

# PROSPECTUS AND STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI") SUPPLEMENT

## NORTHERN FUNDS ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND

### SUPPLEMENT DATED OCTOBER 24, 2018 TO PROSPECTUS AND SAI EACH DATED JULY 31, 2018, AS SUPPLEMENTED

The Active M U.S. Equity Fund was liquidated and terminated on October 19, 2018. All references to the Active M U.S. Equity Fund in the Prospectus and SAI are hereby deleted.

*Please retain this Supplement with your Prospectus and SAI for future reference.*

50 South LaSalle Street  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986  
800-595-9111  
[northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds)



MMF SPT (10/18)

**PROSPECTUS AND SUMMARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT****NORTHERN FUNDS**

**SUPPLEMENT DATED OCTOBER 3, 2018 TO  
PROSPECTUS FOR THE ACTIVE M/MULTI-MANAGER  
FUNDS DATED JULY 31, 2018, AS SUPPLEMENTED;  
AND SUMMARY PROSPECTUS FOR THE ACTIVE M  
U.S. EQUITY FUND DATED JULY 31, 2018, AS  
SUPPLEMENTED**

**PENDING LIQUIDATION OF THE ACTIVE M  
U.S. EQUITY FUND**

The date of liquidation and termination of the Active M U.S. Equity Fund (the “Fund”) has been changed from on or about October 26, 2018 to on or about October 19, 2018 (the “Liquidation Date”). All references to the Liquidation Date of the Fund in the Prospectus and Summary Prospectus shall be deemed to be on or about October 19, 2018.

*Please retain this Supplement with your Prospectus and Summary Prospectus for future reference.*

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MMF SPT (10/18)

# PROSPECTUS AND SUMMARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

## NORTHERN FUNDS

### SUPPLEMENT DATED AUGUST 29, 2018 TO PROSPECTUS FOR THE ACTIVE M/MULTI-MANAGER FUNDS DATED JULY 31, 2018; AND SUMMARY PROSPECTUS FOR THE ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND DATED JULY 31, 2018

### PENDING LIQUIDATION OF THE ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND

The Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Northern Funds (the “Trust”) has determined that it is in the best interests of the Active M U.S. Equity Fund (the “Fund”) and its shareholders that the Fund be liquidated and terminated on or about October 26, 2018 (the “Liquidation Date”) pursuant to a plan of liquidation approved by the Board. The Liquidation Date may be changed at the discretion of the Trust’s officers.

After the close of business on October 1, 2018, the Fund will discontinue accepting orders from shareholders for the purchase of Fund shares or exchanges into the Fund from other funds of the Trust; provided, however, that existing shareholders of the Fund may continue to purchase, redeem and exchange Fund shares subject to the account policies described in the Fund’s prospectus. Additionally, employee benefit plans and certain financial institutions providing services to employee benefit plans that hold shares of the Fund as of the close of business on October 1, 2018 may continue to purchase shares of the Fund.

Prior to the Liquidation Date and subject to the account policies described in the Fund’s prospectus, Fund shareholders may either: (1) redeem (sell) their shares at the Fund’s net asset value; or (2) exchange their shares at the Fund’s net asset value for shares of another fund of the Trust. If no action is taken by a Fund shareholder prior to the Liquidation Date, the Fund will distribute to such shareholder, on or promptly after the Liquidation Date, a cash distribution equal to the shareholder’s proportionate interest in the net assets of the Fund (a “liquidating distribution”) as of the Liquidation Date.

*Please retain this Supplement with your Prospectus and Summary Prospectus for future reference.*

Prior to the Liquidation Date, the Fund will begin liquidating its assets as soon as is reasonable and practicable. The proceeds from the liquidation of portfolio securities will be invested in cash, cash equivalent securities, or other short-term investments. The Fund will depart from its stated investment objective and strategies during this time. Liquidation of portfolio securities will result in brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, and are expected to result in the realization of capital gains that would be distributed to shareholders as taxable distributions on or before the Liquidation Date. In that event, the distributions may be taxable to shareholders who receive the liquidating distribution (aside from tax-exempt accounts). **SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR PERSONAL TAX PROFESSIONALS CONCERNING ALL TAX CONSEQUENCES APPLICABLE TO THEIR INVESTMENT IN THE FUND AND THE TAX IMPACT OF THE LIQUIDATION OF THE FUND.**

The pending liquidation of the Fund may be terminated and/or abandoned at any time before the Liquidation Date by action of the Board of the Trust.

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MMF SPT (08/18)

**NORTHERN FUNDS PROSPECTUS****ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND (NMMEX)****ACTIVE M INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND (NMIEX)****ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND (NMUSX)****MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY FUND (NMEDX)****MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (NMFIX)****MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND (NMMGX)****MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY FUND (NMHYX)****Prospectus dated July 31, 2018**

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

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.

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## FUND SUMMARIES

## ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation through a diversified portfolio of primarily emerging and frontier market equity securities. Any income received is incidental to this objective.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

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

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
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Redemption Fee (within 30 days of purchase) (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable)	2.00%
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**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	1.07%
Other Expenses	0.14%
Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
Other Operating Expenses	0.12%

<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1.21%</b>
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Expense Reimbursement <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.11)%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>1.10%</b>
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<sup>(1)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 1.10%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses, including but not limited to Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## EXAMPLE

The following 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 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem 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 the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$112	\$373	\$654	\$1,456

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 36.14% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking long-term capital appreciation, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in equity securities of issuers domiciled in emerging and frontier markets. Emerging and frontier markets are defined as those markets included in the MSCI Emerging Markets<sup>®</sup> Index and MSCI Frontier Markets<sup>®</sup> Index. As of May 31, 2018, the indices included the following markets: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Vietnam. These countries are subject to change with changes in the indices. The Fund's sub-advisers may also consider emerging and frontier markets as classified by the World Bank, International Finance Corporation or the United Nations and other similar agencies. The Fund may invest in companies of any size located in a number of countries throughout the world.

The Fund utilizes a "multi-manager" approach whereby the Fund's assets are allocated to one or more sub-advisers, in percentages determined at the discretion of the Fund's investment adviser. Each sub-adviser acts independently from the others and utilizes its own distinct investment style in selecting securities. However, each sub-adviser must operate within the constraints of the Fund's investment objective, strategies and restrictions.

When determining the allocations and reallocations to sub-advisers, the Fund's investment adviser will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to the sub-adviser's style, historical performance, and the characteristics of each sub-adviser's allocated assets (including capitalization, growth and profitability measures, valuation metrics, economic sector exposures, and earnings and volatility statistics). The Fund's investment adviser seeks, through its selection of sub-advisers and its allocation determinations, to reduce portfolio volatility and provide an attractive combination of risk and return for the Fund.

The sub-advisers may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

*Morgan Stanley Capital International, Inc. ("MSCI") does not endorse any of the securities in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index or MSCI Frontier Markets Index. It is not a sponsor of the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund and is not affiliated with the Fund in any way.*

#### PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign currencies, securities that trade in or receive revenues in foreign currencies, or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Fund's investments and its returns. Because the Fund's net asset value is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Fund's holdings appreciates. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange values of currencies could affect the economy or particular business operations of companies in a geographic region in which the Fund invests, causing an adverse impact on the Fund's investments in the affected region.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK** is the risk that markets of emerging market countries are less developed and less liquid, subject to greater price volatility and generally subject to increased economic, political, regulatory and other uncertainties than more developed markets.

**FINANCIAL SECTOR RISK** is the risk that the Fund will be impacted by events affecting the financial sector if it invests a relatively large percentage of its assets in that sector, adversely affecting the Fund's performance. The financial sector can be significantly affected by changes in interest rates, government regulation, the rate of corporate and consumer debt defaulted, price competitions and the availability and cost of capital.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund's investments to decline. To the extent that the Fund's assets are concentrated in a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**FRONTIER MARKETS RISK** is the risk that frontier countries generally have smaller economies or less developed capital markets than traditional emerging markets and, as a result, the risks of investing in emerging market countries are magnified in frontier countries.

**GEOGRAPHIC AND SECTOR RISK** is the risk that if the Fund invests a significant portion of its total assets in certain issuers within the same geographic region or economic sector, an adverse economic, business or political development affecting that region or sector may affect the value of the Fund's investments more than if the Fund's investments were not so concentrated.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser or sub-advisers may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. It includes the risk that a particular style of investing, such as growth or value, may underperform the market generally. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

## ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND

**MID CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of mid-sized companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Mid-sized companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, and may be dependent upon a particular niche of the market.

**MULTI-MANAGER RISK** is the risk that the sub-advisers' investment styles will not always be complementary, which could affect the performance of the Fund.

**SMALL CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Small companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group, and their securities may trade less frequently and in lower volume than the securities of larger companies, which could lead to higher transaction costs. Generally the smaller the company size, the greater the risk.

**TECHNOLOGY SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that securities of technology companies may be subject to greater price volatility than securities of companies in other sectors. These securities may fall in and out of favor with investors rapidly, which may cause sudden selling and dramatically lower market prices. Technology securities also may be affected adversely by changes in technology, consumer and business purchasing patterns, government regulation and/or obsolete products or services. In addition, a rising interest rate environment tends to negatively affect technology companies.

**VALUATION RISK** is the risk that the sale price the Fund could receive for a portfolio security may differ from the Fund's valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. In addition, the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund's shares.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

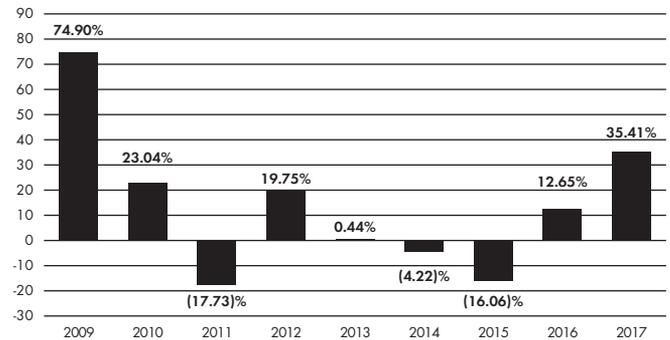
## FUND PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Fund from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Fund compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

## CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is (6.35)%. For the period shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 33.33% in the second quarter of 2009, and the lowest quarterly return was (22.25)% in the third quarter of 2011.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund	11/19/08			
Returns before taxes		35.41%	4.26%	13.41%
Returns after taxes on distributions		35.41%	4.00%	12.62%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		20.04%	3.36%	11.24%
MSCI Emerging Markets Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		37.28%	4.35%	12.56%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

**MANAGEMENT****INVESTMENT ADVISER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND**

**SUB-ADVISERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“NTI”), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund. Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior Vice President of NTI, has been manager of the Fund since January 2012. Axiom International Investors LLC, PanAgora Asset Management, Inc. and Westwood Global Investments, LLC each serves as a sub-adviser of the Fund. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

**PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES**

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the “Trust”) with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.
- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

**TAX INFORMATION**

The Fund’s distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividend income, capital gains, or a combination of the three, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

**PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES**

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.

## ACTIVE M INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation through a diversified portfolio of primarily non-U.S. equity securities. Any income received is incidental to this objective.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

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

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
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Redemption Fee (within 30 days of purchase) (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable)	2.00%
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**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	0.81%
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Other Expenses	0.13%
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Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
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Other Operating Expenses	0.11%
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Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.01%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.95%</b>
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Expense Reimbursement <sup>(3)</sup>	(0.10)%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.85%</b>
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<sup>(1)</sup> Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund through its ownership of shares in other investment companies. They are not direct costs paid by Fund shareholders.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement will not correlate to the Fund's ratios of average net assets to (1) expenses before reimbursements and credits and (2) expenses net of reimbursements and credits, respectively, included in the Fund's Financial Highlights in the Fund's complete Prospectus, which do not reflect indirect expenses, such as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>(3)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 0.84%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses, including but not limited to Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## EXAMPLE

The following 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 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem 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 the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$87	\$291	\$511	\$1,146

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 65.70% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking long-term capital appreciation, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in equity securities of issuers domiciled outside the U.S. The Fund may invest in companies of any size located in a number of countries throughout the world but primarily in the world's developed capital markets. The Fund may invest up to 40% of its net assets in issuers domiciled in emerging markets.

The Fund utilizes a "multi-manager" approach whereby the Fund's assets are allocated to one or more sub-advisers, in percentages determined at the discretion of the Fund's investment adviser. Each sub-adviser acts independently from the others and utilizes its own distinct investment style in selecting securities. However, each sub-adviser must operate within the constraints of the Fund's investment objective, strategies and restrictions.

When determining the allocations and reallocations to sub-advisers, the Fund's investment adviser will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to the sub-adviser's style, historical performance, and the characteristics of each sub-adviser's allocated assets (including capitalization, growth and profitability measures, valuation metrics, economic sector exposures, and earnings and volatility statistics). The Fund's investment adviser seeks, through its selection of sub-advisers

and its allocation determinations, to reduce portfolio volatility and provide an attractive combination of risk and return for the Fund.

The sub-advisers may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

#### PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign currencies, securities that trade in or receive revenues in foreign currencies, or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Fund's investments and its returns. Because the Fund's net asset value is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Fund's holdings appreciates. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange values of currencies could affect the economy or particular business operations of companies in a geographic region in which the Fund invests, causing an adverse impact on the Fund's investments in the affected region.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK** is the risk that markets of emerging market countries are less developed and less liquid, subject to greater price volatility and generally subject to increased economic, political, regulatory and other uncertainties than more developed markets.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund's investments to decline. To the extent that the Fund's assets are concentrated in a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**GEOGRAPHIC AND SECTOR RISK** is the risk that if the Fund invests a significant portion of its total assets in certain issuers within the same geographic region or economic sector, an adverse economic, business or political development affecting that region or sector may affect the value of the Fund's investments more than if the Fund's investments were not so concentrated.

**LARGE CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that large-capitalization stocks as a group could fall out of favor with the market, causing the fund to underperform investments that focus solely on small- or medium-capitalization stocks.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser or sub-advisers may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. It includes the risk that a particular style of investing, such as growth or value, may underperform the market. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**MID CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of mid-sized companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Mid-sized companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, and may be dependent upon a particular niche of the market.

**MULTI-MANAGER RISK** is the risk that the sub-advisers' investment styles will not always be complementary, which could affect the performance of the Fund.

**SMALL CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Small companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group, and their securities may trade less frequently and in lower volume than the securities of larger companies, which could lead to higher transaction costs. Generally the smaller the company size, the greater the risk.

## ACTIVE M INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND

**TECHNOLOGY SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that securities of technology companies may be subject to greater price volatility than securities of companies in other sectors. These securities may fall in and out of favor with investors rapidly, which may cause sudden selling and dramatically lower market prices. Technology securities also may be affected adversely by changes in technology, consumer and business purchasing patterns, government regulation and/or obsolete products or services. In addition, a rising interest rate environment tends to negatively affect technology companies.

**VALUATION RISK** is the risk that the sale price the Fund could receive for a portfolio security may differ from the Fund's valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. In addition, the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund's shares.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

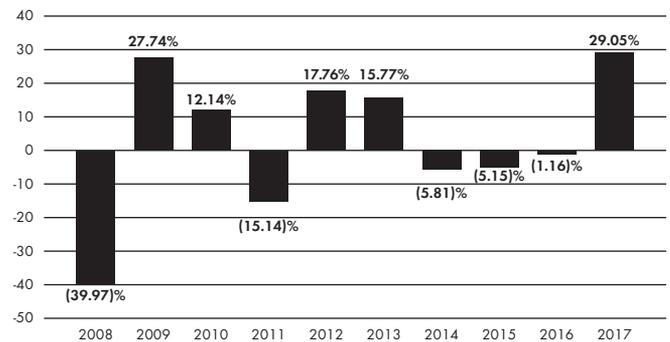
## FUND PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Fund from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Fund compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

## CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is (1.53)%. For the periods shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 22.13% in the second quarter of 2009, and the lowest quarterly return was (21.01)% in the third quarter of 2008.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Since Inception
Active M International Equity Fund	6/22/06				
Returns before taxes		29.05%	5.70%	1.26%	3.27%
Returns after taxes on distributions		28.64%	5.48%	1.05%	2.94%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		16.77%	4.55%	1.04%	2.61%
MSCI World® ex USA IM Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		25.17%	7.97%	2.28%	4.12%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

## MANAGEMENT

**INVESTMENT ADVISER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND**

**SUB-ADVISERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“NTI”), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Active M International Equity Fund. Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior Vice President of NTI, has been manager of the Fund since January 2012. Brandes Investment Partners L.P., Causeway Capital Management LLC, Victory Capital Management Inc., WCM Investment Management, LLC and Wellington Management Company LLP each serves as a sub-adviser of the Fund. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the “Trust”) with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may also purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.

- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.
- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

## TAX INFORMATION

The Fund’s distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividend income, capital gains, or a combination of the three, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

## PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.

## ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation through a diversified portfolio of primarily U.S. equity securities. Any income received is incidental to this objective.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

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

None

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

Management Fees	0.64%
Other Expenses	0.05%
Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
Other Operating Expenses	0.03%
Acquired Fund Fees & Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.01%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.70%</b>
Expense Reimbursement <sup>(3)</sup>	(0.03)%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.67%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund through its ownership of shares in other investment companies. They are not direct costs paid by Fund shareholders.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement will not correlate to the Fund's ratios of average net assets to (1) expenses before reimbursements and credits and (2) expenses net of reimbursements and credits, respectively, included in the Fund's Financial Highlights in the Fund's complete Prospectus, which do not reflect indirect expenses, such as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>(3)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 0.66%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses, including but not limited to Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## EXAMPLE

The following 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 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem 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 the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$68	\$221	\$387	\$868

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 68.70% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking long-term capital appreciation, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in equity securities of U.S. based companies. Companies are considered to be U.S. based if they are organized under the laws of the United States, have a principal office in the United States, or have their principal securities market in the United States.

The Fund expects to invest primarily in common stocks, but may also invest from time to time in other U.S. and foreign equity securities, including preferred stocks.

The Fund may invest in issuers with market capitalizations in all ranges, including small-, medium- and large-capitalization companies.

The Fund may invest more than 25% of its assets in securities of technology companies.

The Fund utilizes a "multi-manager" approach whereby the Fund's assets are allocated to one or more sub-advisers, in percentages determined at the discretion of the Fund's investment adviser. Each sub-adviser acts independently from the others and utilizes its own distinct investment style in selecting securities. However, each sub-adviser must operate within the constraints of the Fund's investment objective, strategies and restrictions.

When determining the allocations and reallocations to sub-advisers, the Fund's investment adviser will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to the sub-adviser's investment approach, historical performance, and the characteristics of each sub-adviser's allocated assets (including capitalization, growth and profitability measures, valuation metrics, economic sector exposures, and earnings and volatility statistics). The Fund's investment adviser seeks, through its selection of sub-advisers and its allocation determinations, to reduce portfolio volatility and provide an attractive combination of risk and return for the Fund.

Although the Fund invests primarily in U.S. issuers, it may make limited investments in securities of foreign issuers.

The sub-advisers may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

#### PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING ("IPO") RISK** is the risk that the market value of shares of IPOs will fluctuate considerably or decline shortly after the IPO, due to factors such as the absence of a prior public market, unseasoned trading, the small number of shares available for trading and limited information about the issuer.

**LARGE CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that large-capitalization stocks as a group could fall out of favor with the market, causing the fund to underperform investments that focus solely on small- or medium-capitalization stocks.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser or sub-advisers may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse

investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. It includes the risk that a particular style of investing, such as growth or value, may underperform the market generally. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**MID CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of mid-sized companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Mid-sized companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, and may be dependent upon a particular niche of the market.

**MULTI-MANAGER RISK** is the risk that the sub-advisers' investment styles will not always be complementary, which could affect the performance of the Fund.

**SECTOR RISK** is the risk that companies in similar businesses may be similarly affected by particular economic or market events, which may, in certain circumstances, cause the value of securities of all companies in a particular sector of the market to decrease. While the Fund may not concentrate in any one industry, the Fund may invest without limitation in a particular market sector.

**SMALL CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Small companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group, and their securities may trade less frequently and in lower volume than the securities of larger companies, which could lead to higher transaction costs. Generally the smaller the company size, the greater the risk.

**TECHNOLOGY SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that securities of technology companies may be subject to greater price volatility than securities of companies in other sectors. These securities may fall in and out of favor with investors rapidly, which may cause sudden selling and dramatically lower market prices. Technology securities also may be affected adversely by changes in technology, consumer and business purchasing patterns, government regulation and/or obsolete products or services. In addition, a rising interest rate environment tends to negatively affect technology companies.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

## ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND

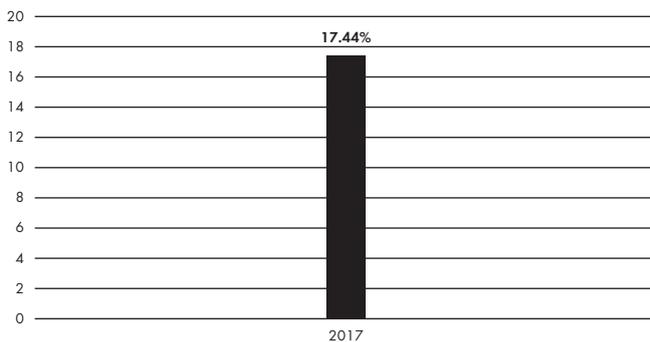
## FUND PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) the performance of the Fund for the calendar year ended December 31, 2017 and since inception, and (B) how the average annual total return of the Fund compares to those of a broad-based securities market index.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

## CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is 4.70%. For the periods shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 4.99% in the first quarter of 2017, and the lowest quarterly return was 2.24% in the second quarter of 2017.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	Since Inception
Active M U.S. Equity Fund	5/5/16		
Returns before taxes		17.44%	16.30%
Returns after taxes on distributions		16.94%	15.90%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		10.25%	12.54%
Russell 3000® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		21.13%	20.16%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

## MANAGEMENT

## INVESTMENT ADVISER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND

**SUB-ADVISERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Active M U.S. Equity Fund. Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior Vice President of NTI, has been manager of the Fund since inception. Delaware Investments Fund Advisers, Granite Investment Partners, LLC, Lazard Asset Management LLC, Polen Capital Management, LLC and Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley LLC each serves as a sub-adviser of the Fund. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the "Trust") with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may also purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust.

Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.

- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

#### TAX INFORMATION

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividend income, capital gains, or a combination of the three, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

#### PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY FUND

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks total return consisting of a combination of income and capital appreciation.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

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

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
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Redemption Fee (within 30 days of purchase) (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable)	2.00%
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**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	0.85%
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Other Expenses	0.20%
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Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
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Other Operating Expenses	0.18%
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Acquired Fund Fees & Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.01%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1.06%</b>
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Expense Reimbursement <sup>(3)</sup>	(0.11)%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.95%</b>
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<sup>(1)</sup> Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund through its ownership of shares in other investment companies. They are not direct costs paid by Fund shareholders.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement will not correlate to the Fund's ratios of average net assets to (1) expenses before reimbursements and credits and (2) expenses net of reimbursements and credits, respectively, included in the Fund's Financial Highlights in the Fund's complete Prospectus, which do not reflect indirect expenses, such as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>(3)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 0.93%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses, including but not limited to Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## EXAMPLE

The following 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 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem 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 the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$97	\$326	\$574	\$1,284

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 99.56% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking to achieve total return, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets (plus borrowings for investment purposes) in fixed income securities that provide exposure to debt issuers based in or economically tied to emerging or frontier markets. Emerging and frontier markets are defined as those identified by the World Bank Group as being "developing or emerging economies" or are included in the JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index and/or the JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index. As of May 31, 2018, the indices were comprised of markets in 69 different countries located in Central and South America, Africa, Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caribbean and Asia. The Fund may invest in companies of any size located in a number of countries throughout the world. The Fund may invest without limitation in securities denominated in foreign currencies and in U.S. dollar denominated securities of emerging and frontier markets issuers. The securities in which the Fund may invest include the following:

- obligations of sovereign nations or their agencies, instrumentalities, or sponsored enterprises;
- obligations of corporations and banks;
- senior subordinated bonds and debentures;

- zero coupon, pay-in-kind and capital appreciation bonds;
- preferred stock, convertible securities and warrants, rights and other equity securities that are acquired in connection with convertible securities;
- entities organized to restructure the outstanding debt of emerging and frontier market issuers;
- structured securities and short sales; and
- repurchase agreements related to the above instruments.

Although the Fund invests primarily in the debt obligations of emerging and frontier markets issuers, it may make investments in the securities of developed market issuers or currency instruments. Currency instruments may include foreign exchange forwards, futures contracts or options on currency. The Fund may invest in structured securities or derivatives, including but not limited to credit linked notes, financial future contracts and swap contracts for hedging purposes or to gain exposure to certain countries or currencies. A portion of the Fund's net assets may be "illiquid securities," i.e. securities that do not have a readily available market or that are subject to resale restrictions.

The Fund may invest in higher risk, below investment-grade debt securities, commonly referred to as "junk bonds." Lower quality securities are rated BB, Ba or lower by a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (NRSRO). Unrated securities will be of comparable quality as determined by each sub-adviser. There is no minimum rating for a security purchased or held by the Fund, and the Fund may purchase securities in default.

The Fund is classified as non-diversified under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), and may invest more of its assets in fewer issuers than "diversified" mutual funds.

The Fund utilizes a "multi-manager" approach whereby the Fund's assets are allocated to one or more sub-advisers, in percentages determined at the discretion of the Fund's investment adviser. Each sub-adviser acts independently from the others and utilizes its own distinct investment style in selecting securities. However, each sub-adviser must operate within the constraints of the Fund's investment objective, strategies and restrictions.

When determining the allocations and reallocations to sub-advisers, the Fund's investment adviser will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to the sub-adviser's investment approach, historical performance, and the characteristics of each sub-adviser's allocated assets (including capitalization, growth and profitability measures, valuation metrics, economic sector exposures, and earnings and volatility

statistics). The Fund's investment adviser seeks, through its selection of sub-advisers and its allocation determinations, to reduce portfolio volatility and provide an attractive combination of risk and return for the Fund.

The Fund intends to be fully invested at all times. However, for temporary defensive purposes and pending investment money received for share purchases or to facilitate Fund redemptions, the Fund may invest up to 100% of its assets in cash, high quality short-term investments and repurchase agreements. To the extent that the Fund is invested in these instruments, the Fund will not be pursuing its investment objective.

The sub-advisers may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio trading a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

#### PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CREDIT (OR DEFAULT) RISK** is the risk that the inability or unwillingness of an issuer or guarantor of a fixed-income security, or a counterparty to a repurchase or other transaction, to meet its payment or other financial obligations will adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments and its returns. Changes in the credit rating of a debt security held by the Fund could have a similar effect.

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign currencies, securities that trade in or receive revenues in foreign currencies, or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Fund's investments and its returns. Because the Fund's net asset value is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Fund's holdings appreciates. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange values of currencies could affect the economy or particular business operations of companies in a geographic region in which the Fund invests, causing an adverse impact on the Fund's investments in the affected region.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

## MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY FUND

**DEBT EXTENSION RISK** is the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Fund (such as a mortgage-backed security) later than expected. This may happen during a period of rising interest rates. Under these circumstances, the value of the obligation will decrease and the Fund will suffer from the inability to invest in higher yielding securities.

**DERIVATIVES RISK** is the risk that derivatives can be more sensitive to changes in interest rates and sudden fluctuations in market prices than conventional securities. Derivatives are also subject to liquidity and mispricing risks. Investments in derivative instruments, which may be leveraged, may result in losses exceeding the amounts invested. Derivatives are also subject to counterparty risk.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK** is the risk that markets of emerging market countries are less developed and less liquid, subject to greater price volatility and generally subject to increased economic, political, regulatory and other uncertainties than more developed markets.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund's investments to decline. To the extent that the Fund's assets are concentrated in a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS RISK** is the risk that, if forward prices increase, a loss will occur to the extent that the agreed upon purchase price of the currency exceeds the price of the currency that was agreed to be sold.

**FRONTIER MARKETS RISK** is the risk that frontier countries generally have smaller economies or less developed capital markets than traditional emerging markets and, as a result, the risks of investing in emerging market countries are magnified in frontier market countries.

**HIGH-YIELD RISK** is the risk that the Fund's non-investment grade fixed-income securities, sometimes known as "junk bonds," will be subject to greater credit risk, price volatility and risk of loss than investment grade securities, which can adversely impact the Fund's return and NAV. High yield securities are considered highly speculative and are subject to increased risk of an issuer's inability to make principal and interest payments.

**INTEREST RATE RISK** is the risk that during periods of rising interest rates, the Fund's yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be lower than prevailing market rates; in periods of falling interest rates, the Fund's yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be higher. Securities with longer maturities tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rates, causing them to be more volatile than securities with shorter maturities. Securities with shorter maturities tend to provide lower returns and be less volatile than securities with longer maturities. If interest rates rise, the Fund's yield may not increase proportionately, and the maturities of fixed income securities that have the ability to be prepaid or called by the issuer may be extended. The risks associated with increasing interest rates are heightened given that interest rates are near historic lows, but are expected to increase in the future with unpredictable effects on the markets and the Fund's investments. A general rise in interest rates may cause investors to move out of fixed income securities on a large scale, which could adversely affect the price and liquidity of fixed income securities and could also result in increased redemptions from the Fund. A low or declining interest rate environment poses additional risks to the Fund's performance, including the risk that proceeds from prepaid or maturing instruments may have to be reinvested at a lower interest rate. Fluctuations in interest rates may also affect the liquidity of fixed income securities and instruments held by the Fund.

**LARGE SHAREHOLDER TRANSACTIONS RISK** is the risk that the Fund may experience adverse effects when certain large shareholders purchase or redeem large amounts of shares of the Fund. Such large shareholder redemptions may cause the Fund to sell its securities at times it would not otherwise do so, which may negatively impact its NAV and liquidity. Such sales may also accelerate the increase of taxable income to shareholders if these sales result in gains, and may also increase transaction costs. In addition, large redemptions could lead to an increase in the Fund's expense ratio due to a smaller asset base. Large Fund share purchases may adversely affect the Fund's performance to the extent that the Fund is delayed in investing new cash and is required to maintain a larger cash position than it ordinarily would.

**LIQUIDITY RISK** is the risk that the Fund will not be able to pay redemption proceeds in a timely manner because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, legal restrictions impairing its inability to sell particular securities or close derivative positions at an advantageous market price or other reasons. Certain securities may be less liquid than others, which may make them difficult or impossible to sell at the time and the price that the Fund would like and the Fund may have to lower the price, sell other securities instead or forgo an investment opportunity. In addition, less liquid securities may be more difficult to value

and markets may become less liquid when there are fewer interested buyers or sellers or when dealers are unwilling or unable to make a market for certain securities. Recently, dealers have generally been less willing to make markets for fixed income securities. All of these risks may increase during periods of market turmoil and could have a negative effect on the Fund's performance.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser or sub-advisers may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**MULTI-MANAGER RISK** is the risk that the sub-advisers' investment styles will not always be complementary, which could affect the performance of the Fund.

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK** is the risk that, to the extent the Fund invests a relatively high percentage of its assets in the securities of a single issuer or group of issuers, the Fund's performance will be more vulnerable to changes in the market value of that single issuer or group of issuers, and more susceptible to risks associated with a single economic, political or regulatory occurrence.

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RISK** is the risk that a high portfolio turnover (100% or more) is likely to involve high brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, which could reduce the Fund's return. It also may result in higher short-term capital gains that are taxable to shareholders. For the last year fiscal year, the annual portfolio turnover rate was near 100%.

**SOVEREIGN DEBT RISK** is the risk that the Fund may invest in securities issued or guaranteed by foreign governmental entities (known as sovereign debt securities). These investments are subject to the risk of payment delays or defaults, due, for example, to cash flow problems, insufficient foreign currency reserves, political considerations, large debt positions relative to the country's economy or failure to implement economic reforms. There is no legal or bankruptcy process for collecting sovereign debt.

**STRUCTURED SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that loss may result from the Fund's investments in structured securities.

Structured securities may be more volatile, less liquid and more difficult to price accurately than less complex securities due to their derivative nature. As a result, investments in structured securities may adversely affect the Fund's NAV. In some cases, it is possible that the Fund may suffer a total loss on its investment in a structured security.

**VALUATION RISK** is the risk that the sale price the Fund could receive for a portfolio security may differ from the Fund's valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. In addition, the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund's shares.

**As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.**

## FUND PERFORMANCE

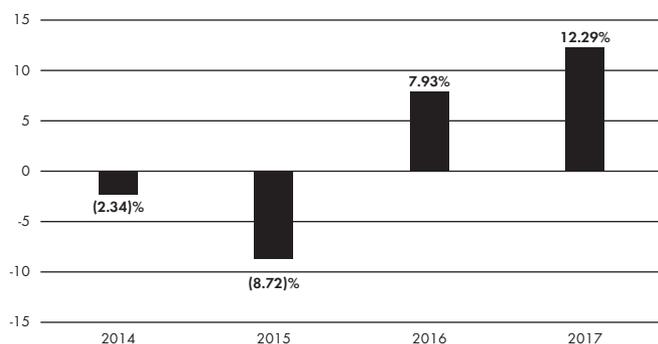
The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Fund from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Fund compares to those of a broad-based securities market index and to a custom blended benchmark that reflect the investment instruments in which the Fund invests.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

## MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY FUND

## CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is (6.67)%. For the periods shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 5.71% in the first quarter of 2016, and the lowest quarterly return was (6.59)% in the third quarter of 2015.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	Since Inception
Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund	12/3/13		
Returns before taxes		12.29%	2.04%
Returns after taxes on distributions		9.85%	0.73%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		6.94%	0.95%
JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		10.26%	7.33%
JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		15.21%	0.44%
50% JP Morgan EMBI Global Diversified Index and 50% JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		12.74%	3.90%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

In calculating the federal income taxes due on redemptions, capital gains taxes resulting from redemptions are subtracted from the redemption proceeds and the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from the redemptions are added to the redemption proceeds. Under certain circumstances, the addition of the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from redemptions may cause the Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares to be greater than the Returns after taxes on distributions or even the Returns before taxes.

## MANAGEMENT

## INVESTMENT ADVISER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND

**SUB-ADVISERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund. Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior Vice President of NTI, has been manager of the Fund since December 2013. Ashmore Investment Management Limited and Global Evolution USA, LLC each serves as a sub-adviser of the Fund. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the "Trust") with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive the minimum. You may purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.

- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

#### TAX INFORMATION

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, capital gains, or a combination of the two, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

#### PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks total return through both income and capital appreciation.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

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

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
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Redemption Fee (within 30 days of purchase) (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable)	2.00%
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**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	0.90%
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Other Expenses	0.12%
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Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
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Other Operating Expenses	0.10%
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Acquired Fund Fees & Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.01%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1.03%</b>
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Expense Reimbursement <sup>(3)</sup>	(0.02)%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1.01%</b>
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<sup>(1)</sup> Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund through its ownership of shares in other investment companies. They are not direct costs paid by Fund shareholders.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement will not correlate to the Fund's ratios of average net assets to (1) expenses before reimbursements and credits and (2) expenses net of reimbursements and credits, respectively, included in the Fund's Financial Highlights in the Fund's complete Prospectus, which do not reflect indirect expenses, such as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>(3)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 1.00%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses, including but not limited to Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## EXAMPLE

The following 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 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem 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 the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$103	\$326	\$567	\$1,258

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 44.40% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking to achieve total return, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets (plus borrowings for investment purposes) in securities of infrastructure companies listed on a domestic or foreign exchange. The Fund invests primarily in equity securities, including common stock and preferred stock, of infrastructure companies. Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 40%, and may invest up to 100%, of its net assets in the securities of infrastructure companies economically tied to a foreign (non-U.S.) country, including emerging and frontier market countries. The Fund may invest in large, medium or small capitalization infrastructure companies.

The Fund considers a company to be engaged in the infrastructure business if it derives at least 50% of its revenues or earnings from, or devotes at least 50% of its assets to, infrastructure-related activities. The Fund defines "infrastructure" as the systems and networks of energy, transportation, utilities, communication and other services required for the normal function of society. Infrastructure companies are involved in, among other things: (1) the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy; (2) the storage, transportation and distribution of natural resources, such as natural gas, used to produce energy;

(3) alternative energy sources; (4) the building, operation and maintenance of highways, toll roads, tunnels, bridges and parking lots; (5) the building, operation and maintenance of airports and ports, railroads and mass transit systems; (6) telecommunications, including wireless and cable networks; (7) water treatment and distribution; and (8) other public services such as health care and education. Infrastructure companies also include energy-related companies organized as master limited partnerships (“MLPs”) and their affiliates, although the Fund will not invest more than 25% of its net assets in such energy-related MLPs and their affiliates. The Fund expects to invest a significant portion of its assets in infrastructure companies operating in the utilities and energy sectors.

The Fund may enter into spot and foreign currency exchange contracts to facilitate settlement of securities transactions.

A portion of the Fund’s net assets may be “illiquid securities,” i.e. securities that do not have a readily available market or that are subject to resale restrictions.

The Fund is classified as non-diversified under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), and may invest more of its assets in fewer issuers than “diversified” mutual funds.

The Fund utilizes a “multi-manager” approach whereby the Fund’s assets are allocated to one or more sub-advisers, in percentages determined at the discretion of the Fund’s investment adviser. Each sub-adviser acts independently from the others and utilizes its own distinct investment style in selecting securities. However, each sub-adviser must operate within the constraints of the Fund’s investment objective, strategies and restrictions.

When determining the allocations and reallocations to sub-advisers, the Fund’s investment adviser will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to the sub-adviser’s investment approach, historical performance, and the characteristics of each sub-adviser’s allocated assets (including capitalization, growth and profitability measures, valuation metrics, economic sector exposures, and earnings and volatility statistics). The Fund’s investment adviser seeks, through its selection of sub-advisers and its allocation determinations, to reduce portfolio volatility and provide an attractive combination of risk and return for the Fund.

The Fund intends to be fully invested at all times. However, for temporary defensive purposes and pending investment money received for share purchases or to facilitate Fund redemptions, the Fund may invest up to 100% of its assets in cash, high quality short-term investments and repurchase agreements. To the extent that the Fund is invested in these instruments, the Fund will not be pursuing its investment objective.

The sub-advisers may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CONCENTRATION RISK** is the risk that because the Fund will invest more than 25% of its net assets (plus the amount of any borrowing for investment purposes) in securities in the infrastructure business, as defined in this Prospectus, the Fund may be subject to greater volatility with respect to its portfolio securities than a fund that is more broadly diversified.

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign currencies, securities that trade in or receive revenues in foreign currencies, or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Fund’s investments and its returns. Because the Fund’s net asset value is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Fund’s holdings appreciates. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange values of currencies could affect the economy or particular business operations of companies in a geographic region in which the Fund invests, causing an adverse impact on the Fund’s investments in the affected region.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK** is the risk that markets of emerging market countries are less developed and less liquid, subject to greater price volatility and generally subject to increased economic, political, regulatory and other uncertainties than more developed markets.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund’s investments to decline. To the extent that the Fund’s assets are concentrated in

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS RISK** is the risk that, if forward prices increase, a loss will occur to the extent that the agreed upon purchase price of the currency exceeds the price of the currency that was agreed to be sold.

**FRONTIER MARKETS RISK** is the risk that frontier countries generally have smaller economies or less developed capital markets than traditional emerging markets and, as a result, the risks of investing in emerging market countries are magnified in frontier market countries.

**GEOGRAPHIC AND SECTOR RISK** is the risk that if the Fund invests a significant portion of its total assets in certain issuers within the same geographic region or economic sector, an adverse economic, business or political development affecting that region or sector may affect the value of the Fund's investments more than if the Fund's investments were not so concentrated.

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES RISK** Infrastructure companies are subject to the risk that: the potential for realized revenue volumes is significantly lower than projected and/or there will be cost overruns; project sponsors will alter their terms making a project no longer economical; macroeconomic factors such as low gross domestic product ("GDP") growth or high nominal interest rates will raise the average cost of funding; government regulation may affect rates charged to customers; government budgetary constraints will impact projects; special tariffs will be imposed; and changes in tax laws, regulatory policies or accounting standards could be unfavorable. Other risks include environmental damage due to a company's operations or an accident, changes in market sentiment towards infrastructure and terrorist acts.

**LARGE CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that large-capitalization stocks as a group could fall out of favor with the market, causing the fund to underperform investments that focus solely on small- or medium-capitalization stocks.

**LIQUIDITY RISK** is the risk that the Fund will not be able to pay redemption proceeds in a timely manner because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, legal restrictions impairing its inability to sell particular securities or close derivative positions at an advantageous market price or other reasons. Certain securities may be less liquid than others, which may make them difficult or impossible to sell at the time and the price that the Fund would like and the Fund may have to lower the price, sell other securities instead or forgo an investment opportunity. In addition, less liquid securities may be more difficult to value and markets may become less liquid when there are fewer interested buyers or sellers or when dealers are unwilling or

unable to make a market for certain securities. Recently, dealers have generally been less willing to make markets for fixed income securities. All of these risks may increase during periods of market turmoil and could have a negative effect on the Fund's performance.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser or sub-advisers may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. It includes the risk that a particular style of investing, such as growth or value, may underperform the market. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**MARKET SEGMENT RISK** is the risk that concentrating in a particular segment of the market will generally be more volatile than investing more broadly. Any market price movements, regulatory or technological changes, or economic conditions affecting infrastructure companies may have a significant impact on the Fund's performance.

**MID CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of mid-sized companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Mid-sized companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, and may be dependent upon a particular niche of the market.

**MLP RISK** is the risk that accompanies an investment in MLP units. Investing in MLPs involves certain risks related to investing in the underlying assets of the MLPs and risks associated with pooled investment vehicles. MLPs that concentrate in a particular industry or a particular geographic region are subject to risks associated with such industry or region. MLPs may also be sensitive to changes in interest rates and during periods of interest rate volatility, may not provide attractive returns. The benefit derived from the Fund's investment in MLPs is largely dependent on the MLPs being treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. If any of the MLPs owned by the Fund were treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the after-tax return to the Fund with respect to its investment in such MLPs would be materially reduced, which could cause a decline in the value of

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

the common stock. The Fund must include its allocable share of the MLP's taxable income in its taxable income, whether or not it receives a distribution of cash from the MLP. In such case, the Fund may have to liquidate securities to make required distributions to the Fund's shareholders.

**MULTI-MANAGER RISK** is the risk that the sub-advisers' investment styles will not always be complementary, which could affect the performance of the Fund.

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK** is the risk that, to the extent the Fund invests a relatively high percentage of its assets in the securities of a single issuer or group of issuers, the Fund's performance will be more vulnerable to changes in the market value of that single issuer or group of issuers, and more susceptible to risks associated with a single economic, political or regulatory occurrence.

**SMALL CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Small companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group, and their securities may trade less frequently and in lower volume than the securities of larger companies, which could lead to higher transaction costs. Generally the smaller the company size, the greater the risk.

**VALUATION RISK** is the risk that the sale price the Fund could receive for a portfolio security may differ from the Fund's valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. In addition, the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund's shares.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

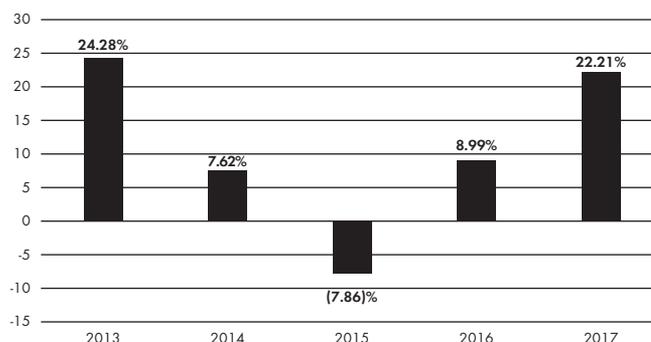
## FUND PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Fund from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Fund compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

### CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is (2.90)%. For the period shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 9.83% in the first quarter of 2017, and the lowest quarterly return was (4.77)% in the third quarter of 2015.

### AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund	9/18/12			
Returns before taxes		22.21%	10.42%	10.12%
Returns after taxes on distributions		19.90%	9.33%	9.06%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		14.10%	8.14%	7.92%
S&P Global Infrastructure® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		20.13%	9.21%	8.98%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

## MANAGEMENT

**INVESTMENT ADVISER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND SUB-ADVISERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund. Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Vice President of NTI, has been manager of the Fund since September 2012. Lazard Asset Management LLC and Maple-Brown Abbott Limited each serves as a sub-adviser of the Fund. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the “Trust”) generally with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.
- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.

- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

## TAX INFORMATION

The Fund’s distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividend income, capital gains, or a combination of the three, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

## PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks to provide long-term capital appreciation and current income through a diversified portfolio of primarily equity securities of U.S. and foreign real estate and real estate related companies.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

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

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
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Redemption Fee (within 30 days of purchase) (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable)	2.00%
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**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	0.89%
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Other Expenses	0.20%
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Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
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Other Operating Expenses	0.18%
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Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.01%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1.10%</b>
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Expense Reimbursement <sup>(3)</sup>	(0.17)%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.93%</b>
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<sup>(1)</sup> Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund through its ownership of shares in other investment companies. They are not direct costs paid by Fund shareholders.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement will not correlate to the Fund's ratios of average net assets to (1) expenses before reimbursements and credits and (2) expenses net of reimbursements and credits, respectively, included in the Fund's Financial Highlights in the Fund's complete Prospectus, which do not reflect indirect expenses, such as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>(3)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 0.91%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses, including but not limited to Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## EXAMPLE

The following 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 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of our shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$95	\$333	\$590	\$1,325

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 144.67% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking long-term capital appreciation and current income, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in equity securities of real estate companies and real estate related companies (collectively "real estate companies"). This means that the Fund will concentrate its investments in companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from the ownership, construction, financing, management or sale of commercial, industrial or residential real estate or companies that have a significant portion of their assets in these types of real estate-related areas. The Fund will invest in equity-related securities of real estate companies on a global basis, which means that the companies may be U.S. companies or foreign companies. There is no limit on the amount of Fund assets that may be invested in the securities of foreign companies. The Fund anticipates that it will invest greater than 25% of its assets in equity-related securities of real estate companies in the U.S. The Fund does not invest directly in real estate.

The Fund anticipates that its investments in equity-related securities of real estate companies will be primarily in securities of companies known as real estate investment trusts (REITs) or U.S. or non-U.S. REIT-like companies that own and/or manage property. The Fund may invest without limit in the securities of

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND

REITs. The Fund may also invest in equity securities of other types of real estate companies including REITs that invest in real estate-related loans.

The Fund utilizes a “multi-manager” approach whereby the Fund’s assets are allocated to one or more sub-advisers, in percentages determined at the discretion of the Fund’s investment adviser. Each sub-adviser acts independently from the others and utilizes its own distinct investment style in selecting securities. However, each sub-adviser must operate within the constraints of the Fund’s investment objective, strategies and restrictions. When determining the allocations and reallocations to sub-advisers, the Fund’s investment adviser will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to the sub-adviser’s style, historical performance, and the characteristics of each sub-adviser’s allocated assets (including capitalization, growth and profitability measures, valuation metrics, economic sector exposures, and earnings and volatility statistics). The Fund’s investment adviser seeks, through its selection of sub-advisers and its allocation determinations, to reduce portfolio volatility and provide an attractive combination of risk and return for the Fund.

The sub-advisers may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign currencies, securities that trade in or receive revenues in foreign currencies, or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Fund’s investments and its returns. Because the Fund’s net asset value is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Fund’s holdings appreciates. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange values of currencies could affect the economy or particular business operations of companies in a geographic region in which the Fund invests, causing an adverse impact on the Fund’s investments in the affected region.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund’s investments to decline. To the extent that the Fund’s assets are concentrated in a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**GEOGRAPHIC AND SECTOR RISK** is the risk that if the Fund invests a significant portion of its total assets in certain issuers within the same geographic region or economic sector, an adverse economic, business or political development affecting that region or sector may affect the value of the Fund’s investments more than if the Fund’s investments were not so concentrated.

**INTEREST RATE RISK** is the risk that during periods of rising interest rates, the Fund’s yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be lower than prevailing market rates; in periods of falling interest rates, the Fund’s yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be higher. Securities with longer maturities tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rates, causing them to be more volatile than securities with shorter maturities. Securities with shorter maturities tend to provide lower returns and be less volatile than securities with longer maturities. If interest rates rise, the Fund’s yield may not increase proportionately, and the maturities of fixed income securities that have the ability to be prepaid or called by the issuer may be extended. The risks associated with increasing interest rates are heightened given that interest rates are near historic lows, but are expected to increase in the future with unpredictable effects on the markets and the Fund’s investments. A general rise in interest rates may cause investors to move out of fixed income securities on a large scale, which could adversely affect the price and liquidity of fixed income securities and could also result in increased redemptions from the Fund. A low or declining interest rate environment poses additional risks to the Fund’s performance, including the risk that proceeds from prepaid or maturing instruments may have to be reinvested at a lower interest rate. Fluctuations in interest rates may also affect the liquidity of fixed income securities and instruments held by the Fund.

**INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING (“IPO”) RISK** is the risk that the market value of shares of initial public offerings (IPOs) will fluctuate considerably or decline shortly after the initial public offering, due to factors such as the absence of a prior public market, unseasoned trading, the small number of shares available for trading and limited information about the issuer.

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser or sub-advisers may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. It includes the risk that a particular style of investing, such as growth or value, may underperform the market. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**MID CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of mid-sized companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Mid-sized companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, and may be dependent upon a particular niche of the market.

**MULTI-MANAGER RISK** is the risk that the sub-advisers' investment styles will not always be complementary, which could affect the performance of the Fund.

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RISK** is the risk that a high portfolio turnover (100% or more) is likely to involve high brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, which could reduce the Fund's return. It also may result in higher short-term capital gains that are taxable to shareholders. For the last fiscal year, the annual portfolio turnover rate of the Fund exceeded 100%.

**REAL ESTATE SECURITIES CONCENTRATION RISK** is the risk that investments in securities of real estate companies will make the Fund more susceptible to risks associated with the ownership of real estate and with the real estate industry in general. Real estate companies may have lower trading volumes and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than the overall securities markets. The value of real estate securities may underperform other sectors of the economy or broader equity markets. To the extent that the Fund concentrates its investments in the real estate sector, it may be subject to greater risk of loss than if it were diversified across different industry sectors.

**REIT RISK** is the risk that the Fund's investments will be affected by factors affecting real estate investment trusts (REITs) and the real estate sector generally. Investing in REITs involves certain unique risks in addition to those risks associated with

investing in the real estate industry in general. These risks include possible declines in the value of real estate, possible lack of mortgage funds and unexpected variances of properties. REITs that invest in real estate mortgages are also subject to prepayment risks. REITs whose underlying properties are concentrated in a particular industry or geographic region are also subject to risks affecting such industries and regions. REITs are also subject to interest rate risks (especially mortgage REITs) and liquidity risk. By investing in REITs through the Fund, a shareholder will bear expenses of the REITs in addition to expenses of the Fund.

**SMALL CAP STOCK RISK** is the risk that stocks of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than stocks of larger, more established companies. Small companies may have limited product lines or financial resources, or may be dependent upon a small or inexperienced management group, and their securities may trade less frequently and in lower volume than the securities of larger companies, which could lead to higher transaction costs. Generally the smaller the company size, the greater the risk.

**VALUATION RISK** is the risk that the sale price the Fund could receive for a portfolio security may differ from the Fund's valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. In addition, the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund's shares.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

## FUND PERFORMANCE

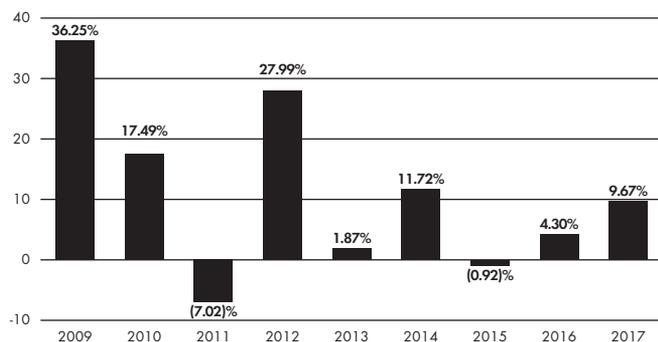
The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Fund from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Fund compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND

## CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is 1.70%. For the period shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 34.79% in the second quarter of 2009, and the lowest quarterly return was (22.09)% in the first quarter of 2009.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund	11/19/08			
Returns before taxes		9.67%	5.22%	13.38%
Returns after taxes on distributions		7.31%	1.01%	10.14%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		5.63%	3.11%	10.40%
FTSE® EPRA®/NAREIT® Developed® Index* (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		11.42%	7.20%	15.01%
FTSE® EPRA®/NAREIT® Global® Index* (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		13.99%	6.22%	13.91%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

In calculating the federal income taxes due on redemptions, capital gains taxes resulting from redemptions are subtracted from the redemption proceeds and the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from the redemptions are added to the redemption proceeds. Under certain circumstances, the addition of the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from redemptions may cause the Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares to be greater than the Returns after taxes on distributions or even the Returns before taxes.

\* Effective December 1, 2017, the benchmark for the Fund changed from the FTSE® EPRA®/NAREIT® Global® Index to the FTSE® EPRA®/NAREIT® Developed® Index to better align the Fund's benchmark with the Fund's current portfolio composition.

## MANAGEMENT

## INVESTMENT ADVISER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND

**SUB-ADVISERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund. Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior Vice President of NTI, has been manager of the Fund since January 2012. Brookfield Investment Management Inc. and Massachusetts Financial Services Company each serves as a sub-adviser of the Fund. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the "Trust") with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may also purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- By Mail – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- By Telephone – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- By Wire – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND

- By Systematic Withdrawal – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.
- By Exchange – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- By Internet – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

## TAX INFORMATION

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, qualified dividend income, capital gains, or a combination of the three, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

## PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY FUND

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund seeks total return consisting of a combination of income and capital appreciation.

## FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE FUND

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund.

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

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
--	------

Redemption Fee (within 30 days of purchase) (as a percentage of amount redeemed, if applicable)	2.00%
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**Annual Fund Operating Expenses** (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	0.83%
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Other Expenses	0.16%
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Transfer Agent Fees	0.02%
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Other Operating Expenses	0.14%
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Acquired Fund Fees & Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.01%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>1.00%</b>
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Expense Reimbursement <sup>(3)</sup>	(0.13)%
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<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>0.87%</b>
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<sup>(1)</sup> Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are expenses incurred indirectly by the Fund through its ownership of shares in other investment companies. They are not direct costs paid by Fund shareholders.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses and Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement will not correlate to the Fund's ratios of average net assets to (1) expenses before reimbursements and credits and (2) expenses net of reimbursements and credits, respectively, included in the Fund's Financial Highlights in the Fund's complete Prospectus, which do not reflect indirect expenses, such as Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

<sup>(3)</sup> Northern Trust Investments, Inc. has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of the Fund (other than certain excepted expenses, i.e., Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, the compensation paid to each Independent Trustee of the Trust, expenses of third party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum, expenses in connection with the negotiation and renewal of the revolving credit facility, extraordinary expenses and interest) to the extent the "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses" exceed 0.85%. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of the excepted expenses, including but not limited to Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, that are not reimbursed. This contractual limitation may not be terminated before July 31, 2019 without the approval of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

## EXAMPLE

The following 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 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem 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 the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
\$89	\$305	\$540	\$1,213

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 66.18% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

In seeking to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will invest, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets in bonds and other fixed-income securities that are rated below investment grade (commonly referred to as "junk bonds"). These may include:

- Obligations of U.S. and foreign corporations and banks;
- Obligations of state, local and foreign governments;
- Senior and subordinated bonds and debentures;
- Mortgage and other asset-backed securities;
- Zero coupon, pay-in-kind and capital appreciation bonds;
- Convertible securities, preferred stock, structured securities and loan participations; and
- Warrants, rights and other equity securities that are acquired in connection with the Fund's investments in debt or convertible securities.

The sub-advisers may shift the Fund's assets among various types of securities based upon changing market conditions, yield differences and the credit-worthiness of issuers among other things.

Lower quality securities are rated BB, Ba or lower by a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization (“NRSRO”). Unrated securities will be of comparable quality as determined by each sub-adviser. Lower rated securities tend to offer higher yields than higher rated securities with similar maturities. However, lower rated securities are considered speculative and generally involve greater price volatility and greater risk of loss than higher rated securities. There is no minimum rating for a security purchased or held by the Fund, and the Fund may purchase securities that are in default. Although the Fund invests primarily in lower quality fixed-income securities, it may invest a portion of its assets in securities of higher quality. The Fund does not have any portfolio maturity limitation, and may invest its assets from time to time primarily in instruments with short, medium or long maturities.

Although the Fund primarily invests in the debt obligations of domestic issuers, it may invest in fixed-income securities of foreign issuers, including issuers located in emerging market countries. The Fund’s investments in foreign issuers together with notional underlying foreign currency exposure are not expected to exceed 30%.

The Fund utilizes a “multi-manager” approach whereby the Fund’s assets are allocated to one or more sub-advisers, in percentages determined at the discretion of the Fund’s investment adviser. Each sub-adviser acts independently from the others and utilizes its own distinct investment style in selecting securities. However, each sub-adviser must operate within the constraints of the Fund’s investment objective, strategies and restrictions.

When determining the allocations and reallocations to sub-advisers, the Fund’s investment adviser will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to the sub-adviser’s investment approach, historical performance, and the characteristics of each sub-adviser’s allocated assets (including duration, credit quality, average maturity, industry and geographic region). The Fund’s investment adviser seeks, through its selection of sub-advisers and its allocation determinations, to reduce portfolio volatility and provide an attractive combination of risk and return for the Fund.

The sub-advisers may engage in active trading, and will not consider portfolio turnover a limiting factor in making decisions for the Fund.

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

**ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES RISK.** Asset-backed securities represent interests in pools of assets such as mortgages, automobile loans, credit card receivables and other financial

assets. Asset-backed securities are subject to credit, interest rate, prepayment, extension, valuation and liquidity risk. These securities, in most cases, are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government and are subject to the risk of default on the underlying asset or loan, particularly during periods of economic downturn. Small movements in interest rates (both increases and decreases) may quickly and significantly reduce the value of certain asset-backed securities.

**CREDIT (OR DEFAULT) RISK** is the risk that the inability or unwillingness of an issuer or guarantor of a fixed-income security, or a counterparty to a repurchase or other transaction, to meet its payment or other financial obligations will adversely affect the value of the Fund’s investments and its returns. Changes in the credit rating of a debt security held by the Fund could have a similar effect.

**CURRENCY RISK** is the risk that foreign currencies, securities that trade in or receive revenues in foreign currencies, or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies will fluctuate in value relative to the U.S. dollar, adversely affecting the value of the Fund’s investments and its returns. Because the Fund’s net asset value is determined on the basis of U.S. dollars, you may lose money if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the market value of the Fund’s holdings appreciates. In addition, fluctuations in the exchange values of currencies could affect the economy or particular business operations of companies in a geographic region in which the Fund invests, causing an adverse impact on the Fund’s investments in the affected region.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** is the risk of an unauthorized breach and access to fund assets, customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or the risk of an incident occurring that causes the Fund, the investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and financial intermediaries to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose operational functionality. Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund or its shareholders.

**DEBT EXTENSION RISK** is the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Fund (such as a mortgage-backed security) later than expected. This may happen during a period of rising interest rates. Under these circumstances, the value of the obligation will decrease and the Fund will suffer from the inability to invest in higher yielding securities.

**FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that investing in foreign (non-U.S.) securities may result in the Fund experiencing more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies, due to less liquid

## MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY FUND

markets, and adverse economic, political, diplomatic, financial, and regulatory factors. Foreign governments also may impose limits on investment and repatriation and impose taxes. Any of these events could cause the value of the Fund's investments to decline. To the extent that the Fund's assets are concentrated in a single country or geographic region, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with that particular country or region.

**HIGH-YIELD RISK** is the risk that the Fund's non-investment grade fixed-income securities, sometimes known as "junk bonds," will be subject to greater credit risk, price volatility and risk of loss than investment grade securities, which can adversely impact the Fund's return and net asset value ("NAV"). High yield securities are considered highly speculative and are subject to the increased risk of an issuer's inability to make principal and interest payments.

**INTEREST RATE RISK** is the risk that during periods of rising interest rates, the Fund's yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be lower than prevailing market rates; in periods of falling interest rates, the Fund's yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be higher. Securities with longer maturities tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rates, causing them to be more volatile than securities with shorter maturities. Securities with shorter maturities tend to provide lower returns and be less volatile than securities with longer maturities. If interest rates rise, the Fund's yield may not increase proportionately, and the maturities of fixed income securities that have the ability to be prepaid or called by the issuer may be extended. The risks associated with increasing interest rates are heightened given that interest rates are near historic lows, but are expected to increase in the future with unpredictable effects on the markets and the Fund's investments. A general rise in interest rates may cause investors to move out of fixed income securities on a large scale, which could adversely affect the price and liquidity of fixed income securities and could also result in increased redemptions from the Fund. A low or declining interest rate environment poses additional risks to the Fund's performance, including the risk that proceeds from prepaid or maturing instruments may have to be reinvested at a lower interest rate. Fluctuations in interest rates may also affect the liquidity of fixed income securities and instruments held by the Fund.

**LIQUIDITY RISK** is the risk that the Fund will not be able to pay redemption proceeds in a timely manner because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, legal restrictions impairing its inability to sell particular securities or close derivative positions at an advantageous market price or other reasons. Certain securities may be less liquid than others, which may make them difficult or impossible to sell at the time and the price that the Fund would like and the Fund may have to lower the price, sell other

securities instead or forgo an investment opportunity. In addition, less liquid securities may be more difficult to value and markets may become less liquid when there are fewer interested buyers or sellers or when dealers are unwilling or unable to make a market for certain securities. Recently, dealers have generally been less willing to make markets for fixed income securities. All of these risks may increase during periods of market turmoil and could have a negative effect on the Fund's performance.

**LOAN RISK.** Loans may be unrated, less liquid and more difficult to value than traditional debt securities. Loans may be made to finance highly leveraged corporate operations or acquisitions. The highly leveraged capital structure of the borrowers in such transactions may make such loans especially vulnerable to adverse changes in financial, economic or market conditions. Loans generally are subject to restrictions on transfer, and only limited opportunities may exist to sell such loans in secondary markets. As a result, the Fund may be unable to sell loans at a desired time or price. If the Fund acquires only an assignment or a participation in a loan made by a third party, the Fund may not be able to control amendments, waivers or the exercise of any remedies that a lender would have under a direct loan and may assume liability as a lender.

**MANAGEMENT RISK** is the risk that a strategy used by the Fund's investment adviser or sub-advisers may fail to produce the intended results or that imperfections, errors or limitations in the tools and data used by the investment adviser may cause unintended results.

**MARKET RISK** is the risk that general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic or political conditions, inflation, changes in interest rates, lack of liquidity in the bond or equity markets, volatility in the equities market or adverse investor sentiment could cause the value of your investment in the Fund to decline. The market value of the securities in which the Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of particular sectors or governments and/or general economic conditions throughout the world due to increasingly interconnected global economies and financial markets.

**MULTI-MANAGER RISK** is the risk that the sub-advisers' investment styles will not always be complementary, which could affect the performance of the Fund.

**PREPAYMENT (OR CALL) RISK** is the risk that prepayment of the underlying mortgages or other collateral of some fixed-income securities may result in a decreased rate of return and a decline in value of those securities.

**STRUCTURED SECURITIES RISK** is the risk that loss may result from the Fund's investments in structured securities. Structured securities may be more volatile, less liquid and more

## MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY FUND

difficult to price accurately than less complex securities due to their derivative nature. As a result, investments in structured securities may adversely affect the Fund's NAV. In some cases, it is possible that the Fund may suffer a total loss on its investment in a structured security.

**VALUATION RISK** is the risk that the sale price the Fund could receive for a portfolio security may differ from the Fund's valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. In addition, the value of the securities in the Fund's portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund's shares.

As with any mutual fund, it is possible to lose money on an investment in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank.

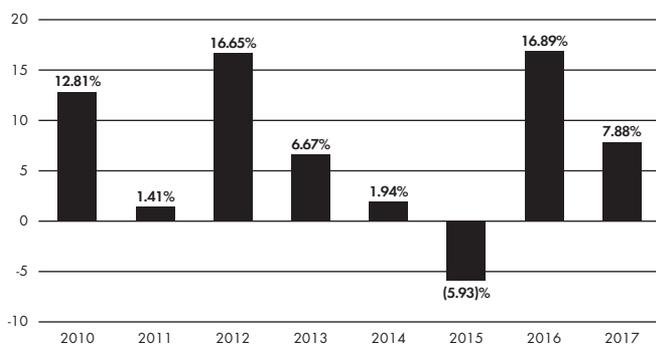
## FUND PERFORMANCE

The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing (A) changes in the performance of the Fund from year to year, and (B) how the average annual total returns of the Fund compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

The Fund's past performance, before and after taxes, is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Fund is available and may be obtained on the Fund's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or by calling 800-595-9111.

## CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN\*



\* Year to date total return for the six months ended June 30, 2018 is 0.46%. For the period shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 6.74% in the third quarter of 2010, and the lowest quarterly return was (7.65)% in the third quarter of 2011.

## AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURN

(For the periods ended December 31, 2017)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund	9/23/09			
Returns before taxes		7.88%	5.22%	7.25%
Returns after taxes on distributions		4.62%	2.28%	4.41%
Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares		4.42%	2.67%	4.47%
ICE BofAML U.S. High Yield Constrained Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)		7.46%	5.81%	8.45%

After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor's tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.

In calculating the federal income taxes due on redemptions, capital gains taxes resulting from redemptions are subtracted from the redemption proceeds and the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from the redemptions are added to the redemption proceeds. Under certain circumstances, the addition of the tax benefits from capital losses resulting from redemptions may cause the Returns after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund shares to be greater than the Returns after taxes on distributions or even the Returns before taxes.

## MANAGEMENT

**INVESTMENT ADVISER, PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND SUB-ADVISERS.** Northern Trust Investments, Inc. ("NTI"), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the investment adviser of the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund. Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior Vice President of NTI, has been manager of the Fund since January 2012. DDJ Capital Management, LLC, Neuberger Berman Investment Advisers LLC and Nomura Corporate Research and Asset Management Inc. each serves as a sub-adviser of the Fund. The Northern Trust Company, an affiliate of Northern Trust Investments, Inc., serves as transfer agent, custodian and sub-administrator to the Fund.

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

You may open an account directly with Northern Funds (the "Trust") with a minimum initial investment of \$2,500 in the Fund (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its

## MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY FUND

affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Fund reserves the right to waive these minimums. You may purchase Fund shares through your account at Northern Trust (or an affiliate) or an authorized intermediary.

On any business day, you may sell (redeem) or exchange shares through your account by contacting your Northern Trust account representative or authorized intermediary. If you purchase shares directly from the Trust, you may sell (redeem) or exchange your shares in one of the following ways:

- **By Mail** – Send a written request to: Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986.
- **By Telephone** – Authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application. Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- **By Wire** – Authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application and have proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account (the minimum redemption amount by this method is \$250). You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank. Call 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- **By Systematic Withdrawal** – If you own shares of the Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust. Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information. The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.
- **By Exchange** – Complete the Exchange Privilege section of your New Account Application to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust. Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA). Call 800-595-9111 for more information.
- **By Internet** – You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Fund accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

## TAX INFORMATION

The Fund's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, capital gains, or a combination of the two, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

## PAYMENTS TO BROKERS-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## BROAD-BASED SECURITIES MARKET INDICES

**THE ICE BofAML U.S. HIGH YIELD CONSTRAINED INDEX** contains all securities in the ICE BofAML U.S. High Yield Index, but caps issuer exposure to 2%. Index constituents are capitalization-weighted, based on their current amount outstanding, provided the total allocation to an individual issuer does not exceed 2%. The ICE BofAML U.S. High Yield Index tracks the performance of US dollar denominated below investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the US domestic market. Qualifying securities must have a below investment grade rating (based on an average of Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), Standard & Poor's Global Ratings ("S&P") and Fitch Ratings ("Fitch")), at least 18 months to final maturity at the time of issuance, at least one year remaining term to final maturity as of the rebalancing date, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of \$100 million.

**THE FTSE® EPRA®/NAREIT® DEVELOPED® INDEX** is designed to track the performance of listed real estate companies and REITs worldwide. The index constituents are free-float adjusted and screened for liquidity, size and revenue. As of May 31, 2018, the FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Index consisted of issuers from the following 21 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**THE FTSE® EPRA®/NAREIT® GLOBAL® INDEX** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization-weighted real estate index designed to represent publicly traded equity REITs and listed property companies in 36 countries worldwide, covering both the developed and emerging markets. As of May 31, 2018, the FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Global Index consisted of issuers from the following 36 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**THE JP MORGAN EMERGING MARKETS BOND INDEX GLOBAL DIVERSIFIED (EMBI GLOBAL DIVERSIFIED)** is a uniquely weighted USD-denominated emerging markets sovereign bond index. The EMBI Global Diversified has the same instrument composition as the market-capitalization weighted EMBI Global, which includes USD-denominated fixed and floating rate instruments issued by sovereign and quasi-sovereign entities. The EMBI Global Diversified limits the weights of the index countries by only including a specified portion of those countries' eligible current face amounts of debt outstanding.

**THE JP MORGAN GOVERNMENT BOND-EMERGING MARKET INDEX GLOBAL DIVERSIFIED (GBI-EM GLOBAL DIVERSIFIED)** tracks the performance of local currency debt issued by emerging market governments. The index incorporates a constrained market-capitalization methodology in which individual issuer exposures are capped at 10% (with the excess distributed to smaller issuers), for greater diversification among issuing governments.

**THE MSCI WORLD® ex USA IM INDEX** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization weighted index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. It captures large, mid and small cap representation across 22 developed markets, excluding the United States, and covers approximately 99% of the free float-adjusted market capitalization in each country. As of May 31, 2018 the MSCI World ex USA IM Index consisted of the following 22 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

**THE MSCI EMERGING MARKETS® INDEX** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance in global emerging markets. As of May 31, 2018, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index consisted of the following 24 emerging market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.

**THE MSCI FRONTIER MARKETS® INDEX** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index that is designed to track the performance of a range of equity markets that are now more accessible to global investors. It aims to achieve a broad representation of the investment opportunity set while taking into consideration investability requirements within each market. As of May 31, 2018, the MSCI Frontier Markets Index consisted of the following 29 frontier market country indices: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Estonia, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, and Vietnam.

**THE RUSSELL 3000® INDEX** is a free float-adjusted market capitalization index measuring the performance of the 3,000 largest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization, which represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market as of May 31, 2018.

**THE S&P GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE® INDEX** provides liquid and tradeable exposure to 75 companies from around the world that represent the listed infrastructure universe. The Index has balanced weights across three distinct infrastructure clusters: Utilities, Transportation and Energy.

## INVESTMENT ADVISER

This Prospectus describes five equity funds and two fixed-income funds (each a “Fund” and collectively, the “Funds”), which are currently offered by Northern Funds (the “Trust”). Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“NTI” or the “Investment Adviser”), a subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the Investment Adviser of the Funds and is responsible for their overall administration. NTI is located at 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

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

Northern Trust Corporation is regulated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as a financial holding company under the U.S. Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Unless otherwise indicated, NTI and The Northern Trust Company (“TNTC”) are referred to collectively in this Prospectus as “Northern Trust.”

As of June 30, 2018, Northern Trust Corporation, through its affiliates, had assets under custody of \$8.10 trillion, and assets under investment management of \$1.15 trillion.

The Funds are managed by the Investment Adviser and one or more asset managers unaffiliated with the Investment Adviser (each a “Sub-Adviser” and together, the “Sub-Advisers”). The Investment Adviser has the ultimate responsibility to oversee the Sub-Advisers, and to recommend their hiring, termination, and replacement, subject to approval by the Trust’s Board of Trustees. The Investment Adviser is responsible for managing the Funds during transition periods in which an existing Sub-Adviser is terminated and a new Sub-Adviser is hired.

Under the Management Agreement with the Trust, the Investment Adviser, subject to the general supervision of the Trust’s Board of Trustees, is responsible for: (1) selecting the overall investment strategies of the Funds; (2) recommending and selecting Sub-Advisers; (3) allocating and reallocating assets among the Sub-Advisers where a Fund has more than one Sub-Adviser; (4) monitoring and evaluating Sub-Adviser performance; (5) implementing procedures to ensure that the Sub-Advisers comply with each Fund’s investment objectives, policies and restrictions; and (6) providing administration services to the Funds.

## INVESTMENT SUB-ADVISERS

The Funds have received an exemptive order from the SEC that permits the Investment Adviser to engage or terminate a Sub-Adviser, and to enter into and materially amend an existing Sub-Advisory Agreement, upon the approval of the Trust’s Board of Trustees, without obtaining shareholder approval. The Sub-Advisers will provide investment advisory services to the Funds, except for cash management services, which will be provided by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will select Sub-Advisers based upon the Sub-Adviser’s skills in managing assets pursuant to particular investment styles and strategies. The Investment Adviser will monitor existing Sub-Advisers based on their investment styles, strategies, and results in managing assets for specific asset classes. Each Sub-Adviser will have discretion to select portfolio securities for its portion of a Fund, but must select those securities according to the Fund’s investment objectives and restrictions. The current Sub-Advisers for the Funds are set forth on page 39 under the section entitled “Fund Management.”

## MANAGEMENT FEES

As compensation for advisory services and administration services and the assumption of related expenses, NTI is entitled to a management fee, computed daily and payable monthly, at annual rates set forth in the tables below (expressed as a percentage of each Fund's respective average daily net assets). The tables also reflect the management fees paid by each of the Funds for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018 (expressed as a percentage of each Fund's respective average daily net assets).

NTI has contractually agreed to reimburse a portion of the operating expenses of each Fund (other than certain fees and expenses shown in the table under the caption "Fees and Expenses of the Fund" in each Fund's Fund Summary) so that "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" do not exceed the amount shown in the footnote to the table under the caption "Fees and Expenses of the Fund" in each Fund's Fund Summary. The "Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Expense Reimbursement" for the Funds may be higher than the contractual limitation as a result of certain excepted expenses that are not reimbursed. The contractual expense reimbursement arrangement is expected to continue until at least July 31, 2019. The contractual expense reimbursement arrangement will continue automatically

thereafter for periods of one year (each such one-year period, a "Renewal Year"). The arrangement may be terminated, as to any succeeding Renewal Year, by NTI or a Fund upon 60 days' written notice prior to the end of the current Renewal Year. The Board of Trustees may terminate the arrangement at any time with respect to a Fund if it determines that it is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders.

NTI may reimburse additional expenses or waive all or a portion of the management fees of the Funds. Any such additional expense reimbursement or fee waiver would be voluntary and could be implemented, increased or decreased, or discontinued at any time.

A discussion regarding the Board of Trustees' basis for its most recent approval of the Funds' Management Agreement will be available in the Funds' semi-annual report to shareholders for the six-month period ending September 30, 2018. Discussions regarding the Funds' Sub-Advisory Agreements will be available in the Funds' semi-annual report to shareholders dated September 30, 2018. The Sub-Advisers' fees are paid by the Investment Adviser out of its management fee.

Fund	Contractual Management Fee Rate			Management Fees Paid for Fiscal Year Ended 3/31/18
	First \$1 Billion	Next \$1 Billion	Over \$2 Billion	
ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY	1.08%	1.048%	1.017%	1.07%
ACTIVE M INTERNATIONAL EQUITY	0.82%	0.795%	0.771%	0.81%
ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY	0.64%	0.621%	0.602%	0.64%
MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE	0.90%	0.873%	0.847%	0.90%
MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE	0.89%	0.863%	0.837%	0.89%

Fund	Contractual Management Fee Rate			Management Fees Paid for Fiscal Year Ended 3/31/18
	First \$1.5 Billion	Next \$1 Billion	Over \$2.5 Billion	
MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY	0.85%	0.825%	0.80%	0.85%
MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY	0.83%	0.805%	0.781%	0.83%

## FUND MANAGEMENT

Christopher E. Vella, CFA, CIO, a Senior Vice President of NTI, is the portfolio manager for each of the Funds. Mr. Vella has been with Northern Trust since 2004 and has been the Chief Investment Officer of Multi-Manager Solutions Group since 2011. Prior to taking on Chief Investment Officer responsibilities, Mr. Vella was the Global Director of Northern's Manager Research Team.

Additional information about the Fund Manager's compensation, other accounts managed by the Fund Manager and the Fund Manager's ownership of securities in the Funds is available in the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI").

### THE SUB-ADVISERS TO THE FUNDS

Each Sub-Adviser has full investment discretion and makes all determinations with respect to the investment of assets of the Fund allocated to it, subject to general supervision of the Investment Adviser and the Board of Trustees.

### ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND

**AXIOM INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS LLC ("AXIOM").** Axiom has managed a portion of the Fund since November 2008. Axiom is a Delaware limited liability company located at 33 Benedict Place, 2nd Floor, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830 and was founded in 1998. As of June 30, 2018, Axiom had assets under management of approximately \$10.9 billion. Axiom employs a bottom-up, growth-oriented investment discipline that relies on detailed fundamental stock analysis to identify companies that are improving more quickly than is generally expected in the current operating fundamentals of the business. This discipline is rooted in Axiom's basic philosophy that companies that report better than expected operating results, or positive surprises relative to forecasts that are built into consensus expectations, will generally outperform. Axiom's primary emphasis is therefore to isolate those companies that are likely to exceed expectations, which it does by identifying and monitoring the key business drivers of each stock. Axiom believes that key business drivers are essentially the leading indicators of earnings and stock price performance.

**PANAGORA ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC. ("PANAGORA").** PanAgora has managed a portion of the Fund since November 2008. PanAgora is a Delaware corporation located at 470 Atlantic Avenue, 8th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02210 and was founded in 1985. As of June 30, 2018, PanAgora had assets under management of approximately \$51 billion. PanAgora's investment philosophy integrates multiple sources of excess return (alpha) within multi-factor models to develop individual return forecasts for all securities in the investable universe. PanAgora employs a continuous bottom-up process that encompasses: 1) quantitative and fundamental alpha signals; 2) sophisticated portfolio construction and cost-effective

trading; and 3) a contextual modeling approach that uniquely models each stock based on its risk characteristics.

**WESTWOOD GLOBAL INVESTMENTS, LLC ("WESTWOOD").** Westwood has managed a portion of the Fund since November 2008. Westwood is a Massachusetts limited liability company located at One Financial Center, Suite 1620, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 and was founded in 2003. As of June 30, 2018, Westwood had assets under management of approximately \$10.7 billion. Westwood's investment strategy with regard to the Fund seeks to achieve long-term performance driven by a bottom-up stock selection process in global emerging markets. Westwood's basic investment philosophy is as follows: 1) investing like everyone else results in earning the same returns; 2) superior stock selection is driven by patient implementation of thorough, bottom-up fundamental research; and 3) a focused portfolio is a result of conviction. Westwood's security analysis attempts to identify companies that are undervalued on an absolute basis. A focus is placed on a thorough analysis of the cash flows of a company, how the company generates cash, the sustainability of the cash flow, and how the cash flow is utilized. This process is designed to find a portfolio of higher quality companies with sustainable or improving returns and strong balance sheets.

### ACTIVE M INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND

**BRANDES INVESTMENT PARTNERS, L.P. ("BRANDES").** Brandes has managed a portion of the Fund since October 2017. Brandes is a Delaware limited partnership founded in 1974 and is located at 11988 El Camino Real, Suite 600, San Diego, California 92130. Brandes employs a traditional value approach with an emphasis on long-term total returns through application of fundamental analysis to bottom-up security selections. Brandes provides primarily discretionary investment management, advisory and sub-advisory services to individuals and institutional investors through separate accounts, mutual funds, private investment funds and collective investment trusts. As of June 30, 2018, Brandes had approximately \$27.9 billion assets under management.

**CAUSEWAY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LLC ("CAUSEWAY").** Causeway has managed a portion of the Fund since June 2016. Causeway's principal office is located at 11111 Santa Monica Boulevard, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, California 90025. Causeway began operations as an investment adviser in June 2001. When investing the Fund's assets, Causeway follows a value style, performing fundamental research supplemented by quantitative analysis. Quantitative screens narrow the universe of investment candidates by applying market capitalization and valuation screens. To select investments, Causeway then performs fundamental research, which generally includes

## FUND MANAGEMENT

company-specific research, company visits, and interviews of suppliers, customers, competitors, industry analysts, and experts.

Causeway also applies a proprietary quantitative risk model to adjust return forecasts based on risk assessments. Using a value style means that Causeway buys stocks that it believes have lower prices than their true worth. For example, stocks may be “undervalued” because the issuing companies are in industries that are currently out of favor with investors. However, even in those industries, certain companies may have high rates of growth of earnings and be financially sound. Causeway considers whether a company has each of the following value characteristics in purchasing or selling securities for the fund: (i) low price-to-earnings ratio relative to the sector, (ii) high yield relative to the market, (iii) low price-to-book value ratio relative to the market, (iv) low price-to-cash flow ratio relative to the market, and (v) financial strength. The Fund generally invests in companies with market capitalizations greater than \$5 billion at the time of investment. However, investments may be in companies with any market capitalization, including subsequent investments in companies with market capitalizations below \$5 billion that were above \$5 billion at the time of initial investment. As of June 30, 2018, Causeway had approximately \$58.0 billion in assets under management.

**VICTORY CAPITAL MANAGEMENT INC. (“VICTORY CAPITAL”)** Victory Capital has managed a portion of the Fund since June 2016. Victory Capital is located at 4900 Tiedeman Road 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144. Victory Capital is a multi-boutique asset manager and manages a portion of the Fund through its investment franchise, Trivalent Investments (“Trivalent”). Trivalent employs a bottom-up investment approach that emphasizes individual stock selection. Trivalent’s investment process uses a combination of quantitative and traditional qualitative, fundamental analysis to identify attractive stocks with low relative price multiples and positive trends in earnings forecasts. As of June 30, 2018, Victory Capital had approximately \$62.3 billion in assets under management and advisement.

**WCM INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, LLC (“WCM”).** WCM has managed a portion of the Fund since September 2015. WCM is located at 281 Brooks Street, Laguna Beach, California 92651. WCM is an independent, employee-owned money management firm, founded in 1976. WCM provides investment management and sub-advisory services to public as well as various institutional and sub-advised accounts. WCM’s investment approach focuses on industry-leading, non-U.S. organizations led by visionary management teams with sound business strategies. WCM believes that these companies often dominate their industry and are likely to continue that domination in the future; therefore, WCM’s minimum time

horizon is typically three to five years. As of June 30, 2018, WCM had approximately \$29.02 billion in assets under management.

**WELLINGTON MANAGEMENT COMPANY LLP (“WELLINGTON”).** Wellington has managed a portion of the Fund since October 2017. Wellington is a Delaware limited liability partnership with principal offices at 280 Congress Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02210. Wellington is a professional investment counseling firm that provides investment services to investment companies, employee benefit plans, endowments, foundations, and other institutions. Wellington and its predecessor organizations have provided investment advisory services for over 80 years. Wellington is owned by the partners of Wellington Management Group LLP, a Massachusetts limited liability partnership. As of June 30, 2018, Wellington and its investment advisory affiliates had investment management authority with respect to approximately \$1.067 trillion in assets. Wellington’s investment team utilizes bottom-up fundamental analysis to identify companies that are trading at significant discount relative to their current market price while placing an equal emphasis on companies with strong financials that allow their holdings to realize their value over time.

## ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND

**DELAWARE INVESTMENTS FUND ADVISERS (“DIFA”).** Delaware Investments Fund Advisers has managed a portion of the Fund since May 2016. DIFA is a series of Macquarie Investment Management Business Trust, which is a subsidiary of Macquarie Management Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation located at 2005 Market Street, One Commerce Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-7094. Macquarie Management Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries (“MMHI”) are wholly owned subsidiaries of Macquarie Group Limited. MMHI traces its origin to an investment counseling service that was founded in 1929. As of June 30, 2018, MMHI and its subsidiaries had approximately \$249.13 billion in assets under management. DIFA typically seeks to select securities that it believes are undervalued in relation to their intrinsic value, as indicated by multiple factors, including earnings, cash flow potential and asset value of the respective issuers.

**GRANITE INVESTMENT PARTNERS, LLC (“GRANITE”).** Granite Investment Partners, LLC has managed a portion of the Fund since its inception in May 2016. Granite was formed in 2009. Granite is a Delaware limited liability company located at 2321 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 4200, El Segundo, California 90245. Granite is 100% employee-owned. As of June 30, 2018, Granite had approximately \$2.2 billion in assets under management/advisement. Granite provides the Fund with a small cap core strategy that purchases both value and growth companies and will invest in companies based on where the firm finds various

opportunities regardless of the market environment. Granite's research group uses an extensive proprietary investment model, which dissects key operational aspects of a company's performance.

**LAZARD ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC ("LAZARD").** Lazard has managed a portion of the Fund since November 2017. Lazard is a Delaware limited liability company located at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10112. As of March 31, 2018, Lazard had assets under management of approximately \$226.1 billion. Lazard manages assets according to a variety of equity, fixed-income and alternative investment strategies. Lazard's investment philosophy is based on value creation through the process of bottom-up stock selection, which is implemented by assessing the relationship between valuation and the return a company generates on its investments. Lazard provides investment advisory services to a variety of clients, including individuals, financial and other institutions, endowments, foundations, corporations, Taft-Hartley plans, public funds, wrap programs, model-based programs, mutual funds, private funds, alternative investment funds and others.

**POLEN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC ("POLEN CAPITAL").** Polen Capital Management, LLC has managed a portion of the Fund since its inception in May 2016. Polen Capital was founded in 1979 by David Polen. The firm is a Delaware limited liability company and is located at 1825 NW Corporate Boulevard, Suite 300, Boca Raton, Florida 33431. As of June 30, 2018, Polen Capital had approximately \$20 billion in assets under management. Polen Capital's strategy focuses on large cap growth and seeks businesses with superior balance sheets, high return on equity, normalized earnings growth, robust free cash flow generation and stable to increasing operating margins, and disfavors highly cyclical and capital intensive businesses.

**THOMPSON, SIEGEL & WALMSLEY LLC ("TSW").** TSW has managed a portion of the Fund since November 2017. TSW was founded in 1969 and is a Delaware limited liability company with principal offices at 6641 West Broad Street, Suite 600, Richmond, Virginia 23230. TSW provides value-oriented investment advisory and management services in the areas of domestic equity, international equity, long/short equity and fixed income securities through a range of market capitalization strategies and a variety of investment vehicles to institutions and high-net-worth individuals. As of June 30, 2018, TSW had approximately \$23.3 billion in assets under management.

#### MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY FUND

**ASHMORE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED ("ASHMORE").** Ashmore has managed a portion of the Fund since March 2017. Ashmore is located at 61 Aldwych, London, United Kingdom.

Ashmore was established in 1999 and is focused on investing in emerging market securities for institutional investors. Ashmore offers its services through separate accounts, private investment funds and mutual funds, a selection of which are registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. Ashmore is an indirectly held wholly-owned subsidiary of Ashmore Group plc. As of June 30, 2018, Ashmore had \$73.9 billion in assets under management.

**GLOBAL EVOLUTION USA, LLC ("GLOBAL EVOLUTION").** Global Evolution has managed a portion of the Fund since October 2017. Global Evolution is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Global Evolution Fondsmæglerelskab A/S, an investment management company headquartered in Kolding, Denmark. Global Evolution is located at One World Trade Center, 285 Fulton Street, Suite 8500, New York, New York 10007. Global Evolution specializes in emerging markets utilizing a fundamental top-down analysis of long-term economic and political prospects that enables them to identify attractive investment opportunities and direct their bottom-up investment approach. The investment team is supported by a fully integrated quantitative risk management team and empowered by unique proprietary systems for advanced portfolio and risk management. As of June 30, 2018, Global Evolution Group had approximately \$8.91 billion in assets under management.

#### MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

**LAZARD ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC ("LAZARD").** Lazard has managed a portion of the Fund since March 2013. Lazard is a Delaware limited liability company located at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10112. As of March 31, 2018, Lazard had assets under management of approximately \$226.1 billion. Lazard seeks to invest in listed infrastructure companies that own and operate physical infrastructure assets such as toll roads, airports, gas utilities and railroads. Lazard's pure play definition will lead the manager into assets that naturally exhibit fundamental infrastructure characteristics, such as high barriers to entry and relatively inelastic demand. Lazard does not generally hold infrastructure support companies such as construction, steel or engineering firms that may raise the volatility and correlation to the overall market.

**MAPLE-BROWN ABBOTT LIMITED ("MBA").** MBA has managed a portion of the Fund since December 2016. MBA is located at 259 George Street, Sydney, Australia, and had approximately \$11.8 billion in assets under management as of June 30, 2018. MBA invests in global listed infrastructure securities that own and/or operate physical infrastructure assets around the world. MBA considers a narrower range of core infrastructure companies with a focus on regulated, contracted and

## FUND MANAGEMENT

concessions assets or networks that provide essential services to their relevant communities and have a strong strategic position within the economy in which they operate, inflation protection, low volatility compared to global equities and a high level of corporate governance.

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND

**BROOKFIELD INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT INC. (“BIM”).** BIM has managed a portion of the Fund since December 2014. BIM is a wholly owned subsidiary of Brookfield Asset Management Inc. (“Brookfield”), a global alternative asset manager. Brookfield’s public market activities are conducted by BIM, a registered investment adviser. BIM’s principal offices are located at Brookfield Place, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10281-1023. BIM maintains offices and investment teams in Chicago, Boston and Houston and had approximately \$19.63 billion of assets under management as of June 30, 2018. The investment team utilizes a bottom-up, value-oriented approach complemented by a top-down overlay to manage its REIT strategies. The team believes that concentrated portfolios of under-followed, out-of-favor companies backed by deep fundamental research leads to superior excess returns versus the market and peers. Quality-adjusted valuation screens serve as the starting point for the team’s research efforts. These screens combine traditional valuation screens with subjective/objective quality scores on management, property factors, and equity characteristics to arrive at a focused list of companies for further in-depth fundamental research, as well as where existing positions rank versus the available universe of listed real estate securities. BIM also draws upon the expertise and knowledge within Brookfield and its affiliates, which provides extensive owner/operator insights into industry drivers and trends. The Fund may sell a security that becomes overvalued or no longer offers an attractive risk/reward profile. A security may also be sold due to changes in portfolio strategy or cash flow needs.

**MASSACHUSETTS FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY (“MFS”).** MFS has managed a portion of the Fund since January 2018. MFS is located at 111 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02199. MFS is America’s oldest mutual fund organization. MFS and its predecessor organizations have a history of money management dating from 1924 and the founding of the first mutual fund. Net assets under the management of the MFS organization were approximately \$473 billion as of June 30, 2018. MFS uses an active bottom-up investment approach to buying and selling investments for the Fund. Investments are selected primarily based on fundamental analysis of individual issuers and their potential in light of their financial condition, and market, economic, political, and regulatory conditions. Factors considered in selecting

investments for the Fund may include an issuer’s management ability, cash flows, price/funds from operations ratio, dividend yield and payment history, price/net asset value ratio, market price, and the ability of an issuer to grow from operations.

## MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY FUND

**DDJ CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC (“DDJ”).** DDJ has managed a portion of the Fund since September 2012. DDJ, a Massachusetts limited liability company, was founded in 1996 and is located at 130 Turner Street, Building 3, Suite 600, Waltham, Massachusetts 02453. As of June 30, 2018, DDJ had assets under management of approximately \$7.58 billion. DDJ adheres to a value-oriented, bottom-up, fundamental investment philosophy of identifying investment opportunities.

**NEUBERGER BERMAN INVESTMENT ADVISERS LLC (“NBIA”).** NBIA has managed a portion of the Fund since July 2011. NBIA is a registered investment adviser and is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of Neuberger Berman Group LLC (together with NBIA and its other investment adviser affiliates, “Neuberger Berman”). Neuberger Berman was founded in 1939. NBIA’s principal office is located at 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10104. As of June 30, 2018, Neuberger Berman had \$304 billion in assets under management. NBIA bases investment decisions primarily on its own research, while drawing on dedicated research teams whose sole purpose is finding attractive investment opportunities.

**NOMURA CORPORATE RESEARCH AND ASSET MANAGEMENT INC. (“NOMURA”).** Nomura has managed a portion of the Fund since June 2016. Nomura’s principal office is located at Worldwide Plaza, 309 West 49th Street, New York, NY 10019-7316. Nomura was founded in March 1991 as a subsidiary of Nomura Holding America, Inc. and is a registered investment adviser. Nomura is a boutique investment management firm that specializes in the below investment grade credit market, focusing on U.S. and global high yield bonds and emerging market debt. Nomura believes that a total return approach driven by credit research is the best way to generate alpha in the high yield market. As of June 30, 2018, Nomura had \$25.2 billion in assets under management.

## OTHER FUND SERVICES

TNTC serves as Transfer Agent and Custodian for each Fund. The Transfer Agent performs various shareholder servicing functions, and any shareholder inquiries should be directed to it. TNTC also performs certain administrative services for the Funds pursuant to a sub-administration agreement with NTI. NTI pays TNTC for its sub-administration services out of its management fees, which do not represent additional expenses to the Funds. TNTC also performs certain administrative services for certain sub-advisers pursuant to separate agreements with such sub-advisers.

TNTC, as Transfer Agent, is entitled to transfer agent fees at an annual rate of 0.015% of the average daily net assets of each Fund. TNTC, as Custodian, receives an amount based on a pre-determined schedule of charges approved by the Trust's Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to an exemptive order issued by the SEC, TNTC also may render securities lending services to the Funds. For such services, TNTC would receive a percentage of securities lending revenue generated for the Funds. In addition, cash collateral received by the Funds in connection with a securities loan may be invested in shares of other registered or unregistered funds that pay investment advisory or other fees to NTI, TNTC or an affiliate.

Each Fund may invest its uninvested cash in a money market fund advised by the Investment Adviser or its affiliates. Accordingly, each Fund will bear indirectly a proportionate share of that money market fund's operating expenses. These

operating expenses include the management, transfer agent and custody fees that the money market fund pays to the Investment Adviser and/or its affiliates. Currently, the uninvested cash of the Funds is invested in the Northern Institutional Funds U.S. Government Portfolio. The total annual portfolio operating expenses after expense reimbursement (other than certain excepted expenses as described in the fees and expenses table of the Portfolio's prospectus) on any assets invested in the Northern Institutional Funds U.S. Government Portfolio are at an annual rate of 0.25% of the average daily net asset value of those assets. However, to the extent of any duplicative advisory fees, the Investment Adviser will reimburse each Fund for a portion of the management fees attributable to and payable by the Funds for advisory services on any assets invested in the affiliated money market fund.

TNTC, NTI and other Northern Trust affiliates may provide other services to the Funds and receive compensation for such services, if consistent with the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") and the rules, exemptive orders and no-action letters issued by the SEC thereunder. Unless required, investors in a Fund may or may not receive specific notice of such additional services and fees.

Shares of the Trust are distributed by Northern Funds Distributors, LLC ("NFD"), Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine, 04101. NFD is not affiliated with TNTC, NTI, or any other Northern Trust affiliate.

## PURCHASING AND SELLING SHARES

**THE TRUST IS A FAMILY OF NO-LOAD MUTUAL FUNDS THAT OFFERS A SELECTION OF FUNDS TO INVESTORS, EACH WITH A DISTINCT INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND RISK/REWARD PROFILE.**

The descriptions in the Fund Summaries may help you decide whether a Fund or Funds fits your investment needs. Keep in mind, however, that no guarantee can be made that a Fund will meet its investment objective, and no Fund should be relied upon as a complete investment program. The Trust also offers other funds, including equity, fixed-income and money market funds, which are described in separate prospectuses.

Please note that the fee and expense information shown under “Fees and Expenses of the Fund” in the Fund Summaries beginning on page 3 does not reflect any charges that may be imposed by TNTC, its affiliates, financial intermediaries and other institutions on their customers. (For more information, please see “Account Policies and Other Information—Financial Intermediaries” beginning on page 54.)

### PURCHASING SHARES

You may purchase shares directly from the Trust or, if you maintain certain accounts, through Northern Trust and certain other institutions. With certain limited exceptions, the Funds are generally available only to investors residing in the United States or through a United States based financial intermediary and may not be distributed by a foreign financial intermediary. If you have any questions or need assistance in opening an investment account or purchasing shares, call 800-595-9111.

### OPENING AN ACCOUNT

**THROUGH AN AUTHORIZED INTERMEDIARY.** The Trust may authorize certain institutions acting as financial intermediaries (including banks, trust companies, brokers and investment advisers) to accept purchase orders from their customers on behalf of the Funds. See “Account Policies and Other Information—Financial Intermediaries” beginning on page 54 for additional information regarding purchases of Fund shares through authorized intermediaries.

**DIRECTLY FROM THE FUNDS.** You may open a shareholder account and purchase shares directly from the Funds with a minimum initial investment per Fund of \$2,500 (\$500 for an IRA; \$250 under the Automatic Investment Plan; and \$500 for employees of Northern Trust and its affiliates). The minimum subsequent investment is \$50 (except for reinvestments of distributions for which there is no minimum). The Funds reserve the right to waive these minimums.

For your convenience, there are a number of ways to invest directly in the Funds:

#### BY MAIL

- Read this Prospectus carefully.
- Complete and sign the New Account Application.
- Enclose a check payable to Northern Funds.
- If you are investing on behalf of a corporation or other entity, your New Account Application must be accompanied by acceptable evidence of authority (if applicable).
- Mail your check, acceptable evidence of authority (if applicable) and completed New Account Application to:

Northern Funds  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986

- Additional documentation may be required to fulfill the requirements of the “Customer Identification Program” described on page 53.
- For overnight delivery use the following address:

Northern Funds  
801 South Canal Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

- For subsequent investments:
  - Enclose your check with the investment slip portion of the confirmation of your previous investment; or
  - Indicate on your check or a separate piece of paper your name, address and account number.

All checks must be payable in U.S. dollars and drawn on a bank located in the United States. Cash, travelers checks, money orders and third party checks are not acceptable.

#### BY WIRE OR AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE (“ACH”) TRANSFER

##### TO OPEN A NEW ACCOUNT:

- For more information or instructions regarding the purchase of shares, call the Northern Funds Center at 800-595-9111.

- Complete a New Account Application and send it to:

Northern Funds  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986

**TO ADD TO AN EXISTING ACCOUNT:**

- Have your bank wire federal funds or effect an ACH transfer to:

The Northern Trust Company  
Chicago, Illinois  
ABA Routing No. 0710-00152  
(Reference 10-Digit Fund account number, with no spaces  
(e.g., #####))  
(Reference Shareholder's Name)

**BY DIRECT DEPOSIT**

**TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SHARES:**

- Determine if your employer has direct deposit capabilities through the ACH.
- Have your employer send payments to:

ABA Routing No. 0710-00152  
(Reference 10-Digit Fund account number, with no spaces  
(e.g., #####))  
(Reference Shareholder's Name)

- The minimum periodic investment for direct deposit is \$50.

**BY AUTOMATIC INVESTMENT**

**TO OPEN A NEW ACCOUNT:**

- Complete a New Account Application, including the Automatic Investment section.
- Send it to:

Northern Funds  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986

- The minimum initial investment is \$250; \$50 for monthly minimum additions.

**TO ADD TO AN EXISTING ACCOUNT:**

- Call 800-595-9111 to obtain an Automatic Investment Plan Form.
- The minimum for automatic investment additions is \$50.

If you discontinue participation in the plan, the Funds reserve the right to redeem your account involuntarily, upon 30 days' written notice, if the account's net asset value ("NAV") is

\$1,000 or less. Involuntary redemptions will not be made if the value of shares in an account falls below the minimum amount solely because of a decline in the Fund's NAV.

**BY DIRECTED REINVESTMENT**

You may elect to have your income dividend and capital gain distributions automatically invested in another Northern Funds account.

- Complete the "Choose Your Dividend and Capital Gain Distributions" section on the New Account Application.
- Reinvestments can only be directed to an existing Northern Funds account (which must meet the minimum investment requirement).

**BY EXCHANGE**

You may open a new account or add to an existing account by exchanging shares of one fund of the Trust for shares of any other fund offered by the Trust. See "Selling Shares—By Exchange."

**BY INTERNET**

You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Northern Funds accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

**THROUGH NORTHERN TRUST AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

If you have an account with Northern Trust, you may purchase shares through Northern Trust. You also may purchase shares through other financial institutions that have entered into agreements with the Trust. To determine whether you may purchase shares through your institution, contact your institution directly or call 800-595-9111. Northern Trust and other financial institutions may impose charges against your account which will reduce the net return on an investment in a Fund. These charges may include asset allocation fees, account maintenance fees, sweep fees, compensating balance requirements or other charges based upon account transactions, assets or income.

**SELLING SHARES**

**THROUGH AN AUTHORIZED INTERMEDIARY.** If you purchase shares from an authorized intermediary, you may sell (redeem) shares by contacting your financial intermediary. See “Account Policies and Other Information—Financial Intermediaries” beginning on page 54 for additional information regarding sales (redemptions) of Fund shares through authorized intermediaries.

**REDEEMING AND EXCHANGING DIRECTLY FROM THE FUNDS.** If you purchased shares directly from the Funds or, if you purchased your shares through an account at Northern Trust or another financial institution and you appear on Fund records as the registered holder, you may redeem all or part of your shares using one of the methods described below.

**BY MAIL****SEND A WRITTEN REQUEST TO:**

Northern Funds  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986

**THE REDEMPTION REQUEST MUST INCLUDE:**

- The number of shares or the dollar amount to be redeemed;
- The Fund account number;
- The signatures of all account owners;
- A signature guarantee also is required if:
  - The proceeds are to be sent elsewhere than the address of record, or
  - The redemption amount is greater than \$100,000.

**BY WIRE**

If you authorize wire redemptions on your New Account Application, you can redeem shares and have the proceeds sent by federal wire transfer to a previously designated bank account.

- You will be charged \$15 for each wire redemption unless the designated bank account is maintained at Northern Trust or an affiliated bank.
- Call the Transfer Agent at 800-595-9111 for instructions.
- The minimum amount that may be redeemed by this method is \$250.

**BY SYSTEMATIC WITHDRAWAL**

If you own shares of a Fund with a minimum value of \$10,000, you may elect to have a fixed sum redeemed at regular intervals and distributed in cash or reinvested in one or more other funds of the Trust.

- Call 800-595-9111 for an application form and additional information.
- The minimum amount is \$250 per withdrawal.

**BY EXCHANGE**

The Trust offers you the ability to exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust.

- When opening an account, complete the Exchange Privilege section of the New Account Application or, if your account is already opened, send a written request to:

Northern Funds  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986

- Shares being exchanged must have a value of at least \$1,000 (\$2,500 if a new account is being established by the exchange, \$500 if the new account is an IRA).
- Call 800-595-9111 for more information.

**BY TELEPHONE**

If you authorize the telephone privilege on your New Account Application, you may redeem shares by telephone.

- If your account is already opened, send a written request to:

Northern Funds  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986

- The request must be signed by each owner of the account and must be accompanied by signature guarantees.
- Call 800-595-9111 to use the telephone privilege.
- During periods of unusual economic or market activity, telephone redemptions may be difficult to implement. In such event, shareholders should follow the procedures outlined above under “Selling Shares—By Mail” and outlined below under “Selling Shares—By Internet.”

**BY INTERNET**

You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Northern Funds accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For details and to sign up for this service, go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

**REDEEMING AND EXCHANGING THROUGH NORTHERN TRUST AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

If you purchased your shares through an account at Northern Trust or through another financial institution, you may redeem or exchange your shares according to the instructions pertaining to that account.

- Although the Trust imposes no charges when you redeem shares of a Fund (other than the 2.00% redemption fee charged for shares of the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund, Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund and Active M International Equity Fund held for less than 30 days), when shares are purchased through an account at Northern Trust or through other financial institutions, a fee may be charged by those institutions for providing services in connection with your account.
- Contact your account representative at Northern Trust or at another financial institution for more information about redemptions or exchanges.

## ACCOUNT POLICIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

**CALCULATING SHARE PRICE.** The Trust issues shares and redeems shares at NAV. The NAV for each Fund is calculated by dividing the value of the Fund's net assets by the number of the Fund's outstanding shares. The NAV is calculated on each Business Day (see "Business Day" on page 53) as of 3:00 p.m. Central time for each Fund. Shares of the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may be priced on days when the New York Stock Exchange (the "Exchange") is closed if the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ("SIFMA") recommends that the bond markets remain open for all or part of the day. The NAV used in determining the price of your shares is the one calculated after your purchase, exchange or redemption order is received in good order as described on page 53.

Equity securities listed on a recognized U.S. securities exchange or quoted on the NASDAQ National Market System are priced at the regular trading session's closing price on the exchange or system in which such securities are principally traded. Securities not traded on the valuation date are priced at the most recent quoted bid price.

Investments of the Funds not traded on an exchange for which market quotations are readily available will be valued using last available bid prices or current market quotations provided by dealers or prices (including evaluated prices) supplied by the Funds' approved independent third-party pricing services, each in accordance with the valuation procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. If market quotations are not readily available, or if it is believed that such quotations do not accurately reflect fair value, the value of the Funds' investments may be otherwise determined in good faith by NTI under procedures established by the Board of Trustees. Circumstances in which securities may be fair valued include periods when trading in a security is suspended, the exchange or market on which a security trades closes early, the trading volume in a security is limited, corporate actions and announcements take place, or regulatory news is released such as governmental approvals. Additionally, the Trust, in its discretion, may make adjustments to the prices of securities held by a Fund if an event occurs after the publication of market values normally used by a Fund but before the time as of which the Fund calculates its NAV, depending on the nature and significance of the event, consistent with applicable regulatory guidance and the Trust's fair value procedures. This may occur particularly with respect to certain foreign securities held by a Fund, in which case the Trust may use adjustment factors obtained from an independent evaluation service that are intended to reflect more accurately the value of those securities as of the time the Fund's NAV is calculated. Other events that can trigger fair valuing of foreign securities include, for example, significant fluctuations in general market indicators, governmental actions, or natural disasters. The use of fair valuation involves

the risk that the values used by the Funds to price their investments may be higher or lower than the values used by other unaffiliated investment companies and investors to price the same investments. Short-term obligations, which are debt instruments with a maturity of 60 days or less, held by a Fund are valued at their amortized cost, which, according to the Investment Adviser, approximates fair value.

A Fund may hold foreign securities that trade on weekends or other days when the Fund does not price its shares. Therefore, the value of such securities may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem shares.

**TIMING OF PURCHASE REQUESTS.** Purchase requests received in good order and accepted by the Transfer Agent or other authorized intermediary by 3:00 p.m. Central time on any Business Day will be executed the day they are received by either the Transfer Agent or other authorized intermediary, at that day's closing share price for the applicable Fund(s), provided that one of the following occurs:

- The Transfer Agent receives payment by 3:00 p.m. Central time on the same Business Day; or
- The requests are placed by a financial or authorized intermediary that has entered into a servicing agreement with the Trust or its agent and payment in federal or other immediately available funds is received by the Transfer Agent by the close of the same Business Day or on the next Business Day, depending on the terms of the Trust's or its agent's agreement with the intermediary.

Purchase requests received in good order by the Transfer Agent or other authorized intermediary on a non-Business Day or after 3:00 p.m. Central time on a Business Day will be executed on the next Business Day, at that day's closing share price for the applicable Fund(s), provided that payment is made as noted above.

### MISCELLANEOUS PURCHASE INFORMATION.

- You will be responsible for all losses and expenses of a Fund, and purchase orders may be cancelled, in the event of any failure to make payment according to the procedures outlined in this Prospectus. In addition, a \$20 charge will be imposed if a check does not clear.
- Exchanges into the Funds from another fund in the Trust may be subject to any redemption fee imposed by the other fund.
- You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and Northern Funds accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For additional details, please go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

- The Trust and NFD each reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to suspend the offering of shares of a Fund or to reject any purchase order, in whole or in part, when, in the judgment of management, such suspension or rejection is in the best interests of the Fund. The Trust also reserves the right to change or discontinue any of its purchase procedures.
- In certain circumstances, the Trust may advance the time by which purchase orders must be received. See “Early Closings” on page 53.
- If the Transfer Agent cannot locate an investor for a period of time specified by appropriate state law, the investor’s account may be deemed legally abandoned and then escheated (transferred) to such state’s unclaimed property administrator in accordance with statutory requirements.

#### **TIMING OF REDEMPTION AND EXCHANGE REQUESTS.**

Redemption and exchange requests received in good order by the Transfer Agent or other authorized intermediary on a Business Day by 3:00 p.m. Central time will be executed on the same day at that day’s closing share price for the applicable Fund(s) (less any applicable redemption fee).

Redemption and exchange requests received in good order by the Transfer Agent or other authorized intermediary on a non-Business Day or after 3:00 p.m. Central time on a Business Day will be executed the next Business Day, at that day’s closing share price for the applicable Fund(s) (less any applicable redemption fee).

**PAYMENT OF REDEMPTION PROCEEDS.** If your account is held directly with a Fund, it is expected that the Fund will typically pay out redemption proceeds to shareholders by the next Business Day following receipt of a redemption request.

If your account is held through an intermediary, the length of time to pay redemption proceeds typically depends, in part, on the terms of the agreement in place between the intermediary and a Fund. For redemption proceeds that are paid either directly to you from a Fund or to your intermediary for transmittal to you, it is expected that payments will typically be made by wire, by ACH or by issuing a check by the next Business Day following receipt of a redemption request in good order from the intermediary by a Fund. Redemption requests that are processed through investment professionals that utilize the National Securities Clearing Corporation will generally settle one to three Business Days following receipt of a redemption request in good order.

However, if you have recently purchased shares with a check or through an electronic transaction, payment may be delayed as discussed below under “Miscellaneous Redemption Information.”

It is expected that payment of redemption proceeds will normally be made from uninvested cash or short-term investments, proceeds from the sale of portfolio securities, or borrowing through the Trust’s committed, unsecured credit facility (see “Credit Facility and Borrowing,” on page 62). It is possible that stressed market conditions or large shareholder redemptions may result in the need for utilization of a Fund’s ability to redeem in-kind in order to meet shareholder redemption requests. A Fund reserves the right to pay all or part of your redemption proceeds in readily marketable securities instead of cash (redemption in-kind). Redemption in-kind proceeds will typically be made by delivering the selected securities to the redeeming shareholder within seven days after the receipt of the redemption request in good order by a Fund.

**REDEMPTION FEES.** The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund, Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund and Active M International Equity Fund each charges a 2.00% redemption fee on the redemption of shares (including by exchange) held for 30 days or less. For the purpose of applying the fee, the Funds use a first-in, first-out (“FIFO”) method so that shares held longest are treated as being redeemed first and shares held shortest are treated as being redeemed last. The redemption fee is paid to the Fund from which the redemption is made, and is intended to offset the trading, market impact and other costs associated with short-term money movements in and out of the Fund. The redemption fee may be collected by deduction from the redemption proceeds or, if assessed after the redemption transaction, through a separate billing.

The Funds are authorized to waive the redemption fee for the following transactions:

- Redemptions from omnibus accounts, fee-based programs and employer-sponsored defined contribution plans maintained by financial intermediaries that inform the Fund that they are unable to impose a redemption fee on their underlying customer accounts;
- Redemptions where the shares were purchased through financial intermediaries that the Investment Adviser determines to have appropriate anti-short-term trading policies in place or as to which the Investment Adviser has received assurances that look-through redemption fee procedures or effective anti-short-term trading policies and procedures are in place;
- Redemptions effected pursuant to asset allocation programs, wrap fee programs and other investment programs offered by financial institutions where investment decisions are made on a discretionary basis by investment professionals;

- Redemptions pursuant to systematic withdrawal plans and automatic exchange plans;
- Redemptions of shares acquired by reinvestment of dividends, distributions or other payments;
- Redemptions due to the death or the post-purchase disability of the beneficial owner of the account;
- Redemptions to satisfy minimum required distributions from retirement accounts;
- Redemptions representing the return of excess contributions in retirement accounts;
- Redemptions initiated by the Fund; and
- Redemptions following investments of contributions in the Fund by participants in defined contribution plans.

In addition to the circumstances noted above, each Fund reserves the right to waive the redemption fee in its discretion where it believes such waiver is consistent with the best interests of the Fund, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, each Fund reserves the right to add, modify or eliminate the redemption fee or waivers at any time and will give 60 days' prior written notice of any material changes, unless otherwise provided by law.

Currently, the Funds are limited in their ability to assess or collect the redemption fee on all shares redeemed by financial intermediaries on behalf of their customers. For example, where a financial intermediary is not able to determine if the redemption fee applies and/or is not able to assess or collect the fee, or does not collect the fee at the time of a redemption, a Fund will not receive the redemption fee. If Fund shares are redeemed by a financial intermediary at the direction of its customers, the Funds may not know whether a redemption fee is applicable or the identity of the customer who should pay the redemption fee. Due to operational requirements, a financial intermediary's method for tracking and calculating the redemption fee may differ in some respects from that used by the Funds. Northern Trust will ask financial intermediaries to assess redemption fees on shareholder accounts in appropriate cases and remit these fees to the applicable Fund. However, for the reasons set forth above, there can be no assurance that the financial intermediaries will properly assess redemption fees. Customers purchasing shares from financial intermediaries should contact these intermediaries or refer to their account agreements or plan documents for more information on how the redemption fee is applied to their shares.

**MISCELLANEOUS REDEMPTION INFORMATION.** All redemption proceeds will be sent by check unless the Transfer Agent is directed otherwise. Redemption proceeds also may be wired. Redemptions are subject to the following restrictions:

- The Trust may require any information from the shareholder reasonably necessary to ensure that a redemption request has been duly authorized.
- Redemption requests made to the Transfer Agent by mail must be signed by a person authorized by acceptable documentation on file with the Transfer Agent.
- The Trust reserves the right, on 30 days' written notice, to redeem the shares held in any account if, at the time of redemption, the NAV of the remaining shares in the account falls below \$1,000. Involuntary redemptions will not be made if the value of shares in an account falls below the minimum solely because of a decline in a Fund's NAV.
- If you are redeeming recently purchased shares by check or electronic transaction, your redemption request may not be paid until your check or electronic transaction has cleared. This may delay your payment for up to 10 days.
- Subject to applicable law, the Trust and the Transfer Agent reserve the right to redeem shares held by any shareholder who provides incorrect or incomplete account information or when such involuntary redemptions are necessary to avoid adverse consequences to the Trust and its shareholders or the Transfer Agent.
- Subject to applicable law, the Trust, Northern Trust and their agents reserve the right to involuntarily redeem or suspend an account at the Fund's then current NAV, in cases of disruptive conduct, suspected fraudulent or illegal activity, inability to verify the identity of an investor, or other circumstances determined to be in the best interest of the Trust and its shareholders.
- The Trust, Northern Trust and their agents reserve the right, without notice, to freeze any account and/or suspend account services when: (i) notice has been received of a dispute regarding the assets in an account, or a legal claim against an account; (ii) upon initial notification to Northern Trust of a shareholder's or authorized agent's death until Northern Trust receives required documentation in correct form; or (iii) if there is a reason to believe a fraudulent transaction may occur or has occurred.
- You may initiate transactions between Northern Trust banking and the Trust's accounts by using Northern Trust Private Passport. For additional details, please go to [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) or contact your Relationship Manager.

- The Trust reserves the right to change or discontinue any of its redemption procedures.
- The Trust reserves the right to defer crediting, sending or wiring redemption proceeds for up to 7 days (or such longer period permitted by the SEC) after receiving the redemption order if, in its judgment, an earlier payment could adversely affect a Fund. The processing of redemptions may be suspended, and the delivery of redemption proceeds may be delayed beyond seven days, depending on the circumstances, for any period: (i) during which the NYSE is closed (other than on holidays or weekends), or during which trading on the NYSE is restricted; (ii) when an emergency exists that makes the disposal of securities owned by a Fund or the determination of the fair value of a Fund's net assets not reasonably practicable; or (iii) as permitted by order of the SEC for the protection of Fund shareholders.
- The Trust does not permit redemption proceeds to be sent by outgoing International ACH Transaction ("IAT"). An IAT is a payment transaction involving a financial institution's office located outside U.S. territorial jurisdiction.
- In certain circumstances, the Trust may advance the time by which redemption and exchange orders must be received. See "Early Closings" on page 53.

**EXCHANGE PRIVILEGES.** You may exchange shares of one fund in the Trust for shares of another fund in the Trust only if the registration of both accounts is identical. Both accounts must have the same owner's name and title, if applicable. An exchange is a redemption of shares of one fund and the purchase of shares of another fund in the Trust. If the shares redeemed are held in a taxable account, an exchange is considered a taxable event and may result in a gain or loss. The Trust reserves the right to waive or modify minimum investment requirements in connection with exchanges.

The Trust reserves the right to change or discontinue the exchange privilege at any time upon 60 days' written notice to shareholders and to reject any exchange request. Exchanges are only available in states where an exchange can legally be made. Before making an exchange, you should read the Prospectus for the shares you are acquiring.

#### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON EXCESSIVE TRADING**

**PRACTICES.** In accordance with the policy adopted by the Board of Trustees, the Trust discourages market timing and other excessive trading practices. Purchases and exchanges should be made with a view to longer-term investment purposes only. Excessive, short-term (market timing) trading practices may disrupt Fund management strategies, increase brokerage and administrative costs, harm Fund performance and result in dilution in the value of Fund shares held by long-term shareholders. The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund,

Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Active M International Equity Fund, which invest primarily in foreign securities, and the Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund, which invests in foreign securities to a lesser extent, may be susceptible to the risk of excessive, short-term trading due to the potential for time zone arbitrage. These risks may be enhanced with respect to the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Active M International Equity Fund due to their investments in issuers located in emerging markets, and with respect to the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, and Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, due to its investments in issuers located in frontier markets.

Securities of emerging and frontier market issuers tend to be less liquid than issuers located in developed markets, and Funds that invest principally in issuers located in emerging and/or frontier markets may therefore be subject to an increased risk of arbitrage. The Trust and Northern Trust reserve the right to reject or restrict purchase or exchange requests from any investor. The Trust and Northern Trust will not be liable for any loss resulting from rejected purchase or exchange orders. To minimize harm to the Trust and its shareholders (or Northern Trust), the Trust (or Northern Trust) will exercise this right if, in the Trust's (or Northern Trust's) judgment, an investor has a history of excessive trading or if an investor's trading, in the judgment of the Trust (or Northern Trust), has been or may be disruptive to a Fund. In making this judgment, trades executed in multiple accounts under common ownership or control may be considered together to the extent they can be identified. No waivers of the provisions of the policy established to detect and deter market timing and other excessive trading activity are permitted that would harm the Trust or its shareholders or would subordinate the interests of the Trust or its shareholders to those of Northern Trust or any affiliated person or associated person of Northern Trust.

To deter excessive shareholder trading, a shareholder is restricted to no more than two "round trips" in a Fund during a calendar quarter. A "round trip" is a redemption or exchange out of a Fund followed by a purchase or exchange into the same Fund. The Trust is authorized to permit more than two "round trips" in a Fund during a calendar quarter if the Trust determines in its reasonable judgment that the Trust's excessive trading policies would not be violated. Examples of such transactions include, but are not limited to, trades involving:

- asset allocation programs, wrap fee programs and other investment programs offered by financial institutions where investment decisions are made on a discretionary basis by investment professionals;

- systematic withdrawal plans and automatic exchange plans;
- reinvestment of dividends, distributions or other payments;
- a death or post-purchase disability of the beneficial owner of the account;
- minimum required distributions from retirement accounts;
- the return of excess contributions in retirement accounts; and
- redemptions initiated by a Fund.

In addition, the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund, Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund and Active M International Equity Fund each imposes a redemption fee on redemptions made within 30 calendar days of purchase subject to certain exceptions. For further information, please see “Redemption Fees” on page 49. As described below and in “Redemption Fees” it should be noted that the Trust’s ability to monitor and limit the trading activity of shareholders investing in a Fund through an omnibus account of a financial intermediary may be significantly limited or absent where the intermediary maintains the underlying shareholder accounts.

Pursuant to the policy adopted by the Board of Trustees, the Trust has developed criteria that it uses to identify trading activity that may be excessive. The Trust reviews on a regular and periodic basis available information relating to the trading activity in the Funds in order to assess the likelihood that a Fund may be the target of excessive trading. As part of its excessive trading surveillance process, the Trust, on a periodic basis, examines transactions that exceed certain monetary thresholds or numerical limits within a period of time. If, in its judgment, the Trust detects excessive, short-term trading, whether or not the shareholder has made two round trips in a calendar quarter, the Trust may reject or restrict a purchase or exchange request and may further seek to close an investor’s account with a Fund.

The Trust may modify its surveillance procedures and criteria from time to time without prior notice regarding the detection of excessive trading or to address specific circumstances. The Trust will apply the criteria in a manner that, in the Trust’s judgment, will be uniform.

Fund shares may be held through omnibus arrangements maintained by intermediaries such as broker-dealers, investment advisers, transfer agents, administrators and insurance companies. In addition, Fund shares may be held in omnibus 401(k) plans, retirement plans and other group accounts. Omnibus accounts include multiple investors, and such account typically provide the Funds with a net purchase or

redemption request on any given day where the purchases and redemptions of Fund shares by the investors are netted against one another. The identities of individual investors whose purchase and redemption orders are aggregated are not known by the Funds. While Northern Trust may monitor share turnover at the omnibus account level, a Fund’s ability to monitor and detect market timing by shareholders or apply any applicable redemption fee in these omnibus accounts is limited. The netting effect makes it more difficult to identify, locate and eliminate market timing activities. In addition, those investors who engage in market timing and other excessive trading activities may employ a variety of techniques to avoid detection. There can be no assurance that the Funds and Northern Trust will be able to identify all those who trade excessively or employ a market timing strategy, and curtail their trading in every instance.

If necessary, the Trust may prohibit additional purchases of Fund shares by a financial intermediary or by certain of the intermediary’s customers. Financial intermediaries may also monitor their customers’ trading activities in the Trust. Certain financial intermediaries may monitor their customers for excessive trading according to their own excessive trading policies. The Trust may rely on these financial intermediaries’ excessive trading policies in lieu of applying the Trust’s policies.

The financial intermediaries’ excessive trading policies may differ from the Trust’s policies and there is no assurance that the procedures used by financial intermediaries will be able to curtail excessive trading activity in the Trust.

**IN-KIND PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS.** The Trust reserves the right to accept payment for shares in the form of securities that are permissible investments for a Fund. The Trust also reserves the right to pay redemptions by a distribution “in-kind” of securities (instead of cash) from a Fund. See the Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”) for further information about the terms of these purchases and redemptions.

**TELEPHONE TRANSACTIONS.** All calls may be recorded or monitored. The Transfer Agent has adopted procedures in an effort to establish reasonable safeguards against fraudulent telephone transactions. If reasonable measures are taken to verify that telephone instructions are genuine, the Trust and its service providers will not be responsible for any loss resulting from fraudulent or unauthorized instructions received over the telephone. In these circumstances, shareholders will bear the risk of loss. During periods of unusual market activity, you may have trouble placing a request by telephone. In this event, consider sending your request in writing or follow the procedures found on pages 45 or 47 for initiating transactions by the Internet.

The proceeds of redemption orders received by telephone will be sent by check, wire or transfer according to proper instructions. All checks will be made payable to the shareholder of record and mailed only to the shareholder's address of record.

The Trust reserves the right to refuse a telephone redemption subject to applicable law.

**MAKING CHANGES TO YOUR ACCOUNT INFORMATION.** You may make changes to wiring instructions only in writing. You may make changes to an address of record or certain other account information in writing or by telephone. Written instructions must be accompanied by acceptable evidence of authority (if applicable). A signature guarantee also may be required from an institution participating in the Stock Transfer Agency Medallion Program ("STAMP"). Additional requirements may be imposed. In accordance with SEC regulations, the Trust and Transfer Agent may charge a shareholder reasonable costs in locating a shareholder's current address.

**SIGNATURE GUARANTEES.** If a signature guarantee is required, it must be from an institution participating in STAMP, or other acceptable evidence of authority (if applicable) must be provided. Additional requirements may be imposed by the Trust. In addition to the situations described in this Prospectus, the Trust may require signature guarantees in other circumstances based on the amount of a redemption request or other factors.

**BUSINESS DAY.** A "Business Day" is each Monday through Friday when the Exchange is open for business. For any given calendar year, the Funds will be closed on the following holidays or as observed: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**GOOD ORDER.** A purchase, redemption or exchange request is considered to be "in good order" when all necessary information is provided and all required documents are properly completed, signed and delivered, including acceptable evidence of authority (if applicable). Requests must include the following:

- The account number (if issued) and Fund name;
- The amount of the transaction, in dollar amount or number of shares;
- For redemptions and exchanges (other than online, telephone or wire redemptions), the signature of all account owners exactly as they are registered on the account;
- Required signature guarantees, if applicable;

- Other supporting legal documents and certified resolutions that might be required in the case of estates, corporations, trusts and other entities or forms of ownership. Call 800-595-9111 for more information about documentation that may be required of these entities.

Additionally, a purchase order initiating the opening of an account will not be considered to be "in good order" unless the investor has provided all information required by the Trust's "Customer Identification Program" described below.

**CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM.** Federal law requires the Trust to obtain, verify and record identifying information, which may include the name, residential or business street address, date of birth (for an individual), social security or taxpayer identification number or other identifying information for each investor who opens or reopens an account with the Trust. Applications without this information, or without an indication that a social security or taxpayer identification number has been applied for, may not be accepted. After acceptance, to the extent permitted by applicable law or the Trust's customer identification program, the Trust reserves the right to: (a) place limits on account transactions until an investor's identity is verified; (b) refuse an investment in the Trust; or (c) involuntarily redeem an investor's shares and close an account in the event that an investor's identity is not verified. The Trust and its agents will not be responsible for any loss in an investor's account resulting from an investor's delay in providing all required identifying information or from closing an account and redeeming an investor's shares when an investor's identity is not verified.

**EARLY CLOSINGS.** The Funds reserve the right to advance the time for accepting purchase, redemption or exchange orders for same Business Day credit when the Exchange closes early, trading on the Exchange is restricted, an emergency arises or as otherwise permitted by the SEC. The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund reserves the right to advance the time for accepting purchase, redemption or exchange orders for same Business Day credit when the bond markets close early. In addition, on any Business Day when SIFMA recommends that the bond markets close early, the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund reserves the right to close at or prior to the SIFMA recommended closing time. If the Fund does so, it will cease granting same Business Day credit for purchase and redemption orders received at the Fund's closing time and credit will be given on the next Business Day. In addition, the Board of Trustees of the Trust also may, for any Business Day, decide to change the time as of which a Fund's NAV is calculated in response to new developments such as altered trading hours, or as otherwise permitted by the SEC.

**EMERGENCY OR UNUSUAL EVENTS.** In the event the Exchange does not open for business because of an emergency or unusual event, the Trust may, but is not required to, open one or more Funds for purchase, redemption and exchange transactions if the Federal Reserve wire payment system is open. To learn whether a Fund is open for business during an emergency situation or unusual event, please call 800-595-9111 or visit [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds).

**FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES.** The Trust may authorize certain institutions acting as financial intermediaries (including banks, trust companies, brokers and investment advisers) to accept purchase, redemption and exchange orders from their customers on behalf of the Funds. These authorized intermediaries also may designate other intermediaries to accept such orders, if approved by the Trust. A Fund will be deemed to have received an order when the order is accepted by the authorized intermediary, and the order will be priced at the Fund's per share NAV next determined, provided that the authorized intermediary forwards the order (and payment for any purchase order) to the Transfer Agent on behalf of the Trust within agreed-upon time periods. If the order (or payment for any purchase order) is not received by the Transfer Agent within such time periods, the authorized intermediary may be liable for fees and losses and the transaction may be cancelled.

The Trust may enter into agreements with certain financial intermediaries, including affiliates of Northern Trust, that perform support services for their customers who own Fund shares ("Service Organizations"). These support services may include:

- assisting investors in processing purchase, exchange and redemption requests;
- processing dividend and distribution payments from the Funds;
- providing information to customers showing their positions in the Funds; and
- providing subaccounting with respect to Fund shares beneficially owned by customers or the information necessary for subaccounting.

For their services, Service Organizations may receive fees from a Fund at annual rates of up to 0.15% of the average daily NAV of the shares covered by their agreements. Because these fees are paid out of the Funds' assets on an on-going basis, they will increase the cost of your investment in the Funds.

The Funds' arrangements with Service Organizations under the agreements are governed by a Service Plan, which has been adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Northern Trust also may provide compensation to certain dealers and Service Organizations, for marketing and distribution in connection with the Trust. Northern Trust may also sponsor informational meetings, seminars and other similar programs designed to market the Trust. The amount of such compensation and payments may be made on a one-time and/or periodic basis, and may represent all or a portion of the annual fees earned by the Investment Adviser (after adjustments). The additional compensation and payments will be paid by Northern Trust or its affiliates and will not represent an additional expense to the Trust or its shareholders. Such payments may provide incentives for financial intermediaries to make shares of the Funds available to their customers, and may allow the Funds greater access to such parties and their customers than would be the case if no payments were paid.

Investors purchasing shares of a Fund through a financial intermediary should read their account agreements with the financial intermediary carefully. A financial intermediary's requirements may differ from those listed in this Prospectus. A financial intermediary also may impose account charges, such as asset allocation fees, account maintenance fees and other charges that will reduce the net return on an investment in a Fund. If an investor has agreed with a particular financial intermediary to maintain a minimum balance and the balance falls below this minimum, the investor may be required to redeem all or a portion of the investor's investment in a Fund.

Conflict of interest restrictions may apply to the receipt of compensation by a Service Organization or other financial intermediary in connection with the investment of fiduciary funds in Fund shares. Institutions, including banks regulated by the Comptroller of the Currency, Federal Reserve Board and state banking commissions, and investment advisers and other money managers subject to the jurisdiction of the SEC, the Department of Labor or state securities commissions, are urged to consult their legal counsel.

State securities laws regarding the registration of dealers may differ from federal law. As a result, Service Organizations and other financial intermediaries investing in the Funds on behalf of their customers may be required to register as dealers.

**PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS.** The Funds, or their duly authorized service providers, may publicly disclose holdings of all Funds in accordance with regulatory requirements, such as periodic portfolio disclosure in filings with the SEC.

A complete schedule of each Fund's holdings, current as of calendar quarter-end, will be available on the Trust's website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds) no earlier than ten (10) calendar days after the end of the period. The Funds will also publish their top ten holdings on their website, current as of month-end, no earlier than ten (10) calendar days after the end of the month.

This information will remain available on the website at least until the Funds file with the SEC their semiannual/annual shareholder report or quarterly portfolio holdings report that includes such period. The Funds may terminate or modify this policy at any time without further notice to shareholders.

A further description of the Trust's Policy on Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings is available in the SAI.

**SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS.** Shareholders of record will be provided each year with a semiannual report showing portfolio investments and other information as of September 30 and with an annual report containing audited financial statements as of March 31. If we have received appropriate written consent, we send a single copy of all materials, including prospectuses, financial reports, proxy statements or information statements, to all shareholders who share the same mailing address, even if more than one person in a household holds shares of a Fund.

If you do not want your mailings combined with those of other members of your household, you may opt-out at any time by contacting the Northern Funds Center by telephone at 800-595-9111 or by mail at Northern Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986. You also may send an e-mail to [northern-funds@ntrs.com](mailto:northern-funds@ntrs.com). The Funds will begin sending individual copies to you within 30 days after receipt of your opt-out notice.

The Trust may reproduce this Prospectus in electronic format that may be available on the Internet. If you have received this Prospectus in electronic format you, or your representative, may contact the Transfer Agent for a free paper copy of this Prospectus by writing to the Northern Funds Center at P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986, calling 800-595-9111 or by sending an e-mail to: [northern-funds@ntrs.com](mailto:northern-funds@ntrs.com).

## DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

### DIVIDENDS AND CAPITAL GAIN DISTRIBUTIONS OF EACH FUND ARE AUTOMATICALLY REINVESTED IN ADDITIONAL SHARES OF THE SAME FUND WITHOUT ANY SALES CHARGE.

You may, however, elect to have dividends or capital gain distributions (or both) paid in cash or reinvested in shares of another fund in the Trust at its NAV per share. If you would like to receive dividends or distributions in cash or have them reinvested in another fund in the Trust, you must notify the Transfer Agent in writing. This election will become effective for distributions paid two days after its receipt by the Transfer Agent. Dividends and distributions only may be reinvested in a fund in the Trust in which you maintain an account.

Dividend and capital gain distributions that are returned to a Fund as undeliverable will be reinvested into your account upon return receipt at the Fund's then current NAV. Also, future distributions will be reinvested until the Fund receives valid delivery instructions.

The following table summarizes the general distribution policies for each of the Funds. A Fund may, in some years, pay additional dividends or make additional distributions to the extent necessary for the Fund to avoid incurring tax liabilities or for other reasons.

Fund	Dividends, if any, Declared and Paid	Capital Gains, if any, Declared and Paid
ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY	Annually	Annually
ACTIVE M INTERNATIONAL EQUITY	Annually	Annually
ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY	Quarterly	Annually
MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY	Quarterly	Annually
MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE	Quarterly	Annually
MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE	Quarterly	Annually
MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY	Monthly	Annually

## TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain tax considerations that may be relevant to an investor in a Fund. The discussions of the federal income tax consequences in this Prospectus and the SAI are based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) and the regulations issued under it, and court decisions and administrative interpretations, as in effect on the date of this Prospectus. Future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions may significantly alter the statements included herein, and any such changes or decisions may be retroactive. Except where otherwise indicated, the discussion relates to shareholders who are individual U.S. citizens or residents and is based on current tax law. You should consult your tax professional for further information regarding federal, state, local and/or foreign tax consequences relevant to your specific situation.

**DISTRIBUTIONS.** Each Fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company for federal tax purposes, and to distribute to shareholders substantially all of its net investment income and net capital gain each year. Except as otherwise noted below, you will generally be subject to federal income tax on a Fund’s distributions to you, regardless of whether they are paid in cash or reinvested in Fund shares. For federal income tax purposes, Fund distributions attributable to short-term capital gains and net investment income are taxable to you as ordinary income. Distributions attributable to net capital gain (the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses) of a Fund generally are taxable to you as long-term capital gains. This is true no matter how long you own your Fund shares. The maximum long-term capital gain rate applicable to individuals, estates and trusts is currently 20%. Gains from REITs and MLPs that are unrecaptured Section 1250 gains are subject to a maximum rate of 25%. U.S. individuals with “modified adjusted gross income” exceeding \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married and filing jointly) and trusts and estates with income above certain thresholds are subject to the Medicare contribution tax on their “net investment income,” which includes non-exempt interest, dividends and capital gains at a rate of 3.8%.

Distributions of “qualifying dividends” will also generally be taxable to you at long-term capital gain rates, as long as certain requirements are met. In general, if 95% or more of the gross income of a Fund (other than net capital gain) consists of dividends received from domestic corporations or “qualified” foreign corporations (“qualifying dividends”) and when certain other requirements are met, then all distributions paid by the Fund to individual shareholders will be treated as qualifying dividends. But if less than 95% of the gross income of a Fund (other than net capital gain) consists of qualifying dividends, then distributions paid by the Fund to individual shareholders will be qualifying dividends only to the extent they are derived from qualifying dividends earned by the Fund. For the

long-term capital gain rates to apply, you must have owned your Fund shares for at least 61 days during the 121-day period beginning on the date that is 60 days before the Fund’s ex-dividend date (and the Fund will need to have met a similar holding period requirement with respect to the shares of the corporation paying the qualifying dividend). The amount of a Fund’s distributions that qualify for this favorable treatment may be reduced as a result of the Fund’s securities lending activities, if any, by a high portfolio turnover rate or by investments in debt securities or “non-qualified” foreign corporations.

To the extent that a Fund invests a portion of its assets in entities that qualify as REITs for U.S. federal income tax purposes or foreign corporations that are not “qualified” foreign corporations, distributions attributable to the dividends from those entities will generally not constitute “qualifying dividends” for purposes of the long-term capital gain rate. Accordingly, investors in the Fund should anticipate that all or a portion of the dividends they receive may be taxable at the higher rates generally applicable to ordinary income.

The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund will generally invest in debt instruments and not in shares of stock on which dividend income will be received. As a result, these Funds do not expect to pay dividends that are eligible for the reduced individual income tax rate currently applicable to qualified dividend income.

A portion of distributions paid by a Fund to shareholders who are corporations may also qualify for the dividends-received deduction for corporations, subject to certain holding period requirements and debt financing limitations. The amount of the dividends qualifying for this deduction may, however, be reduced as a result of the Fund’s securities lending activities, by a high portfolio turnover rate or by investments in debt securities or foreign corporations. It is expected that distributions paid by the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund, Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund and Active M International Equity Fund will generally not qualify for this deduction.

To the extent that a Fund invests a portion of its assets in MLPs, Fund distributions attributable to distributions from those entities will generally not constitute “qualifying dividends” for purposes of the long-term capital gain rate. Additionally, a Fund may be allocated items of tax preference or adjustment for alternative minimum tax purposes from MLPs and will be required to allocate those items to shareholders.

Distributions from each Fund will generally be taxable to you in the year in which they are paid, with one exception.

Dividends and distributions declared by a Fund in October, November or December and paid in January of the following year are taxed as though they were paid on December 31.

Each year, the Fund will send you an annual statement (Form 1099) of your account activity to assist you in completing your federal, state and local tax returns. Prior to issuing your statement, the Fund makes every effort to obtain correct information regarding Fund income to reduce the number of corrected forms mailed to shareholders. However, when necessary, the Fund will send you a corrected Form 1099 to reflect changes in information regarding fund income.

The REIT or MLP investments of a Fund often do not provide complete tax information to the Fund until after the calendar year-end. Consequently, because of the delay, it may be necessary for the Fund to request permission to extend the deadline for issuance of Forms 1099-DIV beyond January 31. Also, under current provisions of the Code, distributions attributable to operating income of REITs in which the Fund invests are not eligible for favorable tax treatment as long-term capital gains and will be taxable to you as ordinary income.

You should note that if you buy shares of a Fund shortly before it makes a distribution, the distribution will be fully taxable to you even though, as an economic matter, it simply represents a return of a portion of your investment. This adverse tax result is known as “buying into a dividend.”

**FOREIGN TAXES.** The Funds may be subject to foreign withholding taxes with respect to dividends or interest received from sources in foreign countries. It is expected that the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Active M International Equity Fund will be eligible to make an election to treat a proportionate amount of those taxes as constituting a distribution to each shareholder, which would allow you either (1) to credit that proportionate amount of taxes against U.S. federal income tax liability as a foreign tax credit (subject to applicable limitations) or (2) to take that amount as an itemized deduction. The Active M U.S. Equity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund will not be eligible to make this election but these Funds, and, if they choose not to make the election, the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund, and Active M International Equity Fund, will be entitled to deduct such taxes in computing the amounts they are required to distribute.

**SALES AND EXCHANGES.** The sale, exchange, or redemption of Fund shares is a taxable event on which a gain or loss may be recognized. For federal income tax purposes, an exchange of shares of one Fund for shares of another Fund is considered the same as a sale. The amount of gain or loss is based on the difference between your tax basis in the Fund shares and the amount you receive for them upon disposition. Generally, you will recognize long-term capital gain or loss if you have held your Fund shares for over twelve months at the time you dispose of them. Gains and losses on shares held for twelve months or less will generally constitute short-term capital gains, except that a loss on shares held six months or less will be recharacterized as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any capital gains distributions that you have received on the shares. A loss realized on a sale or exchange of Fund shares may be disallowed under the so-called “wash sale” rules to the extent the shares disposed of are replaced with other shares of that same Fund within a period of 61 days beginning 30 days before and ending 30 days after the shares are disposed of, such as pursuant to a dividend reinvestment in shares of the Fund. If disallowed, the loss will be reflected in an adjustment to the basis of the shares acquired.

The Fund is required to compute and report to the Internal Revenue Service and furnish to Fund shareholders cost basis information when Fund shares are sold or exchanged. The Fund has elected to use the average cost method, unless you instruct the Fund to use a different IRS-accepted cost basis method, or choose to specifically identify your shares at the time of each sale or exchange. If your account is held by your broker or other financial advisor, they may select a different cost basis method. In these cases, please contact your broker or other financial advisor to obtain information with respect to the available methods and elections for your account. You should carefully review the cost basis information provided by the Fund and make any additional basis, holding period or other adjustments that are required when reporting these amounts on your federal and state income tax returns. Fund shareholders should consult with their tax professionals to determine the best IRS-accepted cost basis method for their tax situation and to obtain more information about how the new cost basis reporting requirements apply to them.

**IRAS AND OTHER TAX-QUALIFIED PLANS.** The one major exception to the preceding tax principles is that distributions on, and sales, exchanges and redemptions of, shares held in an IRA or other tax-qualified plan will not be currently taxable unless shares are acquired with borrowed funds.

**BACKUP WITHHOLDING.** The Trust will be required in certain cases to withhold and remit to the U.S. Treasury 24% of the dividends and gross sales proceeds paid to any shareholder (i) who had provided either an incorrect tax identification

number or no number at all, (ii) who is subject to backup withholding by the Internal Revenue Service for failure to report the receipt of taxable interest or dividend income properly, or (iii) who has failed to certify to the Trust, when required to do so, that he or she is not subject to backup withholding or that he or she is an “exempt recipient.”

**U.S. TAX TREATMENT OF FOREIGN SHAREHOLDERS.**

Nonresident aliens, foreign corporations and other foreign investors will generally be exempt from U.S. federal income tax on distributions attributable to net capital gains.

The exemption may not apply, however, if an investment in a Fund is connected to a trade or business of the foreign investor in the United States or if the foreign investor is present in the United States for 183 days or more in a year and certain other conditions are met.

Fund distributions attributable to other categories of Fund income, such as dividends from companies whose securities are held by a Fund, will generally be subject to a 30% withholding tax when paid to foreign shareholders. The withholding tax may, however, be reduced (and, in some cases, eliminated) under an applicable tax treaty between the United States and a shareholder's country of residence or incorporation, provided that the shareholder furnishes the Fund with a properly completed Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E, as applicable, to establish entitlement for these treaty benefits.

Dividends reported as short-term capital gain dividends or interest-related dividends are not subject to U.S. withholding tax.

Distributions to foreign shareholders attributable to U.S. real estate gains received from the sale of U.S. real property interests and real estate gains from REITs or MLPs will be subject to withholding tax at rates up to 35%.

If a foreign shareholder holds more than 5% of a Fund at any time during the 5-year period ending on the date of disposition or redemption of shares (a “5% Shareholder”) and the Fund is a United States Real Property Holding Corporation (as defined in the Code), the foreign shareholder will be subject to withholding tax on the gain at a 35% rate and may be required to file a U.S. federal income tax return. Foreign corporations recognizing gain under these rules may be subject to the U.S. Branch Profits Tax.

A foreign investor will generally not be subject to U.S. tax on gains realized on sales or exchanges of Fund shares unless the investment in the Fund is connected to a trade or business of the investor in the United States or if the investor is present in the United States for 183 days or more in a year and certain other conditions are met.

In addition, the Funds are required to withhold 30% tax on payments to foreign entities that do not meet specified information reporting requirements under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.

All foreign investors should consult their own tax professionals regarding the tax consequences in the United States and their country of residence of an investment in a Fund.

**STATE AND LOCAL TAXES.** You may also be subject to state and local taxes on income and gain attributable to your ownership of Fund shares. State income taxes may not apply, however, to the portions of a Fund's distributions, if any, that are attributable to interest earned by the Fund on U.S. government securities. You should consult your tax professional regarding the tax status of distributions in your state and locality.

**CONSULT YOUR TAX PROFESSIONAL.** Your investment in the Funds could have additional tax consequences. You should consult your tax professional for information regarding all tax consequences applicable to your investments in a Fund. More tax information relating to the Funds is also provided in the SAI. This short summary is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning.

## SECURITIES, TECHNIQUES AND RISKS

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RELATED RISKS, DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES AND COMMON INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES

The following provides additional information regarding each Fund's investment objective, principal investment strategies and related risks discussed in the Fund Summaries – Principal Investment Strategies section for each Fund, as well as information about additional investment strategies and techniques that a Fund may employ in pursuing its investment objective. Principal investment strategies and risks for each Fund are noted in parenthesis. The Funds also may make other types of investments to the extent permitted by applicable law. Additional information about the Funds, their investment strategies and risks can also be found in the Funds' SAI.

All investments carry some degree of risk that will affect the value of a Fund's investments, its investment performance and the price of its shares. As a result, loss of money is a risk of investing in each Fund.

**INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES.** A Fund's investment objective may be changed by the Trust's Board of Trustees without shareholder approval. Shareholders will, however, be notified of any changes to a Fund's investment objective. Any changes to a Fund's investment objective may result in a Fund having an investment objective different from the investment objective that the shareholder considered appropriate at the time of investment in the Fund.

**ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). Asset-backed securities are sponsored by entities such as government agencies, banks, financial companies and commercial or industrial companies. Asset-backed securities represent participations in, or are secured by and payable from, pools of assets such as mortgages, automobile loans, credit card receivables and other financial assets. In effect, these securities "pass through" the monthly payments that individual borrowers make on their mortgages or other assets net of any fees paid to the issuers. Examples of these include guaranteed mortgage pass-through certificates, collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs") and real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs"). Examples of asset-backed securities also include collateralized debt obligations ("CDOs"), which include collateralized bond obligations ("CBOs"), collateralized loan obligations ("CLOs") and other similarly structured securities.

A CBO is a trust typically collateralized by a pool that is backed by a diversified pool of high risk, below-investment grade fixed-income securities. A CLO is a trust typically collateralized by a pool of loans that may include, among others, domestic and foreign senior secured loans, senior unsecured loans, and other

subordinate corporate loans, including loans that may be rated below-investment grade or equivalent unrated loans.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund each may purchase securities that are secured or backed by mortgages issued by U.S. government agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises or guaranteed by the U.S. government as well as other types of asset-backed securities.

The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may invest in CDOs, CBOs and CLOs, although investments in such securities are not anticipated to be a principal investment strategy of the Fund.

The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may also invest in CDOs. Such securities are subject to the same quality requirements as the other types of fixed-income securities that are held by the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** In addition to credit and market risk, asset-backed securities may involve prepayment risk because the underlying assets (loans) may be prepaid at any time. Prepayment (or call) risk is the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Fund (such as a mortgage or other asset-backed security) earlier than expected. This may happen during a period of declining interest rates. Under these circumstances, the Fund may be unable to recoup all of its initial investment and will suffer from having to reinvest in lower yielding securities. The loss of higher yielding securities and the reinvestment at lower interest rates can reduce the Fund's income, total return and share price.

The value of these securities also may change because of actual or perceived changes in the creditworthiness of the originator, the service agent, the financial institution providing the credit support or the counterparty. Unlike mortgage-backed securities issued or guaranteed by agencies of the U.S. government or government-sponsored entities, mortgage-backed securities issued by private issuers do not have a government or government-sponsored entity guarantee (but may have other credit enhancement), and may, and frequently do, have less favorable collateral, credit risk or other underwriting characteristics. Credit supports generally apply only to a fraction of a security's value. Like other fixed-income securities, when interest rates rise, the value of an asset-backed security generally will decline. However, when interest rates decline, the value of an asset-backed security with prepayment features may not increase as much as that of other fixed-income securities. In addition, non-mortgage asset-backed securities involve certain risks not presented by mortgage-backed securities. Primarily, these securities do not have the benefit of the same security

interest in the underlying collateral. Credit card receivables generally are unsecured, and the debtors are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws. Automobile receivables are subject to the risk that the trustee for the holders of the automobile receivables may not have an effective security interest in all of the obligations backing the receivables. If the issuer of the security has no security interest in the related collateral, there is the risk that a Fund could lose money if the issuer defaults. CBOs and CLOs are generally offered in tranches that vary in risk and yield. Both CBOs and CLOs can experience substantial losses due to actual defaults of the underlying collateral, increased sensitivity to defaults due to collateral default and disappearance of junior tranches that protect the more senior tranches, market anticipation of defaults and aversion to CBO or CLO securities as a class. As a result of the economic recession that commenced in the United States in 2008, there is a heightened risk that the receivables and loans underlying the asset-backed securities purchased by the Funds may suffer greater levels of default than were historically experienced.

In addition to prepayment risk, investments in mortgage-backed securities comprised of subprime mortgages and investments in other asset-backed securities of underperforming assets may be subject to a higher degree of credit risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk.

**BORROWINGS AND REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS.** The Funds may borrow money from banks and may enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks and other financial institutions.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Each Fund may borrow money from banks and enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks and other financial institutions in amounts not exceeding one-fourth of the value of its total assets (including the amount borrowed). The Funds may enter into reverse repurchase agreements when the Investment Adviser or Sub-Advisers expect that the interest income to be earned from the investment of the transaction proceeds will be greater than the related interest expense.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Borrowings and reverse repurchase agreements involve leveraging. Reverse repurchase agreements involve the sale of securities held by a Fund subject to the Fund's agreement to repurchase them at a mutually agreed upon date and price (including interest). If the securities held by the Funds decline in value while these transactions are outstanding, the NAV of the Funds' outstanding shares will decline in value by proportionately more than the decline in value of the securities. In addition, reverse repurchase agreements involve the risks that (a) the interest income earned by a Fund (from the investment of the proceeds) will be less than the interest expense of the transaction; (b) the market value of the securities

sold by a Fund will decline below the price the Fund is obligated to pay to repurchase the securities; and (c) the securities may not be returned to the Fund.

**CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). A convertible security is a bond or preferred stock that may be converted (exchanged) into the common stock of the issuing company within a specified time period for a specified number of shares. Convertible securities offer a way to participate in the capital appreciation of the common stock into which the securities are convertible, while earning higher current income than is available from the common stock.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund each may acquire convertible securities as part of its principal investment strategy. Each of the other Funds also may acquire convertible securities. Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest without limitation in convertible securities that are rated non-investment grade. Each of the other Funds may invest up to 15% of its total assets in convertible securities that are rated non-investment grade at the time of purchase, although generally convertible securities will be rated investment grade at the time of purchase, when the Sub-Advisers determine that such securities are desirable in light of the Funds' investment objectives.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** The price of a convertible security normally will vary in some proportion to changes in the price of the underlying common stock because of either a conversion or exercise feature. However, the value of a convertible security may not increase or decrease as rapidly as the underlying common stock. Additionally, convertible securities may be subject to market risk, credit and counterparty risk, interest rate risk and other market and issuer-specific risks that apply to the underlying common stock. While convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible fixed-income securities of similar quality, their value tends to increase as the market value of the underlying stock increases and to decrease when the value of the underlying stock decreases. Also, a Fund may be forced to convert a security before it would otherwise choose, which may have an adverse effect on the Fund's return and its ability to achieve its investment objective.

**CREDIT (OR DEFAULT) RISK** (*principal risk for the Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and the High Yield Opportunity Fund*). Credit risk, also called default risk, is the risk that an issuer of fixed income securities held by a Fund may default on its obligation to pay interest and repay principal. Generally, the lower the credit rating of a security, the greater the risk that the

issuer of the security will default on its obligation. High quality securities are generally believed to have relatively low degrees of credit risk. The Funds intend to enter into financial transactions with counterparties that are creditworthy at the time of the transactions. There is always the risk that the Investment Adviser's or Sub-Adviser's analysis of creditworthiness is incorrect or may change due to market conditions. Concerns over an issuer's ability to make principal or interest payments may cause the value of a fixed income security to decline. To the extent that a Fund focuses its transactions with a limited number of counterparties, it will be more susceptible to the risks associated with one or more counterparties.

**CREDIT FACILITY AND BORROWING.** The Funds, the other funds of the Trust, and affiliated funds of Northern Institutional Funds (each a "Portfolio", and together the "Portfolios") have jointly entered into a revolving credit facility (the "Credit Facility") whereby the Funds, the other funds in the Trust, and the Portfolios may borrow for the temporary funding of shareholder redemptions or for other temporary or emergency purposes. Pursuant to the Credit Facility, the participating funds may borrow up to an aggregate commitment amount of \$250 million (the "Commitment Limit") at any time, subject to asset coverage and other limitations as specified in the Credit Facility and under the 1940 Act. The Funds may borrow up to the maximum amount allowable under their current prospectuses and SAIs, subject to various other legal, regulatory or contractual limits, including the asset coverage limits in the Credit Facility. Borrowing results in interest expense and other fees and expenses for the Funds that may impact a Fund's expenses, including any net expense ratios. The costs of borrowing may reduce a Fund's yield. If a Fund borrows pursuant to the Credit Facility, it is charged interest at a variable rate. Each Fund also pays a pro rata share of a commitment fee on the unused portion of the Credit Facility. The availability of funds under the Credit Facility can be affected by other participating funds' borrowings under the Credit Facility. As such, a Fund may be unable to borrow (or borrow further) under the Credit Facility if the Commitment Limit has been reached.

**CURRENCY SWAPS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund*). Currency swaps are contracts that obligate the Fund and another party to exchange their rights to pay or receive specified amounts of currency, respectively.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies, the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund may enter into currency swap transactions for hedging purposes.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** The use of currency swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. Like other derivative securities, these instruments can be highly volatile. If the Sub-Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of currency exchange rates, the investment performance of the Fund would be less favorable than it would have been if these instruments were not used. Because these instruments normally are illiquid, the Fund may not be able to terminate its obligations when desired. The Fund also may suffer a loss if the other party to a transaction defaults.

**CUSTODIAL RECEIPTS.** Custodial receipts are participations in trusts that hold U.S. government, bank, corporate or other obligations. They entitle the holder to future interest payments or principal payments or both on securities held by the custodian.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies, the Funds may invest a portion of their assets in custodial receipts, although these securities are not anticipated to be a principal investment strategy of any Fund. Investments by the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund in custodial receipts, if any, are anticipated to be minimal and will not exceed 20% of the value of the Fund's net assets.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Like other stripped securities (which are described below), custodial receipts may be subject to greater price volatility than ordinary debt obligations because of the way in which their principal and interest are returned to investors.

**CYBERSECURITY RISK** (*principal risk for all Funds*). With the increased use of the Internet and because information technology ("IT") systems and digital data underlie most of the Funds' operations, the Funds and their investment adviser, custodian, transfer agent, distributor and other service providers and the financial intermediaries of each (collectively "Service Providers") are exposed to the risk that their operations and data may be compromised as a result of internal and external cyber-failures, breaches or attacks ("Cyber Risk"). This could occur as a result of malicious or criminal cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks include actions taken to: (i) steal or corrupt data maintained online or digitally, (ii) gain unauthorized access to or release confidential information, (iii) shut down a Fund or Service Provider website through denial-of-service attacks, or (iv) otherwise disrupt normal business operations. However, events arising from human error, faulty or inadequately implemented policies and procedures or other systems failures unrelated to any external cyber-threat may have effects similar to those caused by deliberate cyber-attacks.

Successful cyber-attacks or other cyber-failures or events affecting the Funds or their Service Providers may adversely impact a Fund or its shareholders. For instance, such attacks, failures or other events may interfere with the processing of shareholder transactions, impact a Fund's ability to calculate its NAV, cause the release of private shareholder information or confidential Fund information, impede trading, or cause reputational damage. Such attacks, failures or other events could also subject the Funds or their Service Providers to regulatory fines, penalties or financial losses, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. Insurance protection and contractual indemnification provisions may be insufficient to cover these losses. The Funds or their Service Providers may also incur significant costs to manage and control Cyber Risk. While the Funds and their Service Providers have established IT and data security programs and have in place business continuity plans and other systems designed to prevent losses and mitigate Cyber Risk, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified or that cyber-attacks may be highly sophisticated.

Cyber Risk is also present for issuers of securities or other instruments in which the Funds invest, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause a Fund's investment in such issuers to lose value.

**DERIVATIVES** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund*). Each of the Funds may purchase certain "derivative" instruments for hedging purposes. The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund also may purchase certain "derivative" instruments for other purposes. A derivative is a financial instrument whose value is derived from, or based upon, the performance of underlying assets, interest or currency exchange rates, or other indices and may be leveraged. Derivatives include futures contracts, options, interest rate and currency swaps, credit default swaps, equity swaps and forward currency contracts.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Under normal market conditions, the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may invest in derivative securities, including options, futures, forward currency contracts and currency, credit default and equity swaps if the potential risks and rewards are consistent with the Fund's objective, strategies and overall risk profile. In unusual circumstances, including times of increased market volatility, the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may make more significant investments in derivatives. The Fund may use derivatives for hedging purposes to offset a potential loss in one position by establishing an interest in an opposite position, or to gain exposure to certain countries or currencies.

Each of the other Funds, under normal market conditions, may invest in derivative securities including options, futures contracts, forward currency contracts and currency and equity swaps if the potential risks and rewards are consistent with the Fund's objective, strategies and overall risk profile. In unusual circumstances, including times of increased market volatility, a Fund may make more significant investments in derivatives. The Funds may use derivatives for hedging purposes to offset a potential loss in one position by establishing an interest in an opposite position, in anticipation of the purchase of securities or for liquidity management purposes. The Funds do not intend to use derivatives for speculative purposes (i.e., to invest for potential income or capital gain). It is the current policy of the Funds' Board of Trustees to limit investments in derivatives by these Funds to investments for hedging purposes.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** An investment in derivatives can be more sensitive to changes in interest rates and sudden fluctuations in market prices than conventional securities. Investments in derivative instruments, which may be leveraged, may result in losses exceeding the amounts invested. A Fund's losses may be greater if it invests in derivatives than if it invests only in conventional securities. Hedges are sometimes subject to imperfect matching between the derivative and the underlying security, and there can be no assurance that a Fund's hedging transactions will be effective. The use of hedging may result in certain adverse tax consequences. Engaging in derivative transactions involves special risks, including (a) market risk that the Fund's derivatives position will lose value; (b) credit risk that the counterparty to the transaction will default; (c) leveraging risk that the value of the derivative instrument will decline more than the value of the assets on which it is based; (d) illiquidity risk that a Fund will be unable to sell its position because of lack of market depth or disruption; (e) pricing risk that the value of a derivative instrument will be difficult to determine; and (f) operations risk that loss will occur as a result of inadequate systems or human error. Many types of derivatives have been developed recently and have not been tested over complete market cycles. For these reasons, a Fund may suffer a loss whether or not the analysis of the Sub-Adviser is accurate.

In order to secure its obligations in connection with derivative contracts or special transactions, a Fund will either own the underlying assets, enter into offsetting transactions or set aside cash or readily marketable securities. This requirement may cause the Fund to miss favorable trading opportunities, due to a lack of sufficient cash or readily marketable securities. This requirement may also cause the Fund to realize losses on offsetting or terminated derivative contracts or special transactions.

**EQUITY SECURITIES** (*principal strategy for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund, Active M U.S. Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*). “Equity securities” include common stocks, preferred stocks, investment companies including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), interests in real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), convertible securities, equity interests in trusts, partnerships, joint ventures, limited liability companies and similar enterprises, warrants, stock purchase rights and synthetic and derivative instruments that have economic characteristics similar to equity securities.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Each of the Funds, except the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund, invests primarily in equity securities. The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest in equity securities to the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Investing in equity securities involves market risk. Market risk is the risk that the value of the securities in which a Fund invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual issuers and/or general economic conditions. Securities markets may experience great short-term volatility and may fall sharply at times. Different markets may behave differently from each other and a foreign market may move in the opposite direction from the U.S. market. Stock prices have historically risen and fallen in periodic cycles. In general, the values of equity investments fluctuate in response to the activities of individual companies and in response to general market and economic conditions. Individual companies may report poor results or be negatively affected by industry trends and developments, and the stock prices of such companies may decline in response. Price changes may be temporary or last for extended periods. Accordingly, the values of the equity investments that a Fund holds may decline over short or extended periods. This volatility means that the value of your investment in the Funds may increase or decrease. You could lose money over short periods due to fluctuation in a Fund’s NAV in response to market movements, and over longer periods during market downturns.

Over the past several years, stock markets have experienced substantial price volatility. Growth stocks are generally more sensitive to market movements than other types of stocks and their stock prices may therefore be more volatile and present a higher degree of risk of loss. Value stocks, on the other hand, may fall out of favor with investors and underperform growth stocks during any given period.

**EQUITY SWAPS.** Equity swaps allow the parties to the swap agreement to exchange components of return on one equity investment (e.g., a basket of equity securities or an index) for a component of return on another non-equity or equity investment, including an exchange of differential rates of return.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Funds, except the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund, may invest in equity swaps for hedging purposes, in anticipation of the purchase of securities and for liquidity management purposes but not for speculative purposes or to seek to enhance total return. Equity swaps also may be used to invest in a market without owning or taking physical custody of securities in circumstances where direct investment may be restricted for legal reasons or is otherwise impractical.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Equity swaps are derivative instruments and their values can be very volatile. To the extent that a Sub-Adviser does not accurately analyze and predict the potential relative fluctuation on the components swapped with the other party, a Fund may suffer a loss, which is potentially unlimited. The value of some components of an equity swap (such as the dividends on a common stock) also may be sensitive to changes in interest rates. Furthermore, during the period a swap is outstanding, a Fund may suffer a loss if the counterparty defaults. Because equity swaps normally are illiquid, a Fund may not be able to terminate its obligations when desired.

**EXCHANGE RATE-RELATED SECURITIES.** Exchange rate-related securities represent certain foreign debt obligations whose principal values are linked to a foreign currency but which are repaid in U.S. dollars.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Each of the Funds may invest in exchange rate-related securities.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** The principal payable on an exchange rate-related security is subject to currency risk. In addition, the potential illiquidity and high volatility of the foreign exchange market may make exchange rate-related securities difficult to sell prior to maturity at an appropriate price.

**FINANCIAL SECTOR RISK** (*principal risk for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund*). Companies in the U.S. and non-U.S. financials sector of the economy, including those in the banking industry, are often subject to extensive governmental regulation and intervention, which may adversely affect the scope of their activities, the prices they can charge and the amount of capital they must maintain. Governmental regulation may change frequently and may have significant adverse consequences for companies in the financial sector, including effects not intended by such regulation. The

impact of recent or future regulation on any individual financial company, the banking industry or on the sector as a whole cannot be predicted. Certain risks may impact the value of investments in the financial sector more severely than those of investments outside this sector, including the risks associated with companies that operate with substantial financial leverage. Companies in the financial sector may also be adversely affected by increases in interest rates and loan losses, decreases in the availability of money or asset valuations, credit rating downgrades and adverse conditions in other related markets. Insurance companies, in particular, may be subject to severe price competition and/or rate regulation, which may have an adverse impact on their profitability.

In the recent past, deterioration of the credit markets impacted a broad range of mortgage, asset backed, auction rate, sovereign debt and other markets, including U.S. and non-U.S. credit and interbank money markets, thereby affecting a wide range of financial institutions and markets. A number of large financial institutions have failed, have merged with stronger institutions or have had significant government infusions of capital. Instability in the financial markets has caused certain financial companies to incur large losses. Some financial companies experienced declines in the valuations of their assets, took actions to raise capital (such as the issuance of debt or equity securities), or even ceased operations. Some financial companies borrowed significant amounts of capital from government sources and may face future government imposed restrictions on their businesses or increased government intervention. Those actions caused the securities of many financial companies to decline in value. The financial sector is particularly sensitive to fluctuations in interest rates.

**FOREIGN INVESTMENTS** (*principal strategy for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). Foreign securities include direct investments in non-U.S. dollar-denominated securities traded primarily outside of the United States and dollar-denominated securities of foreign issuers. Foreign securities also include indirect investments such as American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), European Depositary Receipts (“EDRs”) and Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”). ADRs are U.S. dollar-denominated receipts representing shares of foreign-based corporations. ADRs are receipts that are traded in the United States, and entitle the holder to all dividend and capital gain distributions that are paid out on the underlying foreign shares. EDRs and GDRs are receipts that often trade on foreign exchanges. They represent ownership in an underlying foreign or U.S. security and generally are denominated in a foreign currency. Foreign government obligations may include debt

obligations of supranational entities, including international organizations (such as The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (also known as the World Bank)) and international banking institutions and related government agencies.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Active M International Equity Fund intend to invest a substantial portion of their total assets in foreign securities. The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund will invest primarily in securities of foreign (non-U.S.) companies. Under normal circumstances, the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund will invest at least 40%, and may invest up to 100% of its net assets, in the securities of companies economically tied to a foreign (non-U.S.) country. In determining if a security is economically tied to a foreign (non-U.S.) country, the Fund generally looks to the country of incorporation of the issuer as listed on Bloomberg, a widely recognized provider of market information. However, the Fund may determine a security is economically tied to a foreign country based on other factors, such as an issuer’s country of domicile, where the majority of an issuer’s revenues are generated or where an issuer’s primary exchange is located. As a result, a security may be economically tied to more than one country. With respect to derivative instruments, the Fund generally considers such instruments to be economically tied to foreign countries if the underlying assets of the derivatives are (i) foreign currencies (or baskets or indexes of such currencies); (ii) instruments or securities that are issued by foreign governments or by an issuer economically tied to a foreign country as described above; or (iii) for certain money market instruments, if either the issuer or the guarantor of such money market instrument is an issuer economically tied to a foreign country as described above. Under normal circumstances, the Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Active M International Equity Fund will invest significantly (at least 40%) in companies that are located, headquartered, incorporated or otherwise organized outside the U.S. The Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Active M International Equity Fund expect their foreign investments to be allocated among companies that are diversified among various regions, countries including the United States (but no less than three different countries other than the United States), industries and capitalization ranges. Although it invests primarily in the securities of U.S. issuers, the Active M U.S. Equity Fund is permitted to invest up to 25% of its total assets in foreign securities including ADRs, EDRs and GDRs.

The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest up to 25% of its total assets in foreign fixed-income securities, including those of issuers located in emerging market countries. The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund and Active M U.S. Equity Fund also may invest in foreign time deposits and other short-term instruments.

The Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund and the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund intend to invest, and the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund may invest, a substantial portion of their respective total assets in foreign countries that are considered emerging markets. Such countries may include, but are not limited to: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

The Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund may invest more than 25% of its total assets in the securities of issuers located in a single foreign country or a single geographic region having securities markets that are highly developed, liquid and subject to extensive regulation. Such regions may include, but are not limited to North America, Pacific Asia and Europe.

The Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund may invest more than 25% of its total assets in the securities of issuers located in a single foreign country or a single geographic region having securities markets that are highly developed, liquid and subject to extensive regulation. Such regions may include, but are not limited to North America, Pacific Asia and Europe. The Fund currently anticipates that it will invest more than 25% of its assets in issuers located in the United States.

The Active M International Equity Fund may invest more than 25% of its net assets in the securities of issuers located in a single foreign country having securities markets that are highly developed, liquid and subject to extensive regulation. Such countries may include, but are not limited to Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Switzerland. The Fund may invest up to 40% of its net assets in emerging markets.

GENERAL. Foreign securities involve special risks and costs, which are considered by the Sub-Advisers in evaluating the creditworthiness of issuers and making investment decisions for the Funds. Foreign securities fluctuate in price because of political, financial, social and economic events in foreign countries (including, for example, military confrontations, war

and terrorism). A foreign security could also lose value because of more or less stringent foreign securities regulations and less stringent accounting and disclosure standards. In addition, foreign markets may have greater volatility than domestic markets and foreign securities may be less liquid and harder to value than domestic securities. Certain foreign markets may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, organizations, entities and/or individuals, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers, and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. International trade barriers or economic sanctions against foreign countries, organizations, entities and/or individuals may adversely affect a Fund's foreign holdings or exposures.

Foreign securities, and in particular foreign debt securities, are sensitive to changes in interest rates. In addition, investment in the securities of foreign governments involves the risk that foreign governments may default on their obligations or may otherwise not respect the integrity of their obligations. The performance of investments in securities denominated in a foreign currency also will depend, in part, on the strength of the foreign currency against the U.S. dollar and the interest rate environment in the country issuing the currency. Absent other events, which otherwise could affect the value of a foreign security (such as a change in the political climate or an issuer's credit quality), appreciation in the value of the foreign currency generally results in an increase in value of a foreign currency-denominated security in terms of U.S. dollars. A decline in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar generally results in a decrease in value of a foreign currency-denominated security. Additionally, many countries throughout the world are dependent on a healthy U.S. economy and are adversely affected when the U.S. economy weakens or its markets decline.

Investment in foreign securities may involve higher costs than investment in U.S. securities, including higher transaction (for example, brokerage commissions) and custody costs as well as the imposition of additional taxes by foreign governments. Foreign investments also may involve risks associated with the level of currency exchange rates, less complete financial information about the issuers, less market liquidity, more market volatility and political instability. Moreover, clearance and settlement procedures may differ from those in the U.S. and in certain markets such procedures have been unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions, thus making it difficult to conduct such transactions. Future political and economic developments, the possible imposition of withholding taxes on dividend income, the possible seizure or nationalization of foreign holdings, the possible establishment of exchange controls or freezes on the

convertibility of currency, trade restrictions (including tariffs) or the adoption of other governmental restrictions might adversely affect an investment in foreign securities. Additionally, foreign banks and foreign branches of domestic banks may be subject to less stringent reserve requirements and to different accounting, auditing and recordkeeping requirements.

While the Funds' investments may, if permitted, be denominated in foreign currencies, the portfolio securities and other assets held by the Funds are valued in U.S. dollars. Price fluctuations may occur in the dollar value of foreign securities because of changing currency exchange rates or, in the case of hedged positions, because the U.S. dollar declines in value relative to the currency hedged. Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time causing a Fund's NAV to fluctuate as well. Currency exchange rates can be affected unpredictably by the intervention or the failure to intervene by U.S. or foreign governments or central banks, or by currency controls or political developments in the United States or abroad. To the extent that a Fund is invested in foreign securities while also maintaining currency positions, it may be exposed to greater combined risk. The Funds' respective net currency positions may expose them to risks independent of their securities positions.

A Fund's assets may be concentrated in countries located in the same geographic region. This concentration will subject the Fund to risks associated with that particular region, such as general and local economic, political and social conditions. The Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Active M International Equity Fund may invest more than 25% of its total assets in the securities of issuers located in a single country or geographic region, and such an investment will subject the Fund to increased foreign securities risk with respect to the particular country or geographic region.

The Funds may operate in euros and/or hold euros and/or euro-denominated bonds and other obligations. The euro requires participation of multiple sovereign states forming the Euro zone and is therefore sensitive to the credit and general economic and political positions of each such state, including, each state's actual and intended ongoing engagement with and/or support for the other sovereign states then forming the European Union ("EU"), in particular those within the Euro zone. Changes in these factors might materially adversely impact the value of securities in which a Fund has invested.

European countries can be significantly affected by the tight fiscal and monetary controls that the European Economic and Monetary Union ("EMU") imposes for membership. Europe's economies are diverse, its governments are decentralized, and its cultures vary widely. Several EU countries, including Greece,

Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal have faced budget issues, some of which may have negative long-term effects for the economies of those countries and other EU countries. There is continued concern about national-level support for the euro and the accompanying coordination of fiscal and wage policy among EMU member countries. Member countries are required to maintain tight control over inflation, public debt, and budget deficit to qualify for membership in the EMU. These requirements can severely limit the ability of EMU member countries to implement monetary policy to address regional economic conditions.

In addition, voters in the United Kingdom ("UK") have approved withdrawal from the EU. Securities issued by companies domiciled in the UK could be subject to changing regulatory and tax regimes. Banking and financial services companies that operate in the UK or EU could be disproportionately impacted by those actions. Other countries may seek to withdraw from the EU and/or abandon the euro, the common currency of the EU, which could exacerbate market and currency volatility and negatively impact the Funds' investments in securities issued by companies located in EU countries. A number of countries in Europe have suffered terror attacks, and additional attacks may occur in the future. Ukraine has experienced ongoing military conflict; this conflict may expand and military attacks could occur in Europe. Europe has also been struggling with mass migration from the Middle East and Africa. Recent and upcoming European elections could, depending on the outcomes, further call into question the future direction of the EU. The ultimate effects of these events and other socio-political or geopolitical issues are not known but could profoundly affect global economies and markets. The impact of these actions, especially if they occur in a disorderly fashion, is not clear, but could be significant and far-reaching. Whether or not a Fund invests in securities of issuers located in Europe or with significant exposure to European issuers or countries, these events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of a Fund's investments.

Other economic challenges facing Europe include high levels of public debt, significant rates of unemployment, aging populations and heavy regulation in certain economic sectors. European policy makers have taken unprecedented steps to respond to the economic crisis and to boost growth in the region, which has increased the risk that regulatory uncertainty could negatively affect the value of a Fund's investments.

As the EU continues to grow in size with the addition of new member countries, the candidate countries' accessions may become more controversial to existing EU members. Some member states may repudiate certain candidate countries joining the EU upon concerns about possible economic, immigration and cultural implications. Also, Russia may be

opposed to the expansion of the EU to members of the former Soviet bloc and may, at times, take actions that could negatively impact the EU economic activity.

**SPECIAL RISKS—EMERGING AND FRONTIER MARKETS.** Additional risks are involved when investing in countries with emerging economies or securities markets. The Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund and Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund invest primarily in emerging and frontier market issuers. The Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund may invest a substantial portion of its total assets in foreign countries that are considered emerging or frontier markets. The Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Active M International Equity Fund may invest in emerging market securities to a lesser extent. Emerging and frontier market countries generally are located in the Asia and Pacific regions, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Central and South America and Africa. Such countries may include, but are not limited to: Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zambia. Political and economic structures in many of these countries may be undergoing significant evolution and rapid development, and these countries may lack the social, political and economic stability characteristics of developed countries. In general, the securities markets of these countries are less liquid, are especially subject to greater price volatility, have smaller market capitalizations, have less government regulation and are not subject to as frequent accounting, financial and other reporting requirements as the securities markets of more developed countries as has historically been the case. As a result, the risks presented by investments in these countries are heightened. These countries also have problems with securities registration and custody. Additionally, settlement procedures in emerging and frontier market countries are frequently less developed and reliable than those in the United States, and may involve the Fund's delivery of securities before receipt of payment for their sale. Settlement or registration problems may make it more difficult for a Fund to value its portfolio securities and could cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities, to have a portion of its assets uninvested or to incur losses due to the failure of a counterparty to pay for

securities the Fund has delivered or the Fund's inability to complete its contractual obligations. A Fund's purchase and sale of portfolio securities in certain emerging and frontier market countries may be constrained by limitations relating to daily changes in the prices of listed securities, periodic trading or settlement volume and/or limitations on aggregate holdings of foreign investors. Such limitations may be computed based on the aggregate trading volume or holdings of a Fund, the Investment Adviser, their affiliates and their respective clients and other service providers. A Fund may not be able to sell securities in circumstances where price, trading or settlement volume limitations have been reached. As a result of these and other risks, investments in these countries generally present a greater risk of loss to a Fund.

Investments in some emerging and frontier market countries, such as those located in Asia, may be restricted or controlled. In some countries, direct investments in securities may be prohibited and required to be made through investment funds controlled by such countries. These limitations may increase transaction costs and adversely affect a security's liquidity, price, and the rights of a Fund in connection with the security.

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

Many emerging market countries are subject to rapid currency devaluations and high inflation and/or economic recession and significant debt levels. These economic factors can have a material adverse effect on these countries' economies and their securities markets. Moreover, many emerging market countries' economies are based on only a few industries and/or are heavily dependent on global trade. Therefore, they may be negatively affected by declining commodity prices, factors affecting their trading markets and partners, exchange controls and other trade barriers, currency valuations and other protectionist measures.

From time to time, certain of the companies in which a Fund may invest may operate in, or have dealings with, countries subject to sanctions or embargoes imposed by the U.S. government and the United Nations and/or countries identified by the U.S. government as state sponsors of terrorism. A company may suffer damage to its reputation if it is identified as a company that operates in, or has dealings with, countries subject to sanctions or embargoes imposed by the U.S. government and the United Nations and/or countries identified by the U.S. government as state sponsors of terrorism. As an investor in such companies, a Fund will be indirectly subject to those risks.

As a result of recent events involving Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the United States and the European Union have imposed sanctions on certain Russian individuals and Russian corporations. Additional broader sanctions may be imposed in the future. These sanctions, or even the threat of further sanctions, may result in the decline of the value and liquidity of Russian securities, a weakening of the ruble or other adverse consequences to the Russian economy. These sanctions could also result in the immediate freeze of Russian securities, impairing the ability of a Fund to buy, sell, receive or deliver those securities. Sanctions could also result in Russia taking counter measures or retaliatory actions, which may further impair the value and liquidity of Russian securities. These events could have a negative effect on the performance of a Fund that holds such securities.

Many emerging and frontier market countries also impose withholding or other taxes on foreign investments, which may be substantial and result in lower Fund returns.

The creditworthiness of firms used by a Fund to effect securities transactions in emerging and frontier market countries may not be as strong as in some developed countries. As a result, a Fund could be subject to a greater risk of loss on its securities transactions if a firm defaults on its responsibilities. A Fund's ability to manage its foreign currency may be restricted in emerging and frontier market countries. As a result, a significant portion of a Fund's currency exposure in these countries may not be covered.

Frontier market countries generally have smaller economies or less developed capital markets than traditional emerging markets and, as a result, the risks of investing in emerging market countries are magnified in frontier market countries. The economies of frontier market countries are less correlated to global economic cycles than those of their more developed counterparts and their markets have low trading volumes and the potential for extreme price volatility and illiquidity. This volatility may be further heightened by the actions of a few major investors. For example, a substantial increase or decrease

in cash flows of mutual funds investing in these markets could significantly affect local stock prices and, therefore, the price of Fund shares. These factors make investing in frontier market countries significantly riskier than in other countries and any one of them could cause the price of a Fund's shares to decline.

**FORWARD CURRENCY EXCHANGE CONTRACTS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund*). A forward currency exchange contract is an obligation to exchange one currency for another on a future date at a specified exchange rate.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may enter into forward currency contracts for hedging purposes and to seek exposure to certain currencies. Each of the other Funds may enter into forward currency exchange contracts for hedging purposes, in anticipation of the purchase of securities and for liquidity management purposes, but not for speculative purposes or to seek to enhance total return, and are not expected to use these instruments as a principal investment strategy.

The Funds also may enter into forward currency exchange contracts to help reduce the risks and volatility caused by changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Foreign currency exchange contracts will be used at the discretion of the Sub-Advisers, and no Fund is required to hedge its foreign currency positions.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Forward foreign currency contracts are privately negotiated transactions, and can have substantial price volatility. As a result, they offer less protection against default by the other party than is available for instruments traded on an exchange. In addition, unlike trading in most other types of instruments, there is no systematic reporting of last sale information with respect to the foreign currencies underlying currency forwards. When used for hedging purposes, they tend to limit any potential gain that may be realized if the value of a Fund's foreign holdings increases because of currency fluctuations. It may not be possible, however, to hedge against long-term currency changes. When used for speculative purposes, forward currency exchange contracts may result in additional losses that are not otherwise related to changes in the value of the securities held by a Fund. The institutions that deal in forward currency contracts are not required to continue to make markets in the currencies they trade and these markets can experience periods of illiquidity. Further, these contracts are subject to the same political and economic risk factors applicable to the countries issuing these currencies.

**FUTURES CONTRACTS AND RELATED OPTIONS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund*). A futures contract is a type of derivative

instrument that obligates the holder to buy or sell a specified financial instrument or currency in the future at an agreed upon price. For example, a futures contract may obligate a Fund, at maturity, to take or make delivery of certain domestic or foreign securities, the cash value of a securities index or a stated quantity of a foreign currency. When a Fund purchases an option on a futures contract, it has the right to assume a position as a purchaser or seller of a futures contract at a specified exercise price during the option period. When a Fund sells an option on a futures contract, it becomes obligated to purchase or sell a futures contract if the option is exercised.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, each Fund may invest in futures contracts and options on futures contracts on domestic or foreign exchanges or boards of trade. The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may use these investments for hedging purposes and non-hedging purposes in order to seek exposure to certain countries or currencies. Each of the other Funds may use these investments for hedging purposes, in anticipation of the purchase of securities and for liquidity management purposes but not for speculative purposes or to seek to enhance total return.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Futures contracts and options present the following risks: imperfect correlation between the change in market value of a Fund's securities and the price of futures contracts and options; the possible inability to close a futures contract when desired; losses due to unanticipated market movements, which potentially are unlimited; and the possible inability of the Investment Adviser to correctly predict the direction of securities prices, interest rates, currency exchange rates and other economic factors. Futures markets are highly volatile and the use of futures may increase the volatility of a Fund's NAV. As a result of the low margin deposits normally required in futures trading, a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in substantial losses to a Fund. Futures contracts and options on futures may be illiquid, and exchanges may limit fluctuations in futures contract prices during a single day. Foreign exchanges or boards of trade generally do not offer the same protections as U.S. exchanges.

**GEOGRAPHIC RISK AND SECTOR RISK.** Although the Funds do not concentrate in any one industry or geographic region, each Fund may invest without limitation in a particular market or geographic sector.

- **GEOGRAPHIC RISK** (*principal risk for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*) is the risk that if a Fund invests a significant portion of its total assets in certain issuers within the same geographic region, an economic, business or political development affecting that

region may affect the value of a Fund's investments more than if the Fund's investments were not so concentrated in such geographic region. Geographic risk may be applicable to the foreign investments held by the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund.

- **SECTOR RISK** (*principal risk for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund, Active M U.S. Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*) is the risk that companies in similar businesses may be similarly affected by particular economic or market events, which may in certain circumstances, cause the value of securities of all companies in a particular sector to decrease.

**ILLIQUID OR RESTRICTED SECURITIES.** Illiquid securities include repurchase agreements and time deposits with notice/termination dates of more than seven days, certain variable amount master demand notes that cannot be called within seven days, certain insurance funding agreements (see "Insurance Funding Agreements" below) certain unlisted over-the-counter options and other securities that are traded in the U.S. but are subject to trading restrictions because they are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act"), and both foreign and domestic securities that are not readily marketable.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Each Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in securities that are illiquid. If otherwise consistent with their investment objectives and strategies, the Funds may purchase commercial paper issued pursuant to Section 4(2) of the 1933 Act and securities that are not registered under the 1933 Act but can be sold to "qualified institutional buyers" in accordance with Rule 144A under the 1933 Act ("Rule 144A Securities"). These securities will not be considered illiquid so long as the Investment Adviser or Sub-Advisers determine that, under guidelines approved by the Trust's Board of Trustees, an adequate trading market exists.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Because illiquid and restricted securities may be difficult to sell at an acceptable price, they may be subject to greater volatility and may result in a loss to a Fund. The practice of investing in Rule 144A Securities could increase the level of a Fund's illiquidity during any period that qualified institutional buyers become uninterested in purchasing these securities. Securities purchased by a Fund that are liquid at the time of purchase may subsequently become illiquid due to events relating to the issuer of the securities, market events, economic conditions and/or investor perception.

**INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund*). The Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund considers a company to be engaged in the infrastructure business if it derives at least 50% of its revenues or earnings from, or devotes at least 50% of its assets to, infrastructure-related activities. The Fund defines infrastructure as the systems and networks of energy, transportation, utilities, communication and other services required for the normal function of society. Infrastructure companies are involved in, among other things: (1) the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy; (2) the storage, transportation and distribution of natural resources, such as natural gas, used to produce energy; (3) alternative energy sources; (4) the building, operation and maintenance of highways, toll roads, tunnels, bridges and parking lots; (5) the building, operation and maintenance of airports and ports, railroads and mass transit systems; (6) telecommunications, including wireless and cable networks; (7) water treatment and distribution; and (8) other public services such as health care and education.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Under normal circumstances, the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund will invest at least 80% of its assets in securities of infrastructure companies that are listed on a domestic or foreign exchange.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Investments in infrastructure-related companies have greater exposure to the potential adverse economic, regulatory, political and other changes affecting such entities. Infrastructure-related companies are subject to a variety of factors that may adversely affect their business or operations including high interest costs in connection with capital construction programs, costs associated with compliance with and changes in environmental and other regulations, difficulty in raising capital in adequate amounts on reasonable terms in periods of high inflation and unsettled capital markets, the effects of surplus capacity, increased competition from other providers of services in a developing deregulatory environment, uncertainties concerning the availability of fuel at reasonable prices, the effects of energy conservation policies and other factors. Additionally, infrastructure-related entities may be subject to regulation by various governmental authorities and may also be affected by governmental regulation of rates charged to customers, government budgetary constraints, service interruption due to environmental, operational or other mishaps and the imposition of special tariffs and changes in tax laws, regulatory policies and accounting standards.

Other factors that may affect the operations of infrastructure-related companies include innovations in technology that could render the way in which a company delivers a product or service obsolete, significant changes to the number of ultimate end-users of a company's products, increased susceptibility to

terrorist acts or political actions, risks of environmental damage due to a company's operations or an accident, and general changes in market sentiment towards infrastructure and utilities assets.

**INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS ("IPO")** (*principal strategy of the Active M U.S. Equity Fund and the Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*). An IPO is a company's first offering of stock to the public.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** At times, the Active M U.S. Equity Fund may make significant investments in IPOs. The Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Active M International Equity Fund may also invest in IPOs to a moderate extent.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** An IPO presents the risk that the market value of IPO shares will fluctuate considerably due to factors such as the absence of a prior public market, unseasoned trading, the small number of shares available for trading and limited information about the issuer. The purchase of IPO shares may involve high transaction costs. IPO shares are subject to market risk and liquidity risk. When a Fund's asset base is small, a significant portion of the Fund's performance could be attributable to investments in IPOs because such investments would have a magnified impact on the Fund. As the Fund's assets grow, the effect of the Fund's investments in IPOs on the Fund's performance probably will decline, which could reduce the Fund's performance. Because of the price volatility of IPO shares, a Fund may choose to hold IPO shares for a very short period of time. This may increase the turnover of a portfolio and may lead to increased expenses to the Fund, such as commissions and transaction costs. By selling IPO shares, the Fund may realize taxable gains it subsequently will distribute to shareholders. In addition, the market for IPO shares can be speculative and/or inactive for extended periods of time. There is no assurance that the Fund will be able to obtain allocable portions of IPO shares. The limited number of shares available for trading in some IPOs may make it more difficult for the Fund to buy or sell significant amounts of shares without an unfavorable impact on prevailing prices. Investors in IPO shares can be affected by substantial dilution in the value of their shares, by sales of additional shares and by concentration of control in existing management and principal shareholders. The Funds' investments in IPO shares may include the securities of "unseasoned" companies (companies with less than three years of continuous operations), which present risks considerably greater than common stocks of more established companies. These companies may have limited operating histories and their prospects for profitability may be uncertain. These companies may be involved in new and evolving businesses and may be vulnerable to competition and changes

in technology, markets and economic conditions. They may be more dependent on key managers and third parties and may have limited product lines.

**INSURANCE FUNDING AGREEMENTS.** An insurance funding agreement (“IFA”) is an agreement that requires a Fund to make cash contributions to a deposit fund of an insurance company’s general account. The insurance company then credits interest to the Fund for a set time period.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Funds, except for the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund, may invest in IFAs issued by insurance companies that meet quality and credit standards established by the Investment Adviser or Sub-Advisers.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** IFAs are not insured by a government agency—they are backed only by the insurance company that issues them.

As a result, they are subject to default risk of the non-governmental issuer. In addition, the transfer of IFAs may be restricted and an active secondary market in IFAs currently does not exist. This means that it may be difficult or impossible to sell an IFA at an appropriate price.

**INTEREST RATE SWAPS, CURRENCY SWAPS, TOTAL RATE OF RETURN SWAPS, CREDIT SWAPS, AND INTEREST RATE FLOORS, CAPS AND COLLARS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund*). Interest rate and currency swaps are contracts that obligate a Fund and another party to exchange their rights to pay or receive interest or specified amounts of currency, respectively. Interest rate floors entitle the purchasers to receive interest payments if a specified index falls below a predetermined interest rate. Interest rate caps entitle the purchasers to receive interest payments if a specified index exceeds a predetermined interest rate. An interest rate collar is a combination of a cap and a floor that preserves a certain return within a predetermined range of interest rates. Total rate of return swaps are contracts that obligate a party to pay or receive interest in exchange for the payment by the other party of the total return generated by a security, a basket of securities, an index or an index component. Credit swaps are contracts involving the receipt of floating or fixed rate payments in exchange for assuming potential credit losses of an underlying security. Credit swaps give one party to a transaction the right to dispose of or acquire an asset (or group of assets) or, in the case of credit default swaps, the right to receive or make a payment from the other party, upon the occurrence of specific credit events.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may enter into swap transactions and transactions involving interest rate floors, caps and collars for

hedging purposes or to seek to increase total return. The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may enter into swap transactions and transactions involving interest rate floors, caps and collars for hedging purposes to offset a potential loss in one position by establishing an interest in an opposite position and to gain exposure to certain countries or currencies. To the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies, each of the other Funds may enter into currency swap transactions for hedging purposes.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** The use of swaps and interest rate floors, caps and collars is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. Like other derivative securities, these instruments can be highly volatile. If a Sub-Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates and currency exchange rates, the investment performance of a Fund would be less favorable than it would have been if these instruments were not used. Because these instruments normally are illiquid, a Fund may not be able to terminate its obligations when desired. In addition, if a Fund is obligated to pay the return under the terms of a total rate of return swap, Fund losses due to unanticipated market movements potentially are unlimited. A Fund also may suffer a loss if the other party to a transaction defaults. Credit default swaps involve special risks in addition to those mentioned above because they are difficult to value, are highly susceptible to liquidity and credit risk, and generally pay a return to the party that has paid the premium only in the event of an actual default by the issuer of the underlying obligation (as opposed to a credit downgrade or other indication of financial difficulty).

**INTERFUND BORROWING AND LENDING.** The SEC has granted an exemption permitting the Funds to participate in an interfund borrowing and lending program. This interfund borrowing and lending program allows the Funds to borrow money from other funds in the Trust and other affiliated portfolios of Northern Institutional Funds (each a “Portfolio,” and together the “Portfolios”) advised by NTI, and to lend money to other funds in the Trust, for temporary or emergency purposes. The interfund borrowing and lending program is currently not operational. The interfund borrowing and lending program is subject to a number of conditions, including, among other things, the requirements that (1) a Fund may not borrow or lend money through the program unless it receives a more favorable interest rate than is available from a bank loan rate or investment yield respectively; (2) loans will be secured on an equal priority basis with at least an equivalent percentage of collateral to loan value as any outstanding bank loan that requires collateral; (3) loans will have a maturity no longer than that of any outstanding bank loan (and in any event not over seven days); (4) if an event of default occurs under any agreement evidencing an outstanding

bank loan to a Fund, the event of default will automatically (without need for action or notice by the lending fund or Portfolio) constitute an immediate event of default under the interfund lending agreement entitling the lending fund or Portfolio to call the interfund loan (and exercise all rights with respect to any collateral) and that such call will be made if the bank exercises its right to call its loan under its agreement with a Fund; (5) a Fund may not borrow money if the loan would cause its outstanding borrowings from all sources to exceed 10% of its net assets at the time of the loan, except that a Fund may borrow up to 33 1/3% of its total assets through the program or from other sources if each interfund loan is secured by the pledge of segregated collateral with a market value of at least 102% of the outstanding principal value of the loan; (6) a Fund may not loan money if the loan would cause its aggregate outstanding loans through the program to exceed 15% of its net assets at the time of the loan; (7) a Fund's interfund loans to any one fund shall not exceed 5% of the Fund's net assets; and (8) a Fund's borrowings through the program will not exceed the greater of 125% of the Fund's total net cash redemptions or 102% of the Fund's sales fails (when the sale of securities "fails," due to circumstances beyond the Fund's control) for the preceding seven calendar days as measured at the time of the loan. In addition, a Fund may participate in the interfund borrowing and lending program only if and to the extent that such participation is consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies. The Board of Trustees of the Trust is responsible for overseeing the interfund borrowing and lending program. A delay in repayment to a lending Fund could result in a lost investment opportunity or additional lending costs.

**INVESTMENT COMPANIES.** Affiliated and unaffiliated investment companies include, but are not limited to, money market funds, index funds, "country funds" (i.e., funds that invest primarily in issuers located in a specific foreign country or region) and ETFs. Other investment companies in which the Funds may invest include other funds for which the Investment Adviser or any of its affiliates serve as investment adviser.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies, the Funds may invest in securities issued by other affiliated or unaffiliated investment companies. Investments by a Fund in other investment companies, including ETFs, will be subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act except as permitted by SEC orders. The Funds may rely on SEC orders that permit them to invest in certain ETFs beyond the limits contained in the 1940 Act, subject to certain terms and conditions. Although the Funds do not expect to do so in the foreseeable future, each Fund is authorized to invest substantially all of its assets in a single open-end investment company or series thereof that has substantially the same investment objective, strategies and fundamental restrictions as the Fund.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** As a shareholder of another investment company, a Fund would be subject to the same risks as any other investor in that company. It also would bear a proportionate share of any fees and expenses paid by that company. These expenses would be in addition to the management and other fees paid directly by the Fund. A Fund's investment in an ETF involves other considerations. In particular, shares of ETFs are listed and traded on securities exchanges and in over-the-counter markets, and the purchase and sale of these shares involve transaction fees and commissions. In addition, shares of an ETF are issued in "creation units" and are not redeemable individually except upon termination of the ETF. To redeem, a Fund must accumulate enough shares of an ETF to reconstitute a creation unit. The liquidity of a small holding of an ETF, therefore, will depend upon the existence of a secondary market. Certain ETFs intend to effect creations and redemptions principally for cash, rather than primarily in-kind because of the nature of the ETFs' investments.

Investments in such ETFs may be less tax efficient than investments in ETFs that effect creations and redemptions in-kind. Also, even though the market price of an ETF is derived from the securities it owns, such price at any given time may be at, below or above the ETF's NAV. The market for certain securities in which an ETF invests may become illiquid under adverse market conditions or economic conditions independent of any specific adverse changes in the conditions of a particular issuer. In adverse market conditions, the ETF's market price may begin to reflect illiquidity or pricing uncertainty of the ETF's portfolio securities, which could lead to the ETF's shares trading at a price that is higher or lower than the ETF's net asset value. At times such differences may be significant.

**INVESTMENT GRADE SECURITIES.** A security is considered investment grade if, at the time of purchase, it is rated:

- BBB or higher by S&P;
- Baa3 or higher by Moody's;
- BBB or higher by Fitch; or
- BBB or higher by DBRS Ratings Limited ("DBRS").

A security will be considered investment grade if it receives one of the above ratings, or a comparable rating from another organization that is recognized as a Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO"), even if it receives a lower rating from other rating organizations. An unrated security also may be considered investment grade if a Sub-Adviser determines that the security is comparable in quality to a security that has been rated investment grade.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Funds may invest in fixed-income and convertible securities to the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies. Except as stated in the section entitled “Non-Investment Grade Securities,” fixed-income and convertible securities purchased by the Funds, except for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund, generally will be investment grade.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Although securities rated BBB by S&P, DBRS or Fitch, or Baa3 by Moody’s are considered investment grade, they have certain speculative characteristics. Therefore, they may be subject to a higher risk of default than obligations with higher ratings. Subsequent to its purchase by a Fund, a rated security may cease to be rated or its rating may be reduced below the minimum rating required for purchase by the Fund and may be in default. The Sub-Advisers will consider such an event in determining whether the Fund should continue to hold the security.

**LARGE CAP STOCK RISK** (*principal risk of the Active M International Equity Fund, Active M U.S. Equity Fund and Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund*). Larger, more established companies may be unable to respond quickly to new competitive challenges such as changes in technology and consumer tastes. Many larger companies also may not be able to attain the high growth rate of successful smaller companies, especially during extended periods of economic expansion. For purposes of a Fund’s investment policies, the market capitalization of a company is based on its capitalization at the time the Fund purchases the company’s securities. Market capitalizations of companies change over time. A Fund is not obligated to sell a company’s security simply because, subsequent to its purchase, the company’s market capitalization has changed to be outside the capitalization range, if any, in effect for the Fund.

**LARGE SHAREHOLDER TRANSACTIONS RISK** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund*). Each Fund may experience adverse effects when certain large shareholders purchase or redeem large amounts of shares of the Fund. Such large shareholder redemptions may cause the Fund to sell its securities at times when it would not otherwise do so, which may negatively impact the Fund’s NAV and liquidity. Such sales may also accelerate the increase of taxable income to shareholders if these sales result in gains, and may also increase transaction costs. In addition, a large redemption could result in the Fund’s current expenses being allocated over a smaller asset base, leading to an increase in the Fund’s expense ratio. Similarly, large share purchases may adversely affect the Fund’s performance to the extent that the Fund is delayed in investing new cash and is required to maintain a larger cash position than it ordinarily would.

**LENDING OF SECURITIES.** In order to generate additional income, the Funds may lend securities to banks, brokers and dealers or other qualified institutions. In exchange, the Funds will receive collateral equal to at least 100% of the value of the securities loaned.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Securities lending may represent no more than one-third of the value of a Fund’s total assets (including the loan collateral). Any cash collateral received by a Fund in connection with these loans may be invested in a variety of short-term investments, either directly or indirectly through money market portfolios. Loan collateral (including any investment of the collateral) is not included in the calculation of the percentage limitations described elsewhere in this Prospectus regarding each Fund’s investments in particular types of securities. The securities lending program is not currently operational.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** A principal risk when lending portfolio securities is that the borrower might become insolvent or refuse to honor its obligation to return the securities. In this event, a Fund could experience delays in recovering its securities and possibly may incur a capital loss. Upon return of the loaned securities, the Fund would be required to return the related cash collateral to the borrower and may be required to liquidate portfolio securities in order to do so. To the extent that the portfolio securities acquired with such collateral have decreased in value, it may result in the Fund realizing a loss at a time when it would not otherwise do so. As such, securities lending may introduce leverage into the Fund. Additionally, the amount of a Fund’s distributions that qualify for taxation at reduced long-term capital gains rates for individuals, as well as the amount of a Fund’s distributions that qualify for the dividends received deduction available to corporate shareholders (together, “qualifying dividends”), may be reduced as a result of a Fund’s securities lending activities. This is because any dividends paid on securities while on loan will not be deemed to have been received by a Fund, and the equivalent amount paid to a Fund by the borrower of the securities will not be deemed to be a qualifying dividend.

**LIQUIDITY RISK** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*) is the risk that a Fund will not be able to pay redemption proceeds within the time periods described in this Prospectus because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, legal restrictions impairing their ability to sell particular securities or close derivative positions at an advantageous market price or other reasons. Certain portfolio securities may be less liquid than others, which may make them difficult or impossible to sell at the time and the price that a Fund would like or difficult to value. A

Fund may have to lower the price, sell other securities instead or forgo an investment opportunity. Any of these events could have a negative effect on portfolio management or performance. Liquidity risk may be the result of, among other things, the reduced number and capacity of traditional market participants to make a market for certain securities. As a general matter, dealers recently have been less willing to make markets for certain fixed income securities. The potential for liquidity risk may be magnified by a rising interest rate environment or other circumstances where investor redemptions from money market and other fixed income mutual funds may be higher than normal, potentially causing increased supply in the market due to selling activity. Funds with principal investment strategies that involve investments in securities of companies with smaller market capitalizations, foreign securities derivatives or securities with potential market and/or credit risk tend to have the greatest exposure to liquidity risk. All of these risks may increase during periods of market volatility.

**LOAN PARTICIPATIONS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). A loan participation is an interest in a loan to a U.S. or foreign company or other borrower, which is administered and sold by a financial intermediary.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest in loan participations in the form of a direct or co-lending relationship with the corporate borrower, an assignment of an interest in the loan by a co-lender or another participant, or a participation in a seller's share of the loan.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Like other debt obligations, loan participations may be subject to credit risk if the borrower defaults on making interest payments and repaying the principal. In the case where the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund purchases a loan assignment or participation from another lender, the Fund also is subject to delays, expenses and risks greater than would have been involved if the Fund had purchased a direct obligation of the borrower. The Fund's investments in loan participations and assignments are also subject to the risk that the financial institution acting as agent for all interests in a loan might fail financially. It is also possible that the Fund could be held liable as a co-lender.

**LOAN RISK** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). The primary risk in an investment in loans is that borrowers may be unable to meet their interest and/or principal payment obligations. Loans may be unrated, less liquid and more difficult to value than traditional debt securities. Loans may be made to finance highly leveraged corporate operations or acquisitions. The highly leveraged capital structure of the borrowers in such transactions may

make such loans especially vulnerable to adverse changes in financial, economic or market conditions. Loans in which a Fund may invest may be either collateralized or uncollateralized and senior or subordinate. Investments in uncollateralized and/or subordinate loans entail a greater risk of nonpayment than do investments in loans that hold a more senior position in the borrower's capital structure and/or are secured with collateral. Loans generally are subject to restrictions on transfer, and only limited opportunities may exist to sell such loans in secondary markets. As a result, a Fund may be unable to sell loans at a desired time or price. If the Fund acquires only an assignment or a participation in a loan made by a third party, the Fund may not be able to control amendments, waivers or the exercise of any remedies that a lender would have under a direct loan and may assume liability as a lender. Transactions in loans may settle on a delayed basis. As a result, the proceeds from the sale of a loan may not be available to make additional investments or to meet a Fund's redemption obligations.

**MARKET EVENTS RISK** relates to the increased volatility, depressed valuations, decreased liquidity and heightened uncertainty in the financial markets throughout the world during the past decade. These conditions may recur, worsen or spread.

The U.S. government and the Federal Reserve, as well as certain foreign governments and central banks, have taken steps to support financial markets, including by keeping interest rates at historically low levels. This and other government intervention may not work as intended, particularly if the efforts are perceived by investors as being unlikely to achieve the desired results. The U.S. government and Federal Reserve have reduced their market support activities and have begun raising interest rates. Certain foreign governments and central banks have implemented so-called negative interest rates (e.g., charging depositors who keep their cash at a bank) to spur economic growth. Governmental or central bank actions, including interest rate increases, measures to address budget deficits, or contrary actions by different governments, as well as downgrades of sovereign debt, declines in oil and commodity prices, dramatic changes in currency exchange rates and geopolitical events (including war and terror attacks) could negatively affect financial markets generally, increase market volatility and reduce the value and liquidity of securities in which a Fund invests.

Policy and legislative changes in the United States and in other countries (such as the UK referendum vote to exit the EU) may also contribute to decreased liquidity and increased volatility in the financial markets.

Political turmoil within the U.S. and abroad may also impact the Funds. Although the U.S. government has honored its credit obligations, it remains possible that the U.S. could default on its obligations. While it is impossible to predict the consequences of such an unprecedented event, it is likely that a default by the U.S. would be highly disruptive to the U.S. and global securities markets and could significantly impair the value of the Funds' investments. Similarly, political events within the United States at times have resulted, and may in the future result, in a shutdown of government services, which could negatively affect the U.S. economy, decrease the value of many Fund investments, and increase uncertainty in or impair the operation of the U.S. or other securities markets. The U.S. is also considering significant new investments in infrastructure and national defense which, coupled with lower federal taxes, could lead to increased government borrowing and higher interest rates. While these proposed policies are going through the political process, the equity and debt markets may react strongly to expectations, which could increase volatility, especially if the market's expectations for changes in government policies are not borne out.

Economies and financial markets throughout the world are increasingly interconnected. Economic, financial or political events, trading and tariff arrangements, terrorism, natural disasters and other circumstances in one country or region could have profound impacts on global economies or markets. As a result, whether or not a Fund directly invests in securities of issuers located in or with significant exposure to the countries directly affected, the value and liquidity of a Fund's investments may be negatively affected.

**MASTER LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund*). An MLP is a publicly traded company organized as a limited partnership or limited liability company and treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes. MLPs may derive income and gains from the exploration, development, mining or production, processing, refining, transportation (including pipelines transporting gas, oil, or products thereof), or the marketing of any mineral or natural resources. MLPs generally have two classes of owners, the general partner and limited partners. The general partner of an MLP is typically owned by one or more of the following: a major energy company, an investment fund, or the direct management of the MLP. The general partner may be structured as a private or publicly traded corporation or other entity. The general partner typically controls the operations and management of the MLP through an up to 2% equity interest in the MLP plus, in many cases, ownership of common units and subordinated units. Limited partners own the remainder of the partnership, through ownership of common units, and have a limited role in the partnership's operations and management.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund may invest up to 25% of its net assets in energy-related companies organized as MLPs and their affiliates. The other Funds may also invest in MLPs to the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** As compared to common stockholders of a corporation, holders of MLP units have more limited control and limited rights to vote on matters affecting the partnership and the potential for a conflict of interest exists between common unit holders and an MLP's limited partners. In addition, there are certain tax risks associated with an investment in MLP units and conflicts of interest may exist between common unit holders and the general partner, including those arising from incentive distribution payments. MLPs may also be sensitive to changes in interest rates and during periods of interest rate volatility, may not provide attractive returns.

A change in current tax law, or a change in the business of a given MLP, could result in an MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in such MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income. Thus, if any of the MLPs owned by the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund were treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the after-tax return to the Fund with respect to its investment in such MLPs would be materially reduced, which could cause a decline in the value of the common stock.

To the extent that the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund invests in the equity securities of an MLP, the Fund will be a limited partner or member in such MLP. Accordingly, the Fund will be required to include in its taxable income the Fund's allocable share of the income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses recognized by each such MLP, regardless of whether the MLP distributes cash to the Fund. The Fund may have to sell investments to provide cash to make required distributions if its allocable share of an MLP's income and gains is not offset by the MLP's tax deductions, losses and credits and the MLP does not distribute sufficient cash. The portion, if any, of a distribution received by the Fund from an MLP that is offset by the MLP's tax deductions, losses or credits is essentially treated as a return of capital. The percentage of an MLP's income and gains that is offset by tax deductions, losses and credits will fluctuate over time for various reasons. A significant slowdown in acquisition activity or capital spending by MLPs held in the Fund's portfolio could result in a reduction of depreciation deductions, which may result in increased current taxable income for the Fund.

Because of the Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund's investments in equity securities of MLPs, the Fund's earnings and profits may be calculated using accounting methods that are different from those used for calculating taxable income. Because of these differences, the Fund may make distributions out of its current or accumulated earnings and profits, which will be treated as taxable dividends, even in years in which the Fund's distributions exceed its taxable income. In addition, changes in tax laws or regulations, or future interpretations of such laws or regulations, could adversely affect the Fund or the MLP investments in which the Fund invests.

**MORTGAGE DOLLAR ROLLS.** A mortgage dollar roll involves the sale by a Fund of securities for delivery in the future (generally within 30 days). The Fund simultaneously contracts with the same counterparty to repurchase substantially similar (same type, coupon and maturity) but not identical securities on a specified future date. During the roll period, the Fund loses the right to receive principal and interest paid on the securities sold. However, the Fund benefits to the extent of any difference between (a) the price received for the securities sold and (b) the lower forward price for the future purchase and/or fee income plus the interest earned on the cash proceeds of the securities sold.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may enter into mortgage dollar rolls in an effort to enhance investment performance. For financial reporting and tax purposes, the Fund treats mortgage dollar rolls as two separate transactions: one involving the purchase of a security and a separate transaction involving a sale. The Fund currently does not intend to enter into mortgage dollar rolls that are accounted for as financings and do not treat them as borrowings.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Successful use of mortgage dollar rolls depends upon the Sub-Adviser's ability to predict correctly interest rates and mortgage prepayments. If the Sub-Adviser is incorrect in its prediction, the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may experience a loss. Unless the benefits of a mortgage dollar roll exceed the income, capital appreciation and gain or loss due to mortgage prepayments that would have been realized on the securities sold as part of the roll, the use of this technique will diminish the Fund's performance.

**NON-INVESTMENT GRADE SECURITIES** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). Non-investment grade fixed-income and convertible securities (sometimes referred to as "junk bonds") generally are rated BB or below by S&P, DBRS or Fitch, or Ba or below by Moody's (or have received a comparable rating from another NRSRO), or, if unrated, are determined to be of comparable quality by the Sub-Advisers.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund each may invest without limitation in non-investment grade securities, including convertible securities, as part of its principal investment strategy. Each of the other Funds may invest up to 15% of their total assets, measured at the time of purchase, in non-investment grade fixed-income and convertible securities, when the Sub-Advisers determine that such securities are desirable in light of the Funds' investment objectives and portfolio mix.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Non-investment grade fixed-income and convertible securities are considered predominantly speculative by traditional investment standards. The market value of these low-rated securities tends to be more sensitive to individual corporate developments and changes in interest rates and economic conditions than higher-rated securities. In addition, they generally present a higher degree of credit risk. Issuers of low-rated securities are often highly leveraged, so their ability to repay their debt during an economic downturn or periods of rising interest rates may be impaired. The risk of loss due to default by these issuers also is greater because low-rated securities generally are unsecured and often are subordinated to the rights of other creditors of the issuers of such securities.

Investment by a Fund in defaulted securities poses additional risk of loss should nonpayment of principal and interest continue in respect of such securities. Even if such securities are held to maturity, recovery by a Fund of its initial investment and any anticipated income or appreciation will be uncertain. A Fund also may incur additional expenses in seeking recovery on defaulted securities.

The secondary market for lower quality securities is concentrated in relatively few market makers and is dominated by institutional investors. Accordingly, the secondary market for such securities is not as liquid as, and is more volatile than, the secondary market for higher quality securities. In addition, market trading volume for these securities generally is lower and the secondary market for such securities could contract under adverse market or economic conditions, independent of any specific adverse changes in the condition of a particular issuer. These factors may have an adverse effect on the market price and a Fund's ability to dispose of particular portfolio investments. A less developed secondary market also may make it more difficult for a Fund to obtain precise valuations of such securities in its portfolio.

Investments in lower quality securities, whether rated or unrated, will be more dependent on the Investment Adviser's credit analysis than would be the case with investments in higher quality securities.

**OPERATIONAL RISK.** The Investment Adviser and Sub-Advisers to the Funds and other Fund service providers may be subject to operational risk and may experience disruptions and operating errors. In particular, these errors or failures in systems and technology, including operational risks associated with reliance on third party service providers, may adversely affect a Fund's ability to calculate its net asset values in a timely manner, including over a potentially extended period. While service providers are required to have appropriate operational risk management policies and procedures in place, their methods of operational risk management may differ from those of the Funds in the setting of priorities, the personnel and resources available or the effectiveness of relevant controls. The Investment Adviser, through its monitoring and oversight of service providers, seeks to ensure that service providers take appropriate precautions to avoid and mitigate risks that could lead to disruptions and operating errors. However, it is not possible for the Investment Adviser, the Sub-Advisers or other Fund service providers to identify all of the operational risks that may affect a Fund or to develop processes and controls to completely eliminate or mitigate their occurrence or effects.

**OPTIONS.** An option is a type of derivative instrument that gives the holder the right (but not the obligation) to buy (a "call") or sell (a "put") an asset in the future at an agreed upon price prior to the expiration date of the option.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may write (sell) covered call options, buy put options, buy call options and write secured put options for hedging (or cross hedging) purposes or to gain exposure to certain countries or currencies.

To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, each of the other Funds may write (sell) covered call options, buy put options, buy call options and write secured put options for hedging (or cross-hedging) purposes, in anticipation of the purchase of securities and for liquidity management purposes but not for speculative purposes or to seek to enhance total return.

Options may relate to particular securities, foreign or domestic securities indices, financial instruments or foreign currencies. A Fund will not purchase put and call options in an amount that exceeds 5% of its net assets at the time of purchase. The total value of a Fund's assets subject to options written by the Fund will not be greater than 25% of its net assets at the time the option is written. A Fund may "cover" a call option by owning the security underlying the option or through other means. Put options written by a Fund are "secured" if the Fund maintains liquid assets in a segregated account in an amount at least equal to the exercise price of the option up until the expiration date.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Options trading is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary Fund securities transactions. The value of options can be highly volatile, and their use can result in loss if the Investment Adviser or Sub-Advisers are incorrect in their expectation of price fluctuations. The successful use of options for hedging purposes also depends in part on the ability of the Investment Adviser or Sub-Advisers to predict future price fluctuations and the degree of correlation between the options and securities markets.

Each Fund will invest and trade in unlisted over-the-counter options only with firms deemed creditworthy by the Investment Adviser or Sub-Advisers. However, unlisted options are not subject to the protections afforded purchasers of listed options by the Options Clearing Corporation, which performs the obligations of its members which fail to perform them in connection with the purchase or sale of options. Therefore, a Fund bears the risk that the counterparty that wrote the option will be unable or unwilling to perform its obligations under the option contract.

**PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RISK** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*). The portfolio turnover rates for the Funds are likely to be higher than the rates for comparable mutual funds with a single portfolio manager. Each of the Funds' Sub-Advisers makes decisions to buy or sell securities independently from other Sub-Advisers. Thus, one Sub-Adviser for a Fund may be selling a security when another Sub-Adviser for the Fund, or a Sub-Adviser for another Fund, is purchasing that same security. Additionally, when a Fund replaces a Sub-Adviser, the new Sub-Adviser may restructure the investment portfolio, which may increase the Fund's portfolio turnover rate. The Sub-Advisers will not consider the portfolio turnover rate a limiting factor in making investment decisions for certain Funds. A high portfolio turnover rate (100% or more) is likely to involve higher brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, which could reduce a Fund's return. It also may result in higher short-term capital gains that are taxable to shareholders. See "Financial Highlights" for the Funds' historical portfolio turnover rates.

**PREFERRED STOCK** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). Preferred stocks are securities that represent an ownership interest providing the holder with claims on the issuer's earnings and assets before common stock owners but after bond owners.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest in preferred stocks as part of its principal investment strategy. Each of the other Funds may also invest in preferred stocks to the extent consistent with its investment objectives and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Unlike most debt securities, the obligations of an issuer of preferred stock, including dividend and other payment obligations, typically may not be accelerated by the holders of such preferred stock on the occurrence of an event of default or other non-compliance by the issuer of the preferred stock. Preferred stock is sensitive to changes in an issuer's creditworthiness and changes to interest rates, and may decline in value as interest rates rise.

**PREPAYMENT (OR CALL) RISK** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*) is the risk that prepayment of the underlying mortgages or other collateral of some fixed-income securities may result in a decreased rate of return and a decline in value of those securities. As interest rates fall and certain obligations are paid off by obligors more quickly than originally anticipated, the Funds may invest the proceeds in securities with lower yields.

**REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*). REITs are pooled investment vehicles that invest primarily in either real estate or real estate related loans.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund invests a substantial amount of its assets in REITs. The other Funds also may invest in REITs to the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** The value of a REIT is affected by changes in the value of the properties owned by the REIT or securing mortgage loans held by the REIT. REITs are dependent upon cash flow from their investments to repay financing costs and the ability of a REIT's manager. REITs also are subject to risks generally associated with investments in real estate. These risks include: changes in the value of real estate properties and difficulties in valuing and trading real estate; risks related to general and local economic conditions; overbuilding and increased competition; increases in property taxes and operating expenses; changes in zoning laws; casualty and condemnation losses; variations in rental income; changes in the appeal of property to tenants; tenant bankruptcies and other credit problems; and changes in interest rates. To the extent that assets underlying a REIT are concentrated geographically, by property type or in certain other respects, these risks may be heightened. A Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any expenses, including management fees, paid by a REIT in which it invests.

REITs are subject to a highly technical and complex set of provisions in the Code. It is possible that a Fund may invest in a real estate company that purports to be a REIT and that the company could fail to qualify as a REIT. In the event of any such unexpected failure to qualify as a REIT, the company would be subject to corporate-level taxation, significantly

reducing the return to a Fund on its investment in such company. REITs could possibly fail to qualify for tax free pass-through of income under the Code, or to maintain their exemptions from registration under the 1940 Act. The above factors may also adversely affect a borrower's or a lessee's ability to meet its obligations to the REIT. In the event of a default by a borrower or lessee, the REIT may experience delays in enforcing its rights as a mortgagee or lessor and may incur substantial costs associated with protecting its investments.

In addition, the value of such securities may fluctuate in response to the market's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuers of mortgage-related securities owned by a Fund. Because investments in mortgage-related securities are interest sensitive, the ability of the issuer to reinvest or to reinvest favorably in underlying mortgages may be limited by government regulation or tax policy. For example, action by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to limit the growth of the nation's money supply may cause interest rates to rise and thereby reduce the volume of new residential mortgages. Additionally, although mortgages and mortgage-related securities are generally supported by some form of government or private guarantees and/or insurance, there is no assurance that private guarantors or insurers will be able to meet their obligation.

REITs (especially mortgage REITs) are also subject to interest rate risks. When interest rates decline, the value of a REIT's investment in fixed rate obligations can be expected to rise. Conversely, when interest rates rise, the value of a REIT's investment in fixed rate obligations can be expected to decline. In contrast, as interest rates on adjustable rate mortgage loans are reset periodically, yields on a REIT's investments in such loans will gradually align themselves to reflect changes in market interest rates, causing the value of such investments to fluctuate less dramatically in response to interest rate fluctuations than would investments in fixed rate obligations.

The REIT investments of a Fund often do not provide complete tax information to the Fund until after the calendar year-end. Consequently, because of the delay, it may be necessary for the Fund to request permission to extend the deadline for issuance of Forms 1099-DIV beyond January 31. Also, under current provisions of the Code, distributions attributable to operating income of REITs in which the Fund invests are not eligible for favorable tax treatment as long-term capital gains and will be taxable to you as ordinary income.

In addition, under recent tax legislation, individuals and certain other noncorporate entities are generally eligible for a 20% deduction with respect to taxable ordinary dividends from REITs. Currently, there is not a regulatory mechanism for regulated investment companies such as a Fund to pass through

the 20% deduction to shareholders. As a result, in comparison, investors investing directly in REITs would generally be eligible for the 20% deduction for such taxable income from these investments while investors investing in REITs held indirectly through a Fund would not be eligible for the 20% deduction for their share of such taxable income.

**REAL ESTATE SECURITIES** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*). The Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund's concentration in real estate securities presents special risk considerations.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund invests principally in companies that are engaged in real estate activities, including owning, trading or developing income-producing real estate. The other Funds may invest in real estate securities to the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** The performance of real estate securities may be significantly impacted by the performance of real estate markets. Property values may fall due to increasing vacancies or declining rents resulting from economic, legal, cultural or technological developments. The price of real estate company shares also may drop because of the failure of borrowers to pay their loans and poor management. Many real estate companies utilize leverage, which increases investment risk and could adversely affect a company's operations and market value in periods of rising interest rates as well as risks normally associated with debt financing. Real property investments are subject to varying degrees of risk. The yields available from investments in real estate depend on the amount of income and capital appreciation generated by the related properties. Income and real estate values may also be adversely affected by such factors as applicable domestic and foreign laws (*e.g.*, Americans with Disabilities Act and tax laws), interest rate levels and the availability of financing. If the properties do not generate sufficient income to meet operating expenses, including, where applicable, debt service, ground lease payments, tenant improvements, third-party leasing commissions and other capital expenditures, the income and ability of the real estate company to make payments of any interest and principal on its debt securities will be adversely affected. In addition, real property may be subject to the quality of credit extended and defaults by borrowers and tenants. The performance of the economy in each of the countries and regions in which the real estate owned by a Fund is located affects occupancy, market rental rates and expenses and, consequently, has an impact on the income from such properties and their underlying values. The financial results of major local employers also may have an impact on the cash flow and value of certain properties. In addition, real estate investments are relatively illiquid and, therefore, the ability of real estate companies to vary their

portfolios promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions is limited. A real estate company such as a REIT may also have joint venture investments in certain of its properties and, consequently, its ability to control decisions relating to such properties may be limited.

**REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund*).

Repurchase agreements involve the purchase of securities by a Fund subject to the seller's agreement to repurchase them at a mutually agreed upon date and price.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with their investment objectives and principal investment strategies, each Fund may enter into repurchase agreements with domestic and foreign financial institutions such as banks and broker-dealers that are deemed to be creditworthy by the Investment Adviser or Sub-Advisers. Although the securities subject to a repurchase agreement may have maturities exceeding one year, settlement of the agreement generally will not occur more than one year after a Fund acquires the securities.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** In the event of a default, a Fund will suffer a loss to the extent that the proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities and other collateral are less than the repurchase price and the Fund's costs associated with delay and enforcement of the repurchase agreement. In addition, in the event of bankruptcy, a Fund could suffer additional losses if a court determines that the Fund's interest in the collateral is unenforceable by the Fund. If a Fund enters into a repurchase agreement with a foreign financial institution, it may be subject to the same risks associated with foreign investments (see "Foreign Investments" on page 65). The Funds intend to enter into transactions with counterparties that are creditworthy at the time of the transactions. There is always the risk that the Investment Adviser's analysis of creditworthiness is incorrect or may change due to market conditions. To the extent that a Fund focuses its transactions with a limited number of counterparties, it will be more susceptible to the risks associated with one or more counterparties.

With respect to collateral received in repurchase transactions or other investments, a Fund may have significant exposure to the financial services and mortgage markets. Such exposure, depending on market conditions, could have a negative impact on the Fund, including minimizing the value of any collateral.

**SHORT SALES AGAINST-THE-BOX.** A short sale against-the-box is a short sale such that at all times when the short position is open the seller owns or has the right to obtain, at no added cost, an equal amount of securities identical to those sold short.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies, the Funds may make short sales against-the-box.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** If a Fund sells securities short against-the-box, it may protect itself from loss if the price of the securities declines in the future, but will lose the opportunity to profit on such securities if the price rises. If a Fund effects a short sale of securities at a time when it has an unrealized gain on the securities, it may be required to recognize that gain as if it actually had sold the securities (as a “constructive sale”) on the date it effects the short sale. However, such constructive sale treatment may not apply if the Fund closes out the short position with securities other than the appreciated securities held at the time of the short sale and if certain other conditions are satisfied. Uncertainty regarding the tax consequences of effecting short sales may limit the extent to which a Fund may effect short sales.

**SMALL AND MID-CAP INVESTMENTS** (*principal strategy for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund, Active M U.S. Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund and Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund*). Investments in small and mid-capitalization companies involve greater risk and more abrupt or erratic price movements than investments in larger capitalization stocks. Among the reasons for the greater price volatility of these investments are the less certain growth or earnings prospects of smaller firms and the lower degree of liquidity in the markets for such securities. Small and mid-capitalization companies may be thinly traded and may have to be sold at a discount from current market prices or in small lots over an extended period of time. In addition, these securities are subject to the risk that during certain periods the liquidity of particular issuers or industries, or all securities in particular investment categories, will shrink or disappear suddenly and without warning as a result of adverse economic or market conditions, or adverse investor perceptions whether or not accurate. Because of the lack of sufficient market liquidity, a Fund may incur losses because it will be required to effect sales at a disadvantageous time and only then at a substantial drop in price. Small and mid-capitalization companies include “unseasoned” issuers that do not have an established financial history; often have limited product lines, markets or financial resources; may depend on or use a few key personnel for management or upon a small or inexperienced management group; and may be susceptible to losses and risks of bankruptcy. Small and mid-capitalization companies may be operating at a loss or have significant variations in operating results; may be engaged in a rapidly changing business with products subject to a substantial risk of obsolescence; may require substantial additional capital to support their operations, to finance expansion or to maintain their competitive position; and may have substantial borrowings or may otherwise have a weak financial condition. In addition, these companies may face intense competition, including competition from companies

with greater financial resources, more extensive development, manufacturing, marketing, and other capabilities, and a larger number of qualified managerial and technical personnel.

Transaction costs for small and mid-capitalization investments are often higher than those of larger capitalization companies. Investments in small and mid-capitalization companies may be more difficult to price precisely than other types of securities because of their characteristics and lower trading volumes. As a result, their performance can be more volatile and they may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Fund’s investments. Securities of small companies may lack sufficient market liquidity to enable a Fund to effect sales at an advantageous time or without a substantial drop in price.

**SOVEREIGN DEBT RISK** (*principal risk for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund*). The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may invest in sovereign debt securities. These securities are issued or guaranteed by foreign governmental entities. These investments are subject to the risk that a governmental entity may delay or refuse to pay interest or repay principal on its sovereign debt, due, for example, to cash flow problems, insufficient foreign currency reserves, political considerations, the relative size of the governmental entity’s debt position in relation to the economy or the failure to put in place economic reforms required by the International Monetary Fund or other multilateral agencies. If a governmental entity defaults, it may ask for more time in which to pay or for further loans. There is no legal process for collecting sovereign debts that a government does not pay nor are there bankruptcy proceedings through which all or part of the sovereign debt that a governmental entity has not repaid may be collected.

**STRIPPED SECURITIES.** These securities are issued by the U.S. government (or an agency, instrumentality or a sponsored enterprise), foreign governments, banks and other issuers. They entitle the holder to receive either interest payments or principal payments that have been “stripped” from a debt obligation. These obligations include stripped mortgage-backed securities, which are derivative multi-class mortgage securities. The Treasury Department has facilitated transfers of ownership of zero coupon securities by accounting separately for the beneficial ownership of particular interest coupon and principal payments on Treasury securities through the Federal Reserve book-entry record-keeping system. The Federal Reserve program as established by the Treasury Department is known as “Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities” or “STRIPS.” Under the STRIPS program, a Fund will be able to have its beneficial ownership of zero coupon securities recorded directly in the book-entry record-keeping

system in lieu of having to hold certificates or other evidences of ownership of the underlying U.S. Treasury securities.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies, the Funds may purchase stripped securities, including securities registered in the STRIPS program.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Stripped securities are very sensitive to changes in interest rates and to the rate of principal prepayments. A rapid or unexpected change in either interest rates or principal prepayments could depress the price of stripped securities held by the Funds and adversely affect a Fund's total return.

**STRUCTURED SECURITIES** (*principal strategy for the Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). The value of such securities is determined by reference to changes in the value of specific currencies, interest rates, commodities, securities, indices or other financial indicators (the "Reference") or the relative change in two or more References. The interest rate or the principal amount payable upon maturity or redemption may be increased or decreased depending upon changes in the applicable Reference. Examples of structured securities include, but are not limited to, debt obligations where the principal repayment at maturity is determined by the value of a specified security or securities index. Structured securities may also include credit linked notes, which are securities with embedded credit default swaps. An investor holding a credit linked note generally receives a fixed or floating coupon and the note's par value upon maturity, unless the referred credit defaults or declares bankruptcy, in which case the investor receives the amount recovered. In effect, investors holding credit linked notes receive a higher yield in exchange for assuming the risk of a specified credit event.

Structured securities may also include inverse floating debt securities ("inverse floaters"). The interest rate on inverse floaters resets in the opposite direction from the market rate of interest to which the inverse floater is indexed. An inverse floater may be considered to be leveraged to the extent that its interest rate varies by a magnitude that exceeds the magnitude of change in the index rate of interest. The higher the degree of leverage of an inverse floater, the greater the volatility of its market value.

Structured securities also include equity linked notes. An equity linked note is a note whose performance is tied to a single stock, a stock index or a basket of stocks. Equity linked notes combine the principal protection normally associated with fixed income investments with the potential for capital appreciation normally associated with equity investments. Upon the maturity of the note, the holder generally receives a return of principal based on the capital appreciation of the

linked securities. Depending on the terms of the note, equity linked notes may also have a "cap" or "floor" on the maximum principal amount to be repaid to holders, irrespective of the performance of the underlying linked securities. For example, a note may guarantee the repayment of the original principal amount invested (even if the underlying linked securities have negative performance during the note's term), but may cap the maximum payment at maturity at a certain percentage of the issuance price or the return of the underlying linked securities. Alternatively, the note may not guarantee a full return on the original principal, but may offer a greater participation in any capital appreciation of the underlying linked securities. The terms of an equity linked note may also provide for periodic interest payments to holders at either a fixed or floating rate. The secondary market for equity linked notes may be limited, and the lack of liquidity in the secondary market may make these securities difficult to dispose of and to value.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest in structured securities. The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund may invest in structured securities for hedging purposes and to gain exposure to certain countries and currencies. The other Funds may invest in structured securities to the extent consistent with their investment objectives and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Structured securities present additional risk that the interest paid to a Fund on a structured security will be less than expected. The terms of some structured securities may provide that in certain circumstances no principal is due at maturity and, therefore, a Fund could suffer a total loss of its investment. Structured securities may be positively or negatively indexed, so that appreciation of the Reference may produce an increase or decrease in the interest rate or value of the security at maturity. In addition, changes in the interest rates or the value of the security at maturity may be a multiple of changes in the value of the Reference. Consequently, structured securities may entail a greater degree of market risk than other types of securities. Structured securities also may be more volatile, less liquid and more difficult to accurately price than less complex securities due to their derivative nature. Structured securities are also subject to counterparty risk.

**TECHNOLOGY SECURITIES RISK** (*principal risk for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund and Active M U.S. Equity Fund*). Investments in technology securities present special risk considerations. Technology companies may produce or use products or services that prove commercially unsuccessful, become obsolete or become adversely impacted by government regulation. Competitive pressures in the technology industry, both domestically and internationally, may affect negatively the financial condition of technology companies, and a substantial

investment in technology securities may subject the Funds to more volatile price movements than a more diversified securities portfolio. In certain instances, technology securities may experience significant price movements caused by disproportionate investor optimism or pessimism with little or no basis in fundamental economic conditions. Technology companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel. The products of technology companies may face obsolescence due to rapid technological developments, frequent and new product introduction, unpredictable changes in growth rates and competition for the services of qualified personnel. In addition to the foregoing risks, technology companies operating in the health sciences and healthcare sector may be subject to product liability litigation. As a result of these and other reasons, investments in the technology industry can experience sudden and rapid appreciation and depreciation.

In addition, the Funds may make substantial investments in companies that develop or sell computer hardware or software and peripheral products, including computer components, which present additional risks. These companies are often dependent on the existence and health of other products or industries and face highly competitive pressures, product licensing, trademark and patent uncertainties and rapid technological changes which may have a significant effect on their financial condition. For example, an increasing number of companies and new product offerings can lead to price cuts and slower selling cycles, and many of these companies may be dependent on the success of a principal product, may rely on sole source providers and third-party manufacturers, and may experience difficulties in managing growth.

**TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS.** The Funds temporarily may hold cash and/or invest in short-term obligations including U.S. government obligations, high quality money market instruments (including commercial paper and obligations of foreign and domestic banks such as certificates of deposit, bank and deposit notes, bankers' acceptances and fixed time deposits), and repurchase agreements with maturities of 13 months or less.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** A Fund temporarily may hold cash or invest all or any portion of its assets in short-term obligations pending investment, to meet anticipated redemption requests or to manage a reallocation of assets to a Sub-Adviser. A Fund also may hold cash or invest in short-term obligations as a temporary measure mainly designed to limit a Fund's losses in response to adverse market, economic or other conditions when the Sub-Advisers believe that it is in the best interest of the Fund to pursue such a defensive strategy. The Sub-Advisers may, however, choose not to make such temporary investments even in very volatile or adverse conditions.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** A Fund may not achieve its investment objective when it holds cash or invests its assets in short-term obligations or otherwise makes temporary investments. A Fund also may miss investment opportunities and have a lower total return during these periods.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS.** These instruments include U.S. Treasury obligations, such as bills, notes and bonds, which generally differ only in terms of their interest rates, maturities and time of issuance. They also include obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises. Securities guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises are deemed to include (a) securities for which the payment of principal and interest is backed by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the U.S. government or by an agency, instrumentality or sponsored enterprise thereof, and (b) participations in loans made to foreign governments or their agencies that are so guaranteed. U.S. treasury obligations also include floating rate public obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, each Fund may invest in a variety of U.S. Treasury obligations and in other obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Not all U.S. government obligations carry the same credit support. Although many U.S. government securities are issued by entities chartered or sponsored by Acts of Congress, such as the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac") and the Federal Home Loan Banks, such securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury and, therefore, are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Some, such as those of the Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae"), are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury, although this guarantee applies only to principal and interest payments and does not apply to losses resulting from declines in the market value of these securities. Other obligations, such as those of the Federal Home Loan Banks, are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury; and others are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency's obligations. Still others are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality or sponsored enterprise. The maximum potential liability of the issuers of some U.S. government securities may greatly exceed their current resources, including their legal right to support from the U.S. Treasury. It is possible that these issuers will not have the funds to meet their payment obligations in the future. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government would

provide financial support to its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises if it is not obligated to do so by law. In addition, the secondary market for certain participations in loans made to foreign governments or their agencies may be limited.

An agency of the U.S. government has placed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship, a statutory process with the objective of returning the entities to normal business operations. It is unclear what effect this conservatorship will have on the securities issued or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. As a result, these securities are subject to more credit risk than U.S. government securities that are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States (e.g. U.S. Treasury bonds).

To the extent a Fund invests in debt instruments or securities of non-U.S. government entities that are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, pursuant to the FDIC Debt Guarantee Program (the “Debt Guarantee Program”) or other similar programs, there is a possibility that the guarantee provided under the Debt Guarantee Program or other similar programs may be discontinued or modified at a later date.

**VALUATION RISK** (*principal risk for the Active M Emerging Markets Equity Fund, Active M International Equity Fund, Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund, Multi-Manager Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Multi-Manager Global Real Estate Fund and Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund*). The sale price a Fund could receive for a security may differ from the Fund’s valuation of the security, particularly for securities that trade in low volume or volatile markets, or that are valued using a fair value methodology. Because portfolio securities of certain Funds may be traded on non-U.S. exchanges, and non-U.S. exchanges may be open on days when the Fund does not price its shares, the value of the securities in the Fund’s portfolio may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or sell the Fund’s shares.

**VARIABLE AND FLOATING RATE INSTRUMENTS.** Variable and floating rate instruments have interest rates that periodically are adjusted either at set intervals or that float at a margin tied to a specified index rate. These instruments include variable amount master demand notes and long-term variable and floating rate bonds (sometimes referred to as “Put Bonds”) where the Fund obtains at the time of purchase the right to put the bond back to the issuer or a third party at par at a specified date and leveraged inverse floating rate instruments (“inverse floaters”). An inverse floater is leveraged to the extent that its interest rate varies by an amount that exceeds the amount of the variation in the index rate of interest. Some variable and floating rate instruments have interest rates that periodically are adjusted as a result of changes in inflation rates.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Each of the Funds may invest in variable and floating rate instruments to the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Variable and floating rate instruments are subject to many of the same risks as fixed rate instruments, particularly credit risk and default risk, which could impede their value. Because there is no active secondary market for certain variable and floating rate instruments, they may be more difficult to sell if the issuer defaults on its payment obligations or during periods when a Fund is not entitled to exercise its demand rights. As a result, the Funds could suffer a loss with respect to these instruments. In addition, variable and floating rate instruments are subject to changes in value based on changes in market interest rates or changes in the issuer’s or guarantor’s creditworthiness. In addition, there may be a lag between an actual change in the underlying interest rate benchmark and the reset time for an interest payment of a variable or floating instrument, which could harm or benefit a Fund, depending on the interest rate environment or other circumstances. In a rising interest rate environment, for example, a floating or variable rate instrument that does not reset immediately would prevent a Fund from taking full advantage of rising interest rates in a timely manner.

**WARRANTS.** A warrant represents the right to purchase a security at a predetermined price for a specified period of time.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager Emerging Markets Debt Opportunity Fund and the Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest in warrants that are acquired in connection with its investments in debt or convertible securities as part of its principal investment strategy. Each of the other Funds may invest in warrants and similar rights to the extent consistent with its investment objectives and strategies. A Fund also may purchase bonds that are issued in tandem with warrants.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Warrants are derivative instruments that present risks similar to options.

**WHEN-ISSUED SECURITIES, DELAYED DELIVERY TRANSACTIONS AND FORWARD COMMITMENTS.** A purchase of “when-issued” securities refers to a transaction made conditionally because the securities, although authorized, have not yet been issued. A delayed delivery or forward commitment transaction involves a contract to purchase or sell securities for a fixed price at a future date beyond the customary settlement period.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** Each Fund may purchase or sell securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment basis. Although the Funds generally would purchase securities in these transactions with the intention of acquiring the securities, the Funds may dispose of such securities prior to settlement if a Sub-Adviser deems it appropriate to do so.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** Purchasing securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment basis involves the risk that the value of the securities may decrease by the time they actually are issued or delivered. Conversely, selling securities in these transactions involves the risk that the value of the securities may increase by the time they actually are issued or delivered. Therefore, these transactions may have a leveraging effect on a Fund, making the value of an investment in the Fund more volatile and increasing the Fund's overall investment exposure. These transactions also involve the risk that the counterparty may fail to deliver the security or cash on the settlement date.

**ZERO COUPON, PAY-IN-KIND AND CAPITAL APPRECIATION BONDS.** These are securities issued at a discount from their face value because interest payments typically are postponed until maturity. Interest payments on pay-in-kind securities are payable by the delivery of additional securities. The amount of the discount rate varies depending on factors such as the time remaining until maturity, prevailing interest rates, a security's liquidity and the issuer's credit quality. These securities also may take the form of debt securities that have been stripped of their interest payments.

**INVESTMENT STRATEGY.** The Multi-Manager High Yield Opportunity Fund may invest in zero coupon, pay-in-kind and capital appreciation bonds as part of its principal investment strategy. Each of the other Funds also may invest in zero coupon, pay-in-kind and capital appreciation bonds to the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies.

**SPECIAL RISKS.** The market prices of zero coupon, pay-in-kind and capital appreciation bonds generally are more volatile than the market prices of interest-bearing securities and are likely to respond to a greater degree to changes in interest rates than interest-bearing securities having similar maturities and credit quality. A Fund's investments in zero coupon, pay-in-kind and capital appreciation bonds may require the Fund to sell some of its Fund securities to generate sufficient cash to satisfy certain income distribution requirements.

**OTHER SECURITIES.** Additionally, the Funds may purchase other types of securities or instruments similar to those described in these sections if otherwise consistent with the Funds' investment objectives and strategies. You should carefully consider the risks discussed in these sections before investing in a Fund.

The Funds may invest in other securities and are subject to further restrictions and risks that are described in the SAI. Additional information about the Funds, their investments and related risks can also be found in "Investment Objective and Strategies" in the SAI.

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## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**THE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS TABLES ARE INTENDED TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND A FUND'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS (OR, IF SHORTER, THE PERIOD OF THE FUND'S OPERATION).**

Certain information reflects the financial results for a single Fund share. The total returns in the tables represent the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in a Fund for a share held for the entire period (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). This information has been derived from financial statements that have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Funds' financial statements, is included in the Funds' annual report, which is available upon request and without charge.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## ACTIVE M EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY FUND

Selected per share data	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$18.05</b>	<b>\$15.36</b>	<b>\$18.25</b>	<b>\$18.98</b>	<b>\$18.92</b>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:					
Net investment income	0.28	0.20	0.25	0.24	0.18
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	4.22	2.79	(2.49)	(0.78)	0.09
Total from Investment Operations	4.50	2.99	(2.24)	(0.54)	0.27
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:					
From net investment income <sup>(1)</sup>	—	(0.30)	(0.28)	(0.19)	(0.21)
From net realized gains	—	—	(0.37)	—	—
Total Distributions Paid	—	(0.30)	(0.65)	(0.19)	(0.21)
Net Asset Value, End of Year	\$22.55	\$18.05	\$15.36	\$18.25	\$18.98
<b>Total Return<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>24.93%</b>	<b>19.75%</b>	<b>(12.11)%</b>	<b>(2.80)%</b>	<b>1.45%</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:					
Net assets, in thousands, end of year	\$1,268,985	\$962,121	\$677,066	\$1,313,300	\$2,006,652
Ratio to average net assets of:					
Expenses, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	1.10%	1.15% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.35%	1.35%	1.33%
Expenses, before reimbursements and credits	1.21%	1.28% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.45%	1.45%	1.53%
Net investment income, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	1.34%	1.13% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.32%	1.25%	1.00%
Net investment income, before reimbursements and credits	1.23%	1.00% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.22%	1.15%	0.80%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	36.14%	59.52%	37.58%	36.18%	54.90%

- (1) Distributions to shareholders from net investment income include amounts relating to foreign currency transactions which are treated as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes.
- (2) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the year, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the year.
- (3) The net expenses and net investment income ratios include additional reimbursements of management or advisory fees, as applicable, incurred in connection with the investment of uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds approximately \$46,000, which represents less than 0.01 percent of average net assets for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018, and approximately \$36,000, \$16,000, \$9,000 and \$44,000, which represent less than 0.005 percent of average net assets for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Absent the additional reimbursements, net investment income and reimbursements would have been decreased and net expenses would have been increased by a corresponding amount.
- (4) Effective June 15, 2016, the investment adviser reduced the management fee paid by the Fund and agreed to increase the expense reimbursement it provides the Fund by contractually limiting the Fund's total expenses (other than certain excepted expenses) to 1.10%. Prior to June 15, 2016, the expense limitation had been 1.35%.

## ACTIVE M INTERNATIONAL EQUITY FUND

Selected per share data	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$9.95</b>	<b>\$9.35</b>	<b>\$10.44</b>	<b>\$10.92</b>	<b>\$9.88</b>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:					
Net investment income	0.17	0.16	0.13	0.20	0.12
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	1.74	0.60	(1.15)	(0.45)	1.04
Total from Investment Operations	1.91	0.76	(1.02)	(0.25)	1.16
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:					
From net investment income <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.16)	(0.16)	(0.07)	(0.23)	(0.12)
Total Distributions Paid	(0.16)	(0.16)	(0.07)	(0.23)	(0.12)
Net Asset Value, End of Year	\$11.70	\$9.95	\$9.35	\$10.44	\$10.92
<b>Total Return<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>19.17%</b>	<b>8.27%</b>	<b>(9.77)%</b>	<b>(2.27)%</b>	<b>11.70%</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:					
Net assets, in thousands, end of year	\$1,390,844	\$1,156,348	\$1,448,577	\$1,915,763	\$2,853,538
Ratio to average net assets of:					
Expenses, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	0.84%	0.92% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.20%	1.21%	1.29% <sup>(5)</sup>
Expenses, before reimbursements and credits	0.93%	1.01% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.26%	1.30%	1.41%
Net investment income, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	1.49%	1.41% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.22%	1.45%	1.31% <sup>(5)</sup>
Net investment income, before reimbursements and credits	1.40%	1.32% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.16%	1.36%	1.19%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	65.70%	115.17%	70.24%	35.87%	39.36%

- (1) Distributions to shareholders from net investment income include amounts relating to foreign currency transactions which are treated as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes.
- (2) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the year, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the year.
- (3) The net expenses and net investment income ratios include additional reimbursements of management or advisory fees, as applicable, incurred in connection with the investment of uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds approximately \$77,000, \$71,000, \$57,000, \$19,000 and \$66,000, which represent less than 0.01, less than 0.01, less than 0.005, less than 0.005 and less than 0.005 percent of average net assets for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Absent the additional reimbursements, net investment income and reimbursements would have been decreased and net expenses would have been increased by a corresponding amount.
- (4) Effective June 15, 2016, the investment adviser reduced the management fee paid by the Fund and agreed to increase the expense reimbursement it provides the Fund by contractually limiting the Fund's total expenses (other than certain excepted expenses) to 0.84%. Prior to June 15, 2016, the expense limitation had been 1.20%.
- (5) Effective January 1, 2014, the investment advisers agreed to increase the expense reimbursements they provide to the Fund by contractually limiting the Fund's total expenses to 1.20%. Prior to January 1, 2014, the expense limitation had been 1.35%.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## ACTIVE M U.S. EQUITY FUND

Selected per share data	2018	2017 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$11.39</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:		
Net investment income	0.15	0.09
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	1.24	1.39
Total from Investment Operations	1.39	1.48
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:		
From net investment income	(0.14)	(0.09)
From net realized gains	(0.09)	—
Total Distributions Paid	(0.23)	(0.09)
Net Asset Value, End of Period	\$12.55	\$11.39
<b>Total Return<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>12.25%</b>	<b>14.83%</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:		
Net assets, in thousands, end of period	\$472,739	\$581,300
Ratio to average net assets of: <sup>(3)</sup>		
Expenses, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(4)</sup>	0.66%	0.67%
Expenses, before reimbursements and credits	0.69%	0.72%
Net investment income, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(4)</sup>	1.18%	1.16% <sup>(5)</sup>
Net investment income, before reimbursements and credits	1.15%	1.11% <sup>(5)</sup>
Portfolio Turnover Rate	68.70%	15.49%

(1) Commenced investment operations on May 5, 2016.

(2) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the period. The total return is annualized for periods less than one year.

(3) Annualized for periods less than one year.

(4) The net expenses and net investment income ratios include additional reimbursements of management or advisory fees, as applicable, incurred in connection with the investment of uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds of approximately \$30,000 and \$27,000, which represent less than 0.01 percent of average net assets for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2018 and period from May 5, 2016 (commencement of operations) to March 31, 2017, respectively. Absent the additional reimbursements, net investment income and reimbursements would have been decreased and net expenses would have been increased by a corresponding amount.

(5) As the Fund commenced investment operations on May 5, 2016, annualized net investment income may not be reflective of actual amounts the Fund might obtain in a full year of operation.

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED MARCH 31,

## MULTI-MANAGER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT OPPORTUNITY FUND

Selected per share data	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>\$9.32</b>	<b>\$8.89</b>	<b>\$9.15</b>	<b>\$10.17</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:					
Net investment income	0.55	0.53	0.35	0.46	0.12
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	0.30	0.03	(0.55) <sup>(2)</sup>	(1.00)	0.13
Total from Investment Operations	0.85	0.56	(0.20)	(0.54)	0.25
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:					
From net investment income <sup>(3)</sup>	(0.49)	(0.13)	—	(0.34)	(0.08)
From net realized gains	—	—	—	(0.14)	—
Return of capital	—	— <sup>(4)</sup>	(0.06)	—	—
Total Distributions Paid	(0.49)	(0.13)	(0.06)	(0.48)	(0.08)
Net Asset Value, End of Period	\$9.68	\$9.32	\$8.89	\$9.15	\$10.17
<b>Total Return<sup>(5)</sup></b>	<b>9.30%</b>	<b>6.32%</b>	<b>(2.25)%</b>	<b>(5.52)%</b>	<b>2.54%</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:					
Net assets, in thousands, end of period	\$189,630	\$98,397	\$66,299	\$106,888	\$102,174
Ratio to average net assets of: <sup>(6)</sup>					
Expenses, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(7)</sup>	0.94%	0.95%	0.95%	0.94%	0.92%
Expenses, before reimbursements and credits	1.05%	1.14%	1.11%	1.11%	1.42%
Net investment income, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(7)</sup>	5.36%	5.48%	5.00%	4.62%	4.43% <sup>(8)</sup>
Net investment income, before reimbursements and credits	5.25%	5.29%	4.84%	4.45%	3.93% <sup>(8)</sup>
Portfolio Turnover Rate	99.56%	210.59%	203.48%	273.46%	38.02%

(1) Commenced investment operations on December 3, 2013.

(2) The Fund received reimbursements from NTI of approximately \$52,000. The reimbursements represent less than \$0.01 per share and had no effect on the Fund's total return.

(3) Distributions to shareholders from net investment income include amounts relating to foreign currency transactions which are treated as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes.

(4) Per share amounts from distributions paid from return of capital were less than \$0.01 per share.

(5) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the period. The total return is not annualized for periods less than one year.

(6) Annualized for periods less than one year.

(7) The net expenses and net investment income ratios include additional reimbursements of management or advisory fees, as applicable, incurred in connection with the investment of uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds of approximately \$13,000, \$8,000, \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000, which represent less than 0.01, less than 0.01, less than 0.01, less than 0.005 and 0.01 percent of average net assets for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015, and the period from December 3, 2013 (commencement of operations) to March 31, 2014, respectively. Absent the additional reimbursements, net investment income and reimbursements would have been decreased and net expenses would have been increased by a corresponding amount.

(8) As the Fund commenced investment operations on December 3, 2013, annualized net investment income ratios may not be reflective of actual amounts the Fund might obtain in a full year of operation.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL LISTED INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Selected per share data	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$12.97</b>	<b>\$11.76</b>	<b>\$12.22</b>	<b>\$12.81</b>	<b>\$10.86</b>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:					
Net investment income	0.38	0.28	0.31	0.26	0.23
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	0.51	1.22	(0.53)	(0.17)	2.12
Total from Investment Operations	0.89	1.50	(0.22)	0.09	2.35
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:					
From net investment income <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.44)	(0.29)	(0.24)	(0.23)	(0.21)
From net realized gains	(0.59)	—	—	(0.45)	(0.19)
Total Distributions Paid	(1.03)	(0.29)	(0.24)	(0.68)	(0.40)
Net Asset Value, End of Year	\$12.83	\$12.97	\$11.76	\$12.22	\$12.81
<b>Total Return<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>6.62%</b>	<b>12.96%</b>	<b>(1.80)%</b>	<b>0.64%</b>	<b>22.15%</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:					
Net assets, in thousands, end of year	\$1,205,762	\$1,248,307	\$1,178,180	\$1,403,843	\$1,129,178
Ratio to average net assets of:					
Expenses, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Expenses, before reimbursements and credits	1.02%	1.02%	1.02%	1.04%	1.18%
Net investment income, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	2.59%	2.24%	2.51%	2.05%	2.10%
Net investment income, before reimbursements and credits	2.57%	2.22%	2.49%	2.01%	1.92%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	44.40%	81.27%	56.92%	58.31%	52.90%

- (1) Distributions to shareholders from net investment income include amounts relating to foreign currency transactions which are treated as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes.
- (2) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the year, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the year.
- (3) The net expenses and net investment income ratios include additional reimbursements of management or advisory fees, as applicable, incurred in connection with the investment of uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds approximately \$97,000, \$52,000, \$33,000, \$10,000 and \$15,000 which represent less than 0.01, less than 0.01, less than 0.005, less than 0.005 and less than 0.005 percent of average net assets for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Absent the additional reimbursements, net investment income and reimbursements would have been decreased and net expenses would have been increased by a corresponding amount.

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED MARCH 31,

## MULTI-MANAGER GLOBAL REAL ESTATE FUND

Selected per share data	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$10.63</b>	<b>\$11.91</b>	<b>\$16.66</b>	<b>\$16.81</b>	<b>\$19.02</b>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:					
Net investment income	0.07	0.30	0.30	0.27	0.23
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	0.35	(0.04)	(0.71)	1.77	(0.17)
Total from Investment Operations	0.42	0.26	(0.41)	2.04	0.06
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:					
From net investment income <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.57)	(0.48)	(0.44)	(0.29)	(0.44)
From net realized gains	(0.10)	(1.06)	(3.90)	(1.90)	(1.83)
Total Distributions Paid	(0.67)	(1.54)	(4.34)	(2.19)	(2.27)
Net Asset Value, End of Year	\$10.38	\$10.63	\$11.91	\$16.66	\$16.81
<b>Total Return<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>3.93%</b>	<b>2.72%</b>	<b>(1.46)%</b>	<b>12.76%</b>	<b>0.96%</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:					
Net assets, in thousands, end of year	\$76,973	\$218,174	\$326,942	\$767,452	\$897,084
Ratio to average net assets of:					
Expenses, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	0.92%	0.96% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.11%	1.10%	1.10%
Expenses, before reimbursements and credits	1.09%	1.10% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.20%	1.26%	1.48%
Net investment income, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	2.97%	1.79% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.44%	1.67%	1.47%
Net investment income, before reimbursements and credits	2.80%	1.65% <sup>(4)</sup>	1.35%	1.51%	1.09%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	144.67%	167.04%	94.24%	117.05%	48.54%

- (1) Distributions to shareholders from net investment income include amounts relating to foreign currency transactions which are treated as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes.
- (2) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the year, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the year.
- (3) The net expenses and net investment income ratios include additional reimbursements of management or advisory fees, as applicable, incurred in connection with the investment of uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds approximately \$8,000, \$16,000, \$14,000, \$6,000 and \$22,000, which represent less than 0.01, less than 0.01, less than 0.005, less than 0.005, and less than 0.005 percent of average net assets for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Absent the additional reimbursements, net investment income and reimbursements would have been decreased and net expenses would have been increased by a corresponding amount.
- (4) Effective June 15, 2016, the investment adviser reduced the management fee paid by the Fund and agreed to increase the expense reimbursement it provides the Fund by contractually limiting the Fund's total expenses (other than certain excepted expenses) to 0.91%. Prior to June 15, 2016, the expense limitation had been 1.10%.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS OR PERIODS ENDED MARCH 31,

## MULTI-MANAGER HIGH YIELD OPPORTUNITY FUND

Selected per share data	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
<b>Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$10.01</b>	<b>\$9.01</b>	<b>\$10.12</b>	<b>\$10.72</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>
INCOME (LOSS) FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:					
Net investment income	0.63	0.63	0.51	0.53	0.56
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses)	(0.20)	0.91	(1.03)	(0.41)	0.10
Total from Investment Operations	0.43	1.54	(0.52)	0.12	0.66
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:					
From net investment income <sup>(1)</sup>	(0.63)	(0.54)	(0.54)	(0.54)	(0.58)
From net realized gains	—	—	(0.05)	(0.18)	(0.36)
Total Distributions Paid	(0.63)	(0.54)	(0.59)	(0.72)	(0.94)
Net Asset Value, End of Year	\$9.81	\$10.01	\$9.01	\$10.12	\$10.72
<b>Total Return<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>4.37%</b>	<b>17.41%</b>	<b>(5.19)%</b>	<b>1.15%</b>	<b>6.31%</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:					
Net assets, in thousands, end of year	\$265,410	\$322,859	\$402,408	\$532,258	\$728,450
Ratio to average net assets of:					
Expenses, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	0.86%	0.87% <sup>(4)</sup>	0.90%	0.90%	0.90%
Expenses, before reimbursements and credits	0.99%	0.99% <sup>(4)</sup>	0.99%	1.04%	1.19%
Net investment income, net of reimbursements and credits <sup>(3)</sup>	6.26%	6.51% <sup>(4)</sup>	5.51%	4.99%	5.21%
Net investment income, before reimbursements and credits	6.13%	6.39% <sup>(4)</sup>	5.42%	4.85%	4.92%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	66.18%	92.50%	73.41%	53.92%	68.10%

- (1) Distributions to shareholders from net investment income include amounts relating to foreign currency transactions which are treated as ordinary income for federal income tax purposes.
- (2) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the year, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the year.
- (3) The net expenses and net investment income ratios include additional reimbursements of management or advisory fees, as applicable, incurred in connection with the investment of uninvested cash in affiliated money market funds approximately \$18,000, \$25,000, \$29,000, \$6,000 and \$28,000, which represent less than 0.01, less than 0.01, less than 0.01, less than 0.005 and less than 0.005 percent of average net assets for the fiscal years ended March 31, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Absent the additional reimbursements, net investment income and reimbursements would have been decreased and net expenses would have been increased by a corresponding amount.
- (4) Effective June 15, 2016, the investment adviser reduced the management fee paid by the Fund and agreed to increase the expense reimbursement it provides the Fund by contractually limiting the Fund's total expenses (other than certain excepted expenses) to 0.85%. Prior to June 15, 2016, the expense limitation had been 0.90%.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION****ANNUAL/SEMIANNUAL REPORTS AND STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information about the Funds' investments is available in the Funds' annual and semiannual reports to shareholders. In the Funds' annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Funds' performance during their last fiscal year.

Additional information about the Funds and their policies is also available in the Funds' SAI. The SAI is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus (and is legally considered part of this Prospectus).

The Funds' annual and semiannual reports and the SAI are available free upon request by calling the Northern Funds Center at 800-595-9111 or by sending an email request to: [northern-funds@ntrs.com](mailto:northern-funds@ntrs.com). The SAI and other information are available from a financial intermediary (such as a broker-dealer or bank) through which the Funds' shares may be purchased or sold.

**TO OBTAIN OTHER INFORMATION AND FOR SHAREHOLDER INQUIRIES:****BY TELEPHONE**

Call 800-595-9111

**BY MAIL**

Northern Funds  
P.O. Box 75986  
Chicago, Illinois 60675-5986

**ON THE INTERNET**

The Funds' documents are available online and may be downloaded from:

- The EDGAR database on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) (text-only).
- Northern Funds' website at [northerntrust.com/funds](http://northerntrust.com/funds).

You may review and obtain copies of Northern Funds' documents by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. You also may obtain copies of Northern Funds' documents by sending your request and a duplicating fee to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-1520 or by electronic request to: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov). Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 202-551-8090.