fund’s investment advisory contract generally align with the factors listed above. The Board was guided by these factors in its

evaluation of the Contracts to the extent it considered them to be appropriate and relevant, as discussed further below. The Board considered and weighed these factors in light of its substantial accumulated experience in governing the Fund and working with Federated Hermes on matters relating to the oversight of the other funds advised by Federated Hermes (each, a “Federated Hermes Fund” and, collectively, the “Federated Hermes Funds”).

In addition, the Board considered the preferences and expectations of Fund shareholders and the potential disruptions of the Fund’s operations and various risks, uncertainties and other effects that could occur as a result of a decision to terminate or not renew the Contracts. In particular, the Board recognized that many shareholders likely have invested in the Fund based on the strength of Federated Hermes’ industry standing and reputation and with the expectation that Federated Hermes will have a continuing role in providing advisory services to the Fund. Thus, the Board observed that there are a range of investment options available to the Fund’s shareholders in the marketplace, and such shareholders, having had the opportunity to consider other investment options, have effectively selected Federated Hermes by virtue of investing in the Fund.

In determining to approve the continuation of the Contracts, the members of the Board reviewed and evaluated information and factors they believed to be relevant and appropriate through the exercise of their reasonable business judgment. While individual members of the Board may have weighed certain factors differently, the Board’s determination to approve the continuation of the Contracts was based on a comprehensive consideration of all information provided to the Board throughout the year and specifically with respect to the continuation of the Contracts. The Board recognized that its evaluation process is evolutionary and that the factors considered and emphasis placed on relevant factors may change in recognition of changing circumstances in the registered fund marketplace. The Independent Trustees were assisted throughout the evaluation process by independent legal counsel. In connection with their deliberations at the May Meetings, the Independent Trustees met separately in executive session with their independent legal counsel and without management present to review the relevant materials and consider their responsibilities under applicable laws. In addition, senior management representatives of Federated Hermes also met with the Independent Trustees and their independent legal counsel to discuss the materials and presentations furnished to the Board at the May Meetings. The Board considered the approval of the Contracts for the Fund as part of its consideration of agreements for funds across the family of Federated Hermes Funds, but its approvals were made on a fund-by-fund basis.

#### **Nature, Extent and Quality of Services**

The Board considered the nature, extent and quality of the services provided to the Fund by the Advisers and the resources of Federated Hermes dedicated to the Fund. In this regard, the Board evaluated, among other things, the terms of the Contracts and the full range of services provided to the Fund by Federated Hermes. The Board considered the Advisers’ personnel, investment philosophy and process, investment research capabilities and resources, trade operations capabilities, experience and performance track record. The Board considered information about the Advisers’ capabilities and resources with respect to environmental, social and governance (“ESG”) investing, noting that in managing the assets of the Fund, the Advisers seek to invest in companies that, in their view, provide the potential for long-term capital appreciation while also contributing to positive societal impact aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Board reviewed the qualifications, backgrounds and responsibilities of the portfolio management team primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund and evaluated Federated Hermes’ ability and experience in attracting and retaining qualified personnel to service the Fund. The Board considered the trading operations by the Advisers, including the execution of portfolio transactions and the selection of brokers for those transactions. The Board also considered the Advisers’ ability to deliver competitive investment performance for the Fund when compared to the Fund’s Performance Peer Group (as defined below), which was deemed by the Board to be a useful indicator of how the Advisers are executing the Fund’s investment program.

In addition, the Board considered the financial resources and overall reputation of Federated Hermes and its willingness to consider and make investments in personnel, infrastructure, technology, cybersecurity, business continuity planning and operational enhancements that are designed to benefit the Federated Hermes Funds. The Board noted the benefits of the previous significant acquisition of Hermes Fund Managers Limited by Federated Hermes, which has deepened Federated Hermes’ investment management expertise and capabilities and expanded its access to analytical resources related to ESG factors and issuer engagement on ESG matters where appropriate. The Board considered Federated Hermes’ oversight of the securities lending program for the Federated Hermes Funds that engage in securities lending and noted the income earned by the Federated Hermes Funds that participate in such program. In addition, the Board considered the quality of Federated Hermes’ communications with the Board and responsiveness to Board inquiries and requests made from time to time with respect to the Federated Hermes Funds. The Board also considered that Federated Hermes is responsible for providing the Federated Hermes Funds’ officers.

The Board received and evaluated information regarding Federated Hermes' regulatory and compliance environment. The Board considered Federated Hermes' compliance program and compliance history and reports from the CCO about Federated Hermes' compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including responses to regulatory developments and any compliance or other issues raised by regulatory agencies. The Board also noted Federated Hermes' support of the Federated Hermes Funds' compliance control structure and the compliance-related resources devoted by Federated Hermes in support of the Fund's obligations pursuant to Rule 38a-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, including Federated Hermes' commitment to respond to rulemaking and other regulatory initiatives of the SEC. The Board considered Federated Hermes' approach to internal audits and risk management with respect to the Federated Hermes Funds and its day-to-day oversight of the Federated Hermes Funds' compliance with their investment objectives and policies as well as with applicable laws and regulations, noting that regulatory and other developments had over time led, and continue to lead, to an increase in the scope of Federated Hermes' oversight in this regard.

In addition, the Board noted Federated Hermes' commitment to maintaining high quality systems and expending substantial resources to prepare for and respond to ongoing changes due to the market, regulatory and control environments in which the Fund and its service providers operate.

The Board considered Federated Hermes' efforts to provide shareholders in the Federated Hermes Funds with a comprehensive array of funds with different investment objectives, policies and strategies. The Board considered the expenses that Federated Hermes had incurred, as well as the entrepreneurial and other risks assumed by Federated Hermes, in sponsoring and providing on-going services to new funds to expand these opportunities for shareholders. The Board noted the benefits to shareholders of being part of the family of Federated Hermes Funds, which include the general right to exchange investments between the same class of shares without the incurrence of additional sales charges.

Based on these considerations, the Board concluded that it was satisfied with the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the Advisers to the Fund.

#### **Fund Investment Performance**

The Board considered the investment performance of the Fund. In evaluating the Fund's investment performance, the Board considered performance results in light of the Fund's investment objective, strategies and risks. The Board also considered information regarding how ESG investing may relate to the Fund's investment performance. The Board considered detailed investment reports on, and the Advisers' analysis of, the Fund's performance over different time periods that were provided to the Board throughout the year and in connection with the May Meetings. These reports included, among other items, information on the Fund's gross and net returns, the Fund's investment performance compared to one or more relevant categories or groups of peer funds and the Fund's benchmark index, performance attribution information and commentary on the effect of market conditions. The Board considered that, in its evaluation of investment performance at meetings throughout the year, it focused particular attention on information indicating less favorable performance of certain Federated Hermes Funds for specific time periods and discussed with Federated Hermes the reasons for such performance as well as any specific actions Federated Hermes had taken, or had agreed to take, to seek to enhance Fund investment performance and the results of those actions.

The Board also reviewed comparative information regarding the performance of other registered funds in the category of peer funds selected by Morningstar, Inc. (the "Morningstar"), an independent fund ranking organization (the "Performance Peer Group"). The Board noted the CCO's view that comparisons to fund peer groups may be helpful, though not conclusive, in evaluating the performance of the Advisers in managing the Fund. The Board considered the CCO's view that, in evaluating such comparisons, in some cases there may be differences in the funds' objectives or investment management techniques, or the costs to implement the funds, even within the same Performance Peer Group.

The Board also considered comparative performance data from Lipper, Inc. that was included in reports provided to the Board throughout the year. The Board noted that differences may exist between the Performance Peer Group and Lipper peers and that the results of these performance comparisons may vary.

For the periods ended December 31, 2023, the Fund's performance fell below the Performance Peer Group median for the five-year period, and was above the Performance Peer Group median for the one-year and three-year periods. The Board discussed the Fund's performance with the Advisers and recognized the efforts being taken by the Advisers in the context of other factors considered relevant by the Board.

Based on these considerations, the Board concluded that it had continued confidence in the Advisers' overall capabilities to manage the Fund.

#### **Fund Expenses**

The Board considered the advisory fee, sub-advisory fee, and overall expense structure of the Fund and the comparative fee and expense information that had been provided in connection with the May Meetings. In this regard, the Board was presented with, and considered, information regarding the contractual advisory fee rates, net advisory fee rates, total expense ratios and each element of the Fund's total expense ratio (i.e., gross and net advisory fees, administrative fees,

custody fees, portfolio accounting fees and transfer agency fees) relative to an appropriate group of peer funds compiled by Federated Hermes from the overall category of peer funds selected by Morningstar (the “Expense Peer Group”). The Board received a description of the methodology used to select the Expense Peer Group from the overall Morningstar category. The Board also reviewed comparative information regarding the fees and expenses of the broader group of funds in the overall Morningstar category.

While mindful that courts have cautioned against giving too much weight to comparative information concerning fees charged to funds by other advisers, the use of comparisons between the Fund and its Expense Peer Group assisted the Board in its evaluation of the Fund’s fees and expenses. The Board focused on comparisons with other registered funds more heavily than non-registered fund products or services because such comparisons are believed to be more relevant. The Board considered that other registered funds are the products most like the Fund, in that they are readily available to Fund shareholders as alternative investment vehicles, and they are the type of investment vehicle, in fact, chosen and maintained by the Fund’s shareholders. The Board noted that the range of such other registered funds’ fees and expenses, therefore, appears to be a relevant indicator of what investors have found to be reasonable in the marketplace in which the Fund competes.

The Board reviewed the contractual advisory fee rate, net advisory fee rate and other expenses of the Fund and noted the position of the Fund’s fee rates relative to its Expense Peer Group. In this regard, the Board noted that the contractual advisory fee rate was below the median of the Expense Peer Group, and the Board was satisfied that the overall expense structure of the Fund remained competitive.

The Board also received and considered information about the nature and extent of services offered and fees charged by Federated Hermes to other types of clients with investment strategies similar to those of the Federated Hermes Funds, including non-registered fund clients (such as institutional separate accounts) and third-party unaffiliated registered funds for which any of the Advisers or their affiliates serve as sub-adviser. The Board noted the CCO’s conclusion that non-registered fund clients are inherently different products due to the following differences, among others: (i) different types of targeted investors; (ii) different applicable laws and regulations; (iii) different legal structures; (iv) different average account sizes and portfolio management techniques made necessary by different cash flows and different associated costs; (v) the time spent by portfolio managers and their teams (among other personnel across various departments, including legal, compliance and risk management) in reviewing securities pricing; (vi) different SEC mandated risk management programs with respect to fund liquidity and use of derivatives; (vii) different administrative responsibilities; (viii) different degrees of risk associated with management; and (ix) a variety of different costs. The Board also considered information regarding the differences in the nature of the services required for Federated Hermes to manage its proprietary registered fund business versus managing a discrete pool of assets as a sub-adviser to another institution’s registered fund, noting the CCO’s view that Federated Hermes generally performs significant additional services and assumes substantially greater risks in managing the Fund and other Federated Hermes Funds than in its role as sub-adviser to an unaffiliated third-party registered fund. The Board noted that the CCO did not consider the fees for providing advisory services to other types of clients to be determinative in judging the appropriateness of the Federated Hermes Funds’ advisory fees.

In the case of the Fund, the Board noted that Federated Hermes does not manage any other types of clients that are comparable to the Fund.

Based on these considerations, the Board concluded that the fees and total operating expenses of the Fund, in conjunction with other matters considered, are reasonable in light of the services provided.

### **Profitability**

The Board received and considered profitability information furnished by Federated Hermes. Such profitability information included revenues reported on a fund-by-fund basis and estimates of the allocation of expenses made on a fund-by-fund basis, using allocation methodologies specified by the CCO and described to the Board. The Board considered the CCO’s view that, while these cost allocation reports apply consistent allocation processes, the inherent difficulties in allocating costs on a fund-by-fund basis continues to cause the CCO to question the precision of the process and to conclude that such reports may be unreliable because a single change in an allocation estimate may dramatically alter the resulting estimate of cost and/or profitability of a Federated Hermes Fund and may produce unintended consequences. In addition, the Board considered the CCO’s view that the allocation methodologies used by Federated Hermes in estimating profitability for purposes of reporting to the Board in connection with the continuation of the Contracts are consistent with the methodologies previously reviewed by an independent consultant. The Board noted that the independent consultant had previously conducted a review of the allocation methodologies and reported to the Board that, although there is no single best method to allocate expenses, the methodologies used by Federated Hermes are reasonable. The Board considered the CCO’s view that the estimated profitability to the Adviser from its relationship with the Fund was not unreasonable in relation to the services provided.

The Board also reviewed information compiled by Federated Hermes comparing its profitability information to other publicly-held fund management companies, including information regarding profitability trends over time. The Board recognized that profitability comparisons among fund management companies are difficult because of the variation in the type of comparative information that is publicly available, and the profitability of any fund management company is affected by numerous factors. The Board considered the CCO's conclusion that, based on such profitability information, Federated Hermes' profit margins did not appear to be excessive. The Board also considered the CCO's view that Federated Hermes appeared financially sound, with the resources necessary to fulfill its obligations under its contracts with the Federated Hermes Funds.

### **Economies of Scale**

The Board received and considered information about the notion of possible realization of "economies of scale" as a fund grows larger, the difficulties of isolating and quantifying economies of scale at an individual fund level, and the extent to which potential scale benefits are shared with shareholders. In this regard, the Board considered that Federated Hermes has made significant and long-term investments in areas that support all of the Federated Hermes Funds, such as: portfolio management, investment research and trading operations; shareholder services; compliance; business continuity, cybersecurity and information security programs; internal audit and risk management functions; and technology, systems capabilities and use of data. The Board noted that Federated Hermes' investments in these areas are extensive and are designed to provide enhanced or expanded services to the Federated Hermes Funds and their shareholders. The Board considered that the benefits of these investments are likely to be shared with the family of Federated Hermes Funds as a whole. In addition, the Board considered that fee waivers and expense reimbursements are another means for potential economies of scale to be shared with shareholders and can provide protection from an increase in expenses if a Federated Hermes Fund's assets decline. The Board considered that, in order for the Federated Hermes Funds to remain competitive in the marketplace, Federated Hermes has frequently waived fees and/or reimbursed expenses for the Federated Hermes Funds and has disclosed to shareholders and/or reported to the Board its intention to do so (or continue to do so) in the future. The Board also considered that Federated Hermes has been active in managing expenses of the Federated Hermes Funds in recent years, which has resulted in benefits being realized by shareholders.

The Board also received and considered information on adviser-paid fees (commonly referred to as "revenue sharing" payments) that was provided to the Board throughout the year and in connection with the May Meetings. The Board considered that Federated Hermes and the CCO believe that this information is relevant to considering whether Federated Hermes had an incentive to either not apply breakpoints, or to apply breakpoints at higher levels, but should not be considered when evaluating the reasonableness of advisory fees. The Board also noted the absence of any applicable regulatory or industry guidelines on economies of scale, which is compounded by the lack of any uniform methodology or pattern with respect to structuring fund advisory fees with breakpoints that serve to reduce the fees as a fund attains a certain size.

### **Other Benefits**

The Board considered information regarding the compensation and other ancillary (or "fall-out") benefits that Federated Hermes derived from its relationships with the Federated Hermes Funds. The Board noted that, in addition to receiving advisory fees under the Federated Hermes Funds' investment advisory contracts, Federated Hermes' affiliates also receive fees for providing other services to the Federated Hermes Funds under separate service contracts including for serving as the Federated Hermes Funds' administrator and distributor. In this regard, the Board considered that Federated Hermes' affiliates provide distribution and shareholder services to the Federated Hermes Funds, for which they may be compensated through distribution and servicing fees paid pursuant to Rule 12b-1 plans or otherwise. The Board also received and considered information detailing the benefits, if any, that Federated Hermes may derive from its receipt of research services from brokers who execute portfolio trades for the Federated Hermes Funds.

### **Conclusions**

The Board considered: (i) the CCO's conclusion that his observations and the information accompanying the CCO Fee Evaluation Report show that the management fee for the Fund is reasonable; and (ii) the CCO's recommendation that the Board approve the management fee. The Board noted that, under these circumstances, no changes were recommended to, and no objection was raised to the continuation of, the Contracts by the CCO. The CCO also recognized that the Board's evaluation of the Federated Hermes Funds' advisory and sub-advisory arrangements is a continuing and ongoing process that is informed by the information that the Board requests and receives from management throughout the course of the year and, in this regard, the CCO noted certain items, and management has committed to reviewing certain items, for future reporting to the Board as the Board continues its ongoing oversight of the Federated Hermes Funds.



On the basis of the information and factors summarized above, among other information and factors deemed relevant by the Board, and the evaluation thereof, the Board, including the Independent Trustees, unanimously voted to approve the continuation of the Contracts. The Board based its determination to approve the Contracts on the totality of the circumstances and relevant factors and with a view of past and future long-term considerations. Not all of the factors and considerations identified above were necessarily deemed to be relevant to the Fund, nor did the Board consider any one of them to be determinative.

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This information is authorized for distribution to prospective investors only when preceded or accompanied by the Fund's Prospectus, which contains facts concerning its objective and policies, management fees, expenses and other information.



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