



## **BTS TACTICAL FIXED INCOME VIT FUND**

**Class 1 shares**

**Class 2 shares**

**PROSPECTUS**

**May 1, 2017**

*Advised by:*  
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This Prospectus provides important information about the Portfolio that you should know before investing. Please read it carefully and keep it for future reference.

These securities have not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission nor has the Securities and Exchange Commission passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.



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## **FUND SUMMARY**

**Investment Objective:** The BTS Tactical Fixed Income VIT Fund (the “Portfolio”) seeks to provide total return.

**Fees and Expenses of the Portfolio:** This table describes the annual operating expenses that you may indirectly pay if you invest in the Portfolio through your retirement plan or if you allocate your insurance contract premiums or payments to the Portfolio. However, each insurance contract and separate account involves fees and expenses that are not described in this Prospectus. If the fees and expenses of your insurance contract or separate account were included in this table, your overall expenses would be higher. You should review the insurance contract prospectus for a complete description of fees and expenses.

<b>Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b> (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
Management Fees	0.85%	0.85%
Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees	0.00%	0.50%
Other Expenses	0.45%	0.45%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.43%	0.43%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1.73%</b>	<b>2.23%</b>

(1) Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are the indirect costs of investing in other investment companies. The operating expenses in this fee table will not correlate to the expense ratio in the Portfolio's financial highlights because the financial statements include only the direct operating expenses incurred by the Portfolio, not the indirect costs of investing in other investment companies.

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

The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Portfolio for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. However, each insurance contract and separate account involves fees and expenses that are not included in the Example. If these fees and expenses were included in the Example, your overall expenses would be higher. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Portfolio's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based upon these assumptions your costs would be:

<b>Class</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
Class 1	\$176	\$545	\$939	\$2,041
Class 2	\$226	\$697	\$1,195	\$2,565

**Portfolio Turnover:** The Portfolio pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or “turns over” its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses or in the Example, affect the Portfolio's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Portfolio's portfolio turnover rate was 289% of the average value of its portfolio.

**Principal Investment Strategies:** Under normal circumstances, the Portfolio invests at least 80% of its assets (defined as net assets plus any borrowing for investment purposes) in fixed income instruments. The Portfolio defines fixed income instruments to include fixed income securities, derivatives based on fixed income securities, other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), that invest primarily in fixed income securities (“Underlying Funds”) and preferred stocks. This 80% fixed income investment policy can be changed without shareholder approval, however, shareholders would be given at least 60 days notice prior to any such change.

The Portfolio's adviser seeks to achieve the Portfolio's investment objective by investing in a diversified portfolio of fixed income securities without restriction as to maturity, credit quality, type of issuer, country or currency.

- The Portfolio may invest in bonds issued by the U.S. Government, its agencies and instrumentalities.
- The Portfolio may invest in investment grade corporate bonds, as well as higher-yielding, higher-risk corporate bonds — commonly known as “high yield” or “junk” bonds — with medium to low credit quality ratings. High yield bonds are generally rated lower than Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service (“Moody's”) or lower than BBB- by Standard and Poor's Rating Group (“S&P”). High yield bonds have a higher expected rate of default than investment grade bonds.
- The Portfolio may invest in high yield bonds directly or through derivative instruments, such as credit default swaps designed to replicate some or all of the features of an underlying portfolio of high yield bonds. Credit default swaps (“CDS”) are typically two-party financial contracts that transfer credit exposure between the two parties. Under a typical CDS, one party (the “seller”) receives pre-determined periodic payments from the other party (the “buyer”). The seller agrees to make compensating specific payments to the buyer if a negative credit event occurs, such as the bankruptcy or default by the issuer of the underlying debt instrument.

The adviser uses an active trading strategy based on a proprietary technical trend-following model to take advantage of trends and momentum in the bond market. Using this model the adviser expects the Portfolio to invest aggressively in securities of a particular bond asset category when trends are positive or, conversely, sell securities in that bond asset category when trends are unfavorable.

The adviser's investment approach includes two primary components:

**Defensive Capital Preservation.** When the adviser believes that interest rates will rise, high yield market credit conditions will deteriorate, or adverse market, economic, political, or other conditions will exist, investments will be focused in money market instruments and/or defensive positions such as short sales, inverse Underlying Funds (Underlying Funds that seek to provide investment results that correspond to the inverse (opposite) of the daily performance of a specific benchmark) or short positions in derivatives. During this period the Portfolio may not be able to achieve its primary investment objective.

**Aggressive Total Return.** When the adviser believes that interest rates will fall or remain steady and/or high yield market credit conditions will improve, investments will be focused in medium-term and long-term U.S. Government securities and/or high yield bond instruments, including derivatives. These investments produce income and have the potential for capital appreciation generated by declining interest rates and/or improving high yield market credit fundamentals.

Although the adviser's investment strategy contemplates investing entirely in one class of fixed income securities, at times the Portfolio may be invested across multiple classes.

**Principal Investment Risks:** *Remember that in addition to possibly not achieving your investment goals, you could lose money by investing in the Portfolio. The Portfolio is not intended to be a complete investment program. The principal risks of investing in the Portfolio are:*

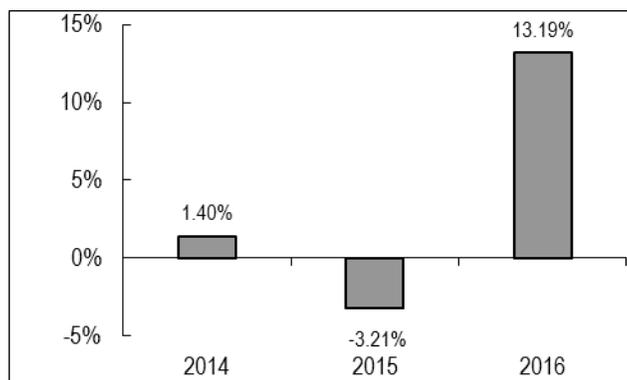
- **Derivatives Risk.** Even a small investment in derivatives (which include options, futures, swap contracts and other transactions) may give rise to leverage risk (which can increase volatility and magnify the Portfolio's potential for loss), and can have a significant impact on the Portfolio's performance. Derivatives are also subject to credit risk (the counterparty may default) and liquidity risk (the Portfolio may not be able to sell the security or otherwise exit the contract in a timely manner).
- **Duration Risk.** Longer-term securities may be more sensitive to interest rate changes. Given the recent, historically low interest rates and the potential for increases in those rates, a heightened risk is posed by rising interest rates to a fund (including Underlying Funds) whose portfolios include longer-term fixed income securities.
- **Emerging Markets Risk.** In addition to the risks generally associated with investing in foreign securities, countries with emerging markets also may have relatively unstable governments, social and legal systems that do not protect shareholders, economies based on only a few industries, and securities markets that trade a small number of issues.
- **Fixed Income Risk.** When the Portfolio invests in fixed income securities, derivatives on fixed income securities or Underlying Funds that invest in fixed income securities, the value of the Portfolio will fluctuate with changes in interest rates. Defaults by fixed income issuers in which the Portfolio invests will also harm performance. Recently, interest rates have been historically low. Current conditions may result in a rise in interest rates, which in turn may result in a decline in the value of the fixed income investments held by the fund or Underlying Funds. As a result, for the present, interest rate risk may be heightened.
- **High-Yield Bond Risk.** Lower-quality bonds, known as "high yield" or "junk" bonds, present greater risk than bonds of higher quality, including an increased risk of default. An economic downturn or period of rising interest rates could adversely affect the market for these bonds and reduce the Portfolio's ability to sell its bonds. The lack of a liquid market for these bonds could decrease the Portfolio's share price.
- **Issuer-Specific Risk.** The value of a specific security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole.
- **Management Risk.** The adviser's judgments about the attractiveness, value and potential appreciation of particular security or derivative in which the Portfolio invests or sells short may prove to be incorrect and may not produce the desired results.
- **Turnover Risk.** A higher portfolio turnover may result in higher transactional and brokerage costs.
- **Underlying Funds Risk.** Underlying Funds are subject to investment advisory fees and other expenses, which will be indirectly paid by the Portfolios. As a result, the cost of investing in the Portfolio will be higher than the cost of investing directly in other investment companies and may be higher than other mutual funds that invest directly in

stocks and bonds. Each investment company is subject to specific risks, depending on the nature of the fund. The Portfolio's investment in an individual Underlying Fund is generally limited to 3% of an Underlying Fund. This limit may prevent the Portfolio from allocating its investments in the manner the Adviser considers optimal, or cause the Adviser to select an investment other than that which the Adviser considers optimal.

- **U.S. Government Securities Risk.** The Portfolio may invest in obligations issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government may choose not to provide financial support to U.S. Government sponsored agencies or instrumentalities if it is not legally obligated to do so, in which case, if the issuer defaulted, the Portfolio might not be able to recover its investment.

**Performance:** The bar chart and performance table below show the variability of the Portfolio's returns, which is some indication of the risks of investing in the Portfolio. The bar chart shows performance of the Portfolio's Class 2 shares for the full calendar year since the Portfolio's inception. The performance table compares the performance of the Portfolio over time to the performance of a broad-based securities market index and a supplemental index. You should be aware that the Portfolio's past performance (before and after taxes) may not be an indication of how the Portfolio will perform in the future. Updated performance information is available at no cost by visiting [www.btsfunds.com](http://www.btsfunds.com) or by calling 1-877-BTS-9820.

Performance Bar Chart For Calendar Year Ended December 31,



Best Quarter: 3/31/16 7.38%  
Worst Quarter: 12/31/15 (3.21)%

The following table shows the average annual returns for the Portfolio over various periods ended December 31, 2016. The index information is intended to permit you to compare the Portfolio's performance to a broad measure of market performance. Updated month-end performance information is available at [www.btsfunds.com](http://www.btsfunds.com).

**Performance Table**  
**Average Annual Total Returns**  
**(For periods ended December 31, 2016)**

	One Year	Since Inception (4/29/13)
Class 2 Returns	13.19%	2.20%
Class 1 Returns	13.17%	1.96%
Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index	2.65%	1.65%

The Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index is an unmanaged index comprised of U.S. investment grade, fixed rate bond market securities, including government, government agency, corporate and mortgage-backed securities. Index return assumes reinvestment of interest. Investors may not invest in the Index directly; unlike the Portfolio's returns the Index does not reflect any fees or expenses.

After-tax returns are calculated using the highest historical individual federal marginal income tax rate and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on a shareholder's tax situation and may differ from those shown. The after-tax returns are not relevant if you hold your Fund shares in tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts ("IRA"). After tax returns for Class 1 Shares would differ from Class 2 returns.

**Adviser:** BTS Asset Management, Inc. (the “Adviser”) is the Portfolio’s investment adviser.

**Portfolio Managers:** Vilis Pasts, Director of Research of the adviser, and Matthew Pasts, Chief Executive Officer of the adviser, are co-portfolio managers. Both portfolio managers have served the Portfolio as a portfolio manager since it commenced operations and share responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Portfolio.

**Purchase and Sale of Portfolio Shares:** Shares of the Portfolio are intended to be sold to certain separate accounts of the participating life insurance companies, as well as qualified pension and retirement plans and certain unregistered separate accounts. You and other purchasers of variable annuity contracts, variable life contracts, participants in pension and retirement plans will not own shares of the Portfolio directly. Rather, all shares will be held by the separate accounts or plans for your benefit and the benefit of other purchasers or participants. Please refer to your insurance contract prospectus or retirement plan documents for additional information on purchase and sale of shares. You may purchase and redeem shares of the Portfolio on any day that the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading, or as permitted under your insurance contract, separate account or retirement plan.

**Tax Information:** It is the Portfolio’s intention to distribute all realized income and gains. Generally, owners of variable insurance contracts are not taxed currently on income or gains realized with respect to such contracts. However, some distributions from such contracts may be taxable at ordinary income tax rates. In addition, distributions made to an owner who is younger than 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10% penalty tax. Investors should ask their own tax advisors for more information on their own tax situation, including possible state or local taxes. Please refer to your insurance contract prospectus or retirement plan documents for additional information on taxes.

**Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries:** If you purchase the Portfolio through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or insurance company), the Portfolio and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Portfolio 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 Portfolio over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RELATED RISKS**

This Prospectus describes the Portfolio, a series of Northern Lights Variable Trust, a Delaware statutory trust (the “Trust”). BTS Asset Management, Inc. serves as the Portfolio’s investment adviser. The Portfolio is intended to be a funding vehicle for variable annuity contracts and flexible premium variable life insurance policies offered by the separate accounts of various insurance companies (each a “Participating Insurance Company”).

The Trust has received an exemptive order from the SEC (“Exemptive Order”) that permits the portfolios of the Trust, including the Portfolio, to sell shares to separate accounts of unaffiliated insurance companies, and pension and retirement plans that qualify for special income tax treatment. These arrangements may present certain conflicts of interest due to differences in tax treatment and other considerations such that the interests of various variable contract owners participating in a portfolio and the interests of pension and retirement plans investing in a portfolio may conflict. For example, violation of the federal tax laws by one insurance company separate account investing directly or indirectly in a portfolio could cause other variable insurance products funded by the separate account of another insurance company to lose their tax-deferred status unless remedial actions were taken. It is possible that a difference may arise among the interests of the holders of different types of contracts—for example, if applicable state insurance law or contract owner instructions prevent a Participating Insurance Company from continuing to invest in a portfolio following a change in the portfolio’s investment policies, or if different tax laws apply to flexible premium variable life insurance contracts and variable annuities. The Trust’s Board of Trustees (the “Board”) and each Participating Insurance Company will attempt to monitor events to prevent such differences from arising. As a condition of the

Exemptive Order, the Board will monitor events in order to identify any material irreconcilable conflicts which may arise (such as those arising from tax or other differences), and to determine what action, if any, should be taken in response to such conflicts. If such a conflict were to occur, one or more insurance companies’ separate accounts might be required to withdraw their investments in one or more of the portfolios. This might force a portfolio, such as the Portfolio, to sell its securities at disadvantageous prices which could cause a decrease in the portfolio’s NAV.

Individual variable annuity contract holders and flexible premium variable life insurance policyholders are not “shareholders” of the Portfolio. The Participating Insurance Company and its separate accounts are the shareholders or investors, although such company will pass through voting rights to its variable annuity contract or flexible premium variable life insurance policyholders. Shares of the Portfolio are not offered directly to the general public.

The adviser, under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, is responsible for constructing and monitoring the Portfolio's investments to be consistent with the investment objective and principal investment strategies of the Portfolio. The Portfolio invests within a specific segment (or portion) of the capital markets and invests in a wide variety of securities consistent with its investment objective and style. The potential risks and returns of the Portfolio vary with the degree to which the Portfolio invests in a particular market segment and/or asset class.

**Investment Objective:** The Portfolio seeks to provide total return. The Portfolio's investment objective is not a fundamental policy and may be changed by the Portfolio's Board of Trustees upon 60 days written notice to shareholders.

**Adviser's Investment Strategies and Investment Process:** The adviser employs its proprietary financial research process, which includes: (1) top-down economic analysis, (2) quantitative research, (3) momentum forecasting and (4) technical analysis to assess trends, investment opportunities across the securities markets and to allocate the Portfolio's investment portfolio primarily between (i) money market instruments, (ii) U.S. Government securities and (iii) high yield bonds and investment companies investing in high yield bonds (or economically similar positions using derivatives). Top-down economic analysis includes the prediction of economic trends based upon historical conditions using econometric and computer-assisted algorithms. Quantitative methods include computing price trends, such as moving average price, and statistical measures, such as standard deviation, to use as predictive tools. Momentum measures use many of these same tools to measure the speed of price changes as a leading indicator of trends. Technical analysis includes the study of an index's or a security's past prices and trading volumes for the purpose of forecasting price trends. The Portfolio will actively switch between specific market segments when the adviser's proprietary investment models indicate a high probability that the applicable investments in such segments are likely to outperform investments in other segments. The Portfolio is actively managed and the adviser anticipates that the Portfolio will have a high portfolio turnover rate.

The adviser will take long positions in securities and derivatives when it believes the asset category they represent is undervalued relative to competing asset categories. Additionally, the adviser will reduce long positions and/or take short positions in securities and derivatives instruments when it believes the asset category they represent is overvalued or to reduce interest rate and/or default risk. A short sale is the sale of a security that the Portfolio does not own in hopes of purchasing the same security at a later date at a lower price. To make delivery to the buyer, the Portfolio must borrow the security, and the Portfolio is obligated to return the security to the lender, which is accomplished by a later purchase of the security by the Portfolio. Short selling is not a principal strategy of the Portfolio. Derivative securities (such as swap contracts, futures and options) may be used to achieve similar results without the need to borrow and later return securities.

The Portfolio may use leverage to enhance returns. The amount of leverage will be a function of the adviser's ability to identify attractive investments and its assessment of the overall investment environment. The Portfolio may borrow an amount up to one-third of its assets (defined as net assets plus any borrowing for investment purposes) for investment purposes.

#### *High Yield Exposure Through Credit Default Swaps*

While the Portfolio may execute its high yield strategy by investing in individual high yield securities, it anticipates that it will execute its high yield strategy by entering into credit default swaps. Credit default swaps ("CDS") are typically two-party (bilateral) financial contracts that transfer credit exposure between the two parties. The Portfolio will enter into credit default swaps by executing an International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) master agreement, which provides globally-accepted standardized legal documentation for a variety of swap transactions including credit default swaps. One party to a CDS (referred to as the credit protection "buyer") receives credit protection or sheds credit risk, whereas the other party to a CDS (referred to as the credit protection "seller") is selling credit protection or taking on credit risk. The seller typically receives pre-determined periodic payments from the other party. These payments are in consideration for agreeing to make compensating specific payments to the buyer should a negative credit event occur, such as (1) bankruptcy or (2) failure to pay interest or principal on a reference debt instrument, with respect to a specified issuer or one of the reference issuers in a CDS portfolio. In general, CDS may be used by the Portfolio to obtain credit risk exposure similar to that of a direct investment in high yield bonds.

The Portfolio will use credit default swaps as part of a replication tactic whereby the Portfolio combines a (1) credit default swap on a portfolio of high yield bonds with investments in (2) high quality securities, such as U.S. Treasury bills, as an economic substitute for a portfolio of individual high yield bonds. This two-instrument "replication portfolio" is expected to have an economic and investment return profile that is substantially similar, although not identical to, a cash portfolio of high yield bonds. If the Portfolio invests in a portfolio of individual high yield bonds, it earns interest and suffers losses when issuers default. Similarly, the replication portfolio receives nearly identical payments and suffers nearly identical losses to that of a portfolio of high yield bonds. The Portfolio receives interest (from the portfolio of high quality securities) and receives payments from the protection buyer, which, in total, are approximately equal to the interest payments on a cash portfolio of high yield bonds. Additionally, the Portfolio makes credit default payments to the credit protection buyer counterparty which are nearly identical to credit losses the Portfolio would suffer from the default of issuers in a cash portfolio of high yield bonds.

The Portfolio anticipates that it will use a market-standard high yield reference portfolio commonly referred to as the CDX high yield index. The CDX high yield index (composed of 5-year credit default swaps on 100 relatively liquid high yield fixed income securities issued by BB and B rated North American corporate entities) is selected and maintained by Markit Group Limited using specific-issue recommendations and current market-based default swap rates provided by major high yield market participants such as commercial banks and broker-dealers. Markit Group also provides daily updates of the then-current average credit default swap rate associated with each of the securities in the CDX index. The CDX index and its average credit default swap rate are used by the Portfolio and its counterparties to set the terms of each CDX-referenced credit default swap. Markit Group also provides credit default loss information and required credit event payments by conducting a survey or quasi-auction on index securities which have suffered a credit event. This loss information is used to calculate payments due from a credit protection seller to the protection buyer. A new index is created every six months to update the index for the purpose of replacing defaulted issuers and including new issuers, which are representative of the then-current high yield market. The Portfolio expects that it may maintain original credit default swaps or enter into new transactions which terminate the old swap and replace it with one using the newly-updated index.

The tactic of using a CDS referenced to the CDX index differs from the tactic of investing in specific adviser-selected high yield bonds because (1) it does not rely upon the issuer-specific credit research of the adviser, (2) exposes the Portfolio to the credit risk of the counterparty in addition to the credit risk of the reference high yield portfolio and (3) permits only long or short positions in the index rather than more selective issuer-specific or sector-specific investment.

### **Principal Investment Risks:**

- *Derivatives Risk.* Derivative securities are subject to changes in the underlying securities or indices on which such transactions are based. There is no guarantee that the use of derivatives for investment or hedging purposes will be effective or that suitable transactions will be available. Even a small investment in derivatives (which include options, futures, swap contracts and other transactions) may give rise to leverage risk, and can have a significant impact on the Portfolio's exposure to securities markets values and interest rates. Derivatives are also subject to credit risk (the counterparty may default) and liquidity risk (the Portfolio may not be able to sell the security or otherwise exit the contract in a timely manner).
- *Duration Risk.* Longer-term securities may be more sensitive to interest rate changes. Given the recent, historically low interest rates and the potential for increases in those rates, a heightened risk is posed by rising interest rates to a fund (including Underlying Funds) whose portfolios include longer-term fixed income securities.
- *Emerging Markets Risk.* The Portfolio may purchase securities of emerging market issuers and Underlying Funds that invest in emerging market securities. Investing in emerging market securities imposes risks different from, or greater than, risks of investing in foreign developed countries. These risks include: smaller market capitalization of securities markets, which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; possible repatriation of investment income and capital. In addition, foreign investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales; future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization, or creation of government monopolies. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by a Fund. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

Additional risks of emerging markets securities may include: greater social, economic and political uncertainty and instability; more substantial governmental involvement in the economy; less governmental supervision and regulation; unavailability of currency hedging techniques; companies that are newly organized and small; differences in auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; and less developed legal systems. In addition, emerging securities markets may have different clearance and settlement procedures, which may be unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions or otherwise make it difficult to engage in such transactions. Settlement problems may cause the Portfolio to miss attractive investment opportunities, hold a portion of its assets in cash pending investment, or be delayed in disposing of a portfolio security. Such a delay could result in possible liability to a purchaser of the security.

- *Fixed Income Risk.* When the Portfolio invests in fixed income securities, derivatives on fixed income securities or Underlying Funds that invest in fixed income securities, the value of your investment in the Portfolio will fluctuate with changes in interest rates. Typically, a rise in interest rates causes a decline in the value of the fixed income securities owned by the Portfolio. In general, the market price of debt securities with longer maturities will increase or decrease more in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term securities. Other risk factors impacting fixed income securities include credit risk, maturity risk, market risk, extension or prepayment risk, illiquid security risks, investment-grade and high yield securities risk. These risks could affect the value of a particular investment by the Portfolio possibly causing the Portfolio's share price and total return to be reduced and fluctuate more than other types of investments. Recently, interest rates have been historically low. Current conditions may result in a rise in interest rates, which in turn may result in a decline in the value of the fixed income investments held by the fund or Underlying Funds. As a result, for the present, interest rate risk may be heightened.

- *High-Yield Bond Risk.* Lower-quality bonds, known as “high yield” or “junk” bonds, present a significant risk for loss of principal and interest. These bonds offer the potential for higher return, but also involve greater risk than bonds of higher quality, including an increased possibility that the bond’s issuer, obligor or guarantor may not be able to make its payments of interest and principal (credit quality risk). If that happens, the value of the bond may decrease, and the Portfolio’s share price may decrease and its income distribution may be reduced. An economic downturn or period of rising interest rates (interest rate risk) could adversely affect the market for these bonds and reduce the Portfolio’s ability to sell its bonds (liquidity risk). Such securities may also include “Rule 144A” securities, which are subject to resale restrictions. The lack of a liquid market for these bonds could decrease the Portfolio’s share price.
- *Issuer-Specific Risk.* The value of a specific security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole. The value of securities of smaller sized issuers can be more volatile than that of larger issuers. The value of certain types of securities can be more volatile due to increased sensitivity to adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market, or economic developments.
- *Liquidity Risk.* Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to purchase or sell. This can reduce the Portfolio’s returns because the Portfolio or Underlying Funds may be unable to transact at advantageous times or prices. Recently, interest rates have been historically low. Current conditions may result in a rise in interest rates, and a potential rise in interest rates may result in periods of volatility and increased redemptions. As a result of increased redemptions, the Portfolio or Underlying Funds may have to liquidate portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices and times, which could reduce the returns of the Portfolio or Underlying Funds. The reduction in dealer market-making capacity in the fixed income markets that has occurred in recent years also has the potential to decrease liquidity.
- *Management Risk.* Your investment in the Portfolio varies with the effectiveness of the adviser’s research, analysis and asset allocation among portfolio securities. The adviser’s judgments about the attractiveness, value and potential appreciation of particular security or derivative in which the Portfolio invests or sells short may prove to be incorrect and may not produce the desired results.
- *Turnover Risk.* A higher portfolio turnover may result in higher transactional and brokerage costs associated with the turnover which may reduce the Portfolio’s return, unless the securities traded can be bought and sold without corresponding commission costs. Active trading of securities may also increase the Portfolio’s realized capital gains or losses, which may affect the taxes you pay as a Portfolio shareholder. The Portfolio’s portfolio turnover rate is expected to be approximately 500% annually.
- *U.S. Government Securities Risk.* The Portfolio may invest in obligations issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. Government. These obligations vary in the level of support they receive from the U.S. Government. They may be: (i) supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury, such as those of the Government National Mortgage Association; (ii) supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, such as those of the Federal National Mortgage Association; or (iii) supported only by the credit of the issuer, such as those of the Federal Farm Credit Bureau. The U.S. Government may choose not to provide financial support to U.S. Government sponsored agencies or instrumentalities if it is not legally obligated to do so, in which case, if the issuer defaulted, the Portfolio might not be able to recover its investment.
- *Underlying Fund Strategies Risk.* Each Underlying Fund is subject to specific risks, depending on the nature of the Underlying Fund. These risks could include liquidity risk, sector risk, foreign market risk, as well as risks associated with fixed income securities, real estate investments, and commodities. The Portfolio’s investment in an individual Underlying Fund is limited to 3% of an Underlying Fund. This limit may prevent the Portfolio from allocating its investments in the manner the Adviser considers optimal, or cause the Adviser to select an investment other than that which the Adviser considers optimal. The Portfolio may invest in exchange traded funds (“ETFs”) and other investment companies. As a result, your cost of investing in the Portfolio will be higher than the cost of investing directly in Underlying Fund shares and may be higher than other mutual funds that invest directly in bonds. You will indirectly bear fees and expenses charged by the Underlying Funds in addition to the Portfolio’s direct fees and expenses. Additional risks of investing in Underlying Funds are described below.

#### **Non-Principal Investment Strategies and Risks:**

- *Foreign Risk.* The Portfolio could be subject to greater risks because the Portfolio’s performance may depend on factors other than the performance of securities of U.S. issuers. Changes in foreign economies and political climates are more likely to affect the Portfolio than a mutual fund that invests exclusively in U.S. dollars and U.S. Issuers. The value of foreign currency denominated securities or foreign currency contracts is also affected by the value of the local currency relative to the U.S. dollar. There may also be less government supervision of foreign markets, resulting in non-uniform accounting practices and less publicly available information about issuers of foreign currency denominated securities. The value of foreign investments, including foreign currency denominated investments, may be affected by changes in exchange control regulations, application of foreign tax

laws (including withholding tax), changes in governmental administration or economic or monetary policy (in this country or abroad) or changed circumstances in dealings between nations. In addition, foreign brokerage commissions, custody fees and other costs of investing in foreign securities are generally higher than in the United States. Investments in foreign issues, whether denominated in U.S. dollars or foreign currencies, could be affected by other factors not present in the United States, including expropriation, armed conflict, confiscatory taxation, and potential difficulties in enforcing contractual obligations.

- *Hedging and Derivatives Risk.* The Portfolio may seek to execute an investment strategy or hedge by purchasing or entering into derivative contracts such as futures, options on futures, swaps or purchasing securities whose prices are expected to move inversely to prices of the Portfolio's portfolio of securities. The Portfolio may use derivatives (including swaps, structured notes, options, futures and options on futures) to enhance returns or hedge against market declines. The Portfolio's use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. These risks include (i) the risk that the counterparty to a derivative transaction may not fulfill its contractual obligations; (ii) risk of mispricing or improper valuation; and (iii) the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate or index. These risks could cause the Portfolio to lose more than the principal amount invested. In addition, investments in derivatives may involve leverage, which means a small percentage of assets invested in derivatives can have a disproportionately large impact on the Portfolio.
  - *Correlation or Tracking Risk.* Correlation risk is the risk that there might be imperfect correlation, or even no correlation, between price movements of an instrument and price movements of investments being hedged. Such a lack of correlation might occur due to factors unrelated to the value of the investments being hedged, such as speculative or other pressures on the markets in which these instruments are traded. The effectiveness of hedges using instruments based on indices will depend, in part, on the degree of correlation between price movements in the index and price movements in the investments being hedged.
  - *Leverage Risk.* Hedging instruments may include elements of leverage and, accordingly, the fluctuation of the value of hedging derivative instruments in relation to the underlying asset may be magnified. The successful use of derivative instruments depends upon a variety of factors, particularly the ability of the adviser to predict movements of the securities markets, which requires different skills than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. There can be no assurance that any particular strategy adopted will succeed. The adviser's decision to engage in a hedging derivative transaction will reflect its judgment that the derivative transaction will provide value to the Portfolio and its shareholders.
  - *Loss Risk.* Hedging strategies, if successful, can reduce the risk of loss by wholly or partially offsetting the negative effect of unfavorable price movements in the investments being hedged. However, hedging strategies can also reduce the opportunity for gain by offsetting the positive effect of favorable price movements in the hedged investments.
- *Liquidity Risk.* Liquidity risk is the risk that a hedging security or derivative instrument cannot be sold, terminated early or replaced quickly at or very close to its market value. Generally, exchange traded contracts are liquid because the exchange clearinghouse is the counterparty of every contract. Over-the-counter transactions are less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives since they often can only be closed out with the other party to the transaction. If the Portfolio were unable to close out its positions in such instruments, it might be required to continue to maintain such assets until the position expired, matured or was closed out. The Portfolio's ability to sell or close out a position in an instrument prior to expiration or maturity depends, in part, on the existence of a liquid secondary market for such derivative instruments or, in the absence of such a market, the ability and willingness of the counterparty to enter into a transaction closing out the position.
- *Leveraging Risk.* The use of leverage, such as borrowing money to purchase securities, engaging in reverse repurchase agreements, engaging in forward commitment transactions and short selling will magnify the Portfolio's gains or losses.
- *Short Selling Risk.* The Portfolio will engage in short selling activities and take short positions in derivatives, which are significantly different from the investment activities commonly associated with conservative bond funds. Positions in shorted securities and short positions are speculative and more risky than "long" positions (purchases) because the cost of the replacement security is unknown. Therefore, the potential loss on an uncovered short sale or short position is potentially unlimited, whereas the potential loss on long positions is limited to the original purchase price. You should be aware that any strategy that includes selling securities short could suffer significant losses. Short selling will also result in higher transaction costs (such as interest and dividends), which reduce the Portfolio's return, and may result in higher taxes.

**Temporary Investments:** When the Portfolio is employing the adviser's defensive capital preservation strategy, to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions, the Portfolio may invest 100% of its total assets, without limitation, in high-quality short-term debt securities and money market instruments. These short-term debt securities and money market instruments include: shares of money market mutual funds, commercial paper, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, U.S. Government securities and repurchase agreements. While the Portfolio is in a defensive position, the opportunity to achieve its investment objective will be limited. Furthermore, to the extent that the Portfolio invests in money market mutual funds for cash positions, there will be some duplication of expenses because the Portfolio pays its pro-rata portion of such money market funds' advisory fees and operational fees. The Portfolio may also invest a substantial portion of its assets in such instruments at any time to maintain liquidity or pending selection of investments in accordance with its policies.

**Portfolio Holdings Disclosure:** A description of the Portfolio's policies regarding the release of portfolio holdings information is available in the Portfolio's Statement of Additional Information. The Portfolio may, from time to time, make available month-end portfolio holdings information on its website at [www.btsfunds.com](http://www.btsfunds.com). If month-end portfolio holdings are posted to the website, they are expected to be approximately 30 days old and remain available until new information for the next month is posted. Shareholders may request portfolio holdings schedules at no charge by calling 1-877-BTS-9820 (1-877-287-9820).

**Cybersecurity:** The computer systems, networks and devices used by the Portfolio and its service providers to carry out routine business operations employ a variety of protections designed to prevent damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunication failures, infiltration by unauthorized persons and security breaches. Despite the various protections utilized by the Portfolio and its service providers, systems, networks, or devices potentially can be breached. The Portfolio and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result of a cybersecurity breach.

Cybersecurity breaches can include unauthorized access to systems, networks, or devices; infection from computer viruses or other malicious software code; and attacks that shut down, disable, slow, or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes, or website access or functionality. Cybersecurity breaches may cause disruptions and impact the Portfolio's business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses; interference with the Portfolio's ability to calculate its NAV; impediments to trading; the inability of the Portfolio, the adviser, and other service providers to transact business; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, or additional compliance costs; as well as the inadvertent release of confidential information.

Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity breaches affecting issuers of securities in which the Portfolio invests; counterparties with which the Portfolio engages in transactions; governmental and other regulatory authorities; exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies, and other financial institutions (including financial intermediaries and service providers for the Portfolio's shareholders); and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred by these entities in order to prevent any cybersecurity breaches in the future.

## **MANAGEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO**

**Investment Adviser:** BTS Asset Management, Inc., 420 Bedford Street, Suite 340, Lexington, MA 02420, serves as investment adviser to the Portfolio. Subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees, the adviser is responsible for management of the Portfolio's investment portfolio. The adviser is responsible for selecting the Portfolio's investments according to the Portfolio's investment objective, policies and restrictions. The adviser was established in 1979, and also advises individuals, financial institutions, pension plans, other pooled investment vehicles and corporations in addition to the Portfolio. As of December 31, 2016, the adviser had approximately \$1.5 billion in assets under management.

Pursuant to an advisory agreement between the Portfolio and BTS Asset Management, Inc., the adviser is entitled to receive, on a monthly basis, an annual advisory fee equal to 0.85% of the Portfolio's average daily net assets. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016, the adviser received a fee after waiver equal to 0.85% of the Portfolio's average net assets. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board of Trustees' approval of the advisory agreement is available in the Portfolio's annual shareholder report dated December 31, 2016.

**Portfolio Managers:** Vilis Pasts, Director of Research and Matthew Pasts, Chief Executive Officer are co-portfolio managers. The co-portfolio managers are supported by three research analysts and the adviser's investment committee. The committee provides top-down economic analysis, quantitative research, momentum forecasting, technical analysis of current financial and economic conditions. The committee may review company-specific issues brought forth by the analysts, but final investment and portfolio management decisions are approved by the co-portfolio managers.

**Vilis Pasts, Co-Portfolio Manager.** Mr. Pasts has served as a portfolio manager for the adviser since its founding in 1979 and as a co-portfolio manager for the Portfolio since its inception. He is also its Director of Research as well as the Chairman of the Board of Directors. He is a graduate of Babson College of Business and has over 40 years of investment experience. Additionally, he also serves as Director and Vice President and is the controlling shareholder of BTS Securities Corporation, a registered broker-dealer and affiliate of the adviser.

**Matthew A. Pasts, CMT, Co-Portfolio Manager.** Mr. Matthew Pasts has served as a portfolio manager to the adviser since 1996 and as a co-portfolio manager for the Portfolio since its inception. He is also its Chief Executive Officer, Treasurer and Director. He is a graduate of Babson College, holding a B.S.B.A. degree with a concentration in finance. He is a member of the Market Technicians Association (MTA) and holds its Chartered Market Technician (CMT) designation. Additionally, he also serves as President, Treasurer and Registered Principal of BTS Securities Corporation, a registered broker-dealer and affiliate of the adviser.

The Portfolio's Statement of Additional Information provides additional information about the portfolio managers' compensation structure, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers, and the portfolio managers' ownership of shares of the Portfolio.

## **HOW SHARES ARE PRICED**

The public offering price and net asset value ("NAV") of each class of Portfolio shares are determined at close of regular trading (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on each day the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open for business. NAV is computed by determining the aggregate market value of all assets of the Portfolio less its liabilities divided by the total number of the Portfolio's shares outstanding, on a per-class basis.  $((\text{Assets minus liabilities})/\text{number of shares}=\text{NAV})$ . The NYSE is closed on weekends and New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. The NAV takes into account the per-class expenses and fees of the Portfolio, including management, administration, and distribution fees, if any, which are accrued daily. The determination of NAV for a particular day is applicable to all applications for the purchase of shares, as well as all requests for the redemption of shares, received by the Portfolio (or an authorized broker or agent, or its authorized designee) before the close of trading on the NYSE on that day.

Generally, securities are valued each day at the last quoted sales price on each security's primary exchange. Securities traded or dealt in upon one or more securities exchanges (whether domestic or foreign) for which market quotations are readily available and not subject to restrictions against resale shall be valued at the last quoted sales price on the primary exchange or, in the absence of a sale on the primary exchange, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on such exchange. Securities primarily traded in the National Association of Securities Dealers' Automated Quotation System ("NASDAQ") National Market System for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. If market quotations are not readily available, securities will be valued at their fair market value as determined in good faith by the adviser in accordance with procedures approved by the Board, and evaluated by the Board as to the reliability of the fair value method used. Fair value pricing involves subjective judgments and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security may be materially different than the value that could be realized upon the sale of that security. The fair value prices can differ from market prices when they become available or when a price becomes available. The Board has delegated execution of these procedures to a fair value team composed of one or more representatives from each of the (i) Trust, (ii) administrator, and (iii) Adviser. The team may also enlist third party consultants such as an audit firm or financial officer of a security issuer on an as-needed basis to assist in determining a security-specific fair value. The Board reviews and ratifies the execution of this process and the resultant fair value prices at least quarterly to assure the process produces reliable results.

The Portfolio may use independent pricing services to assist in calculating the value of the Portfolio's securities. In addition, market prices for foreign securities are not determined at the same time of day as the NAV for the Portfolio. Because the Portfolio may invest in foreign securities that are primarily listed on foreign exchanges that may trade on weekends or other days when the Portfolio does not price its shares, the value of the Portfolio's portfolio may change on days when you may not be able to buy or sell the Portfolio's shares. In computing its NAV, the Portfolio values foreign securities held by the Portfolio at the latest closing price on the exchange in which they are traded immediately prior to closing of the NYSE. Prices of foreign securities quoted in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at current rates. If events materially affecting the value of a security in the Portfolio's portfolio, particularly foreign securities, occur before the Portfolio prices its shares, the security will be valued at fair value. For example, if trading in a portfolio security is halted and does not resume before the Portfolio calculates its NAV, the adviser may need to price the security using the Portfolio's fair value pricing guidelines. Without a fair value price, short-term traders could take advantage of the arbitrage opportunity and dilute the NAV of long-term investors. Fair valuation of the Portfolio's portfolio securities can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that fair value pricing policies will

prevent dilution of the Portfolio's NAV by short term traders. The determination of fair value involves subjective judgments. As a result, using fair value to price a security may result in a price materially different from the prices used by other mutual funds to determine net asset value or the price that may be realized upon the actual sale of the security.

With respect to any portion of the Portfolio's assets that are invested in one or more open-end management investment companies that are registered under the 1940 Act, the Portfolio's NAV is calculated based upon the NAVs of the registered open-end management investment companies in which that Fund invests, and the prospectuses for these companies explain the circumstances under which those companies will use fair value pricing and the effects of using fair value pricing.

## **HOW TO PURCHASE AND REDEEM SHARES**

**Share Classes:** This Prospectus describes two classes of shares offered by the Portfolio: Class 1 and Class 2. The Portfolio offers these two classes of shares so that you can choose the class that best suits your investment needs. The main difference between each class is ongoing fees. Class 1 shares do not assess a distribution and/or shareholder servicing fee, whereas Class 2 shares include an annual fee of up to 0.50% of average net assets to compensate the Distributor for the provision of account maintenance and/or distribution services to shareholders. For information on ongoing distribution fees, see **Distribution Fees** on page 13 of this Prospectus. Each class of shares in the Portfolio represents interest in the same portfolio of investments in the Portfolio. The Portfolio may not be available for purchase in all states.

As described earlier in this Prospectus, shares of the Portfolio are intended to be sold to certain separate accounts of the participating life insurance companies, as well as qualified pension and retirement plans and certain unregistered separate accounts. You and other purchasers of variable annuity contracts will not own shares of the Portfolio directly. Rather, all shares will be held by the separate accounts for your benefit and the benefit of other purchasers of variable annuity contracts. All investments in the Portfolio are credited to the shareholder's account in the form of full or fractional shares of the Portfolio. The Portfolio does not issue share certificates. Separate accounts may redeem shares to make benefit or surrender payments to you and other purchasers of variable annuity contracts or for other reasons described in the separate account prospectus that you received when you purchased your variable annuity contract. Redemptions are processed on any day on which the Portfolio is open for business. Please refer to your insurance contract prospectus or retirement plan documents for additional information.

### **When Order is Processed**

Shares of the Portfolio are sold and redeemed at their current NAV per share without the imposition of any sales commission or redemption charge, although certain sales and other charges may apply to the policies or annuity contracts. These charges are described in the applicable product prospectus. Requests to purchase and sell shares are processed at the NAV next calculated after the request is received by the Participating Insurance Company, or qualified pension or retirement plan, in good order. All requests received in good order by a Participating Insurance Company, or qualified pension or retirement plan before the close of regular trading on the NYSE (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on each day the NYSE is open will be executed on that same day. Requests received after the close of regular trading on the NYSE, or on any day the NYSE is closed, will be processed on the next business day. The Participating Insurance Company or qualified pension or retirement plan is responsible for properly transmitting purchase orders and federal funds to the Portfolio.

The USA PATRIOT Act requires financial institutions, including the Portfolio, to adopt certain policies and programs to prevent money laundering activities, including procedures to verify the identity of customers opening new accounts. You will be required by your insurance company, or pension or retirement plan, to supply certain information, such as your full name, date of birth, social security number and permanent street address. This information will assist them in verifying your identity. As required by law, your insurance company, or pension or retirement plan may employ various procedures, such as comparing the information to fraud databases or requesting additional information or documentation from you, to ensure that the information supplied by you is correct.

## **TAX CONSEQUENCES**

The Portfolio intends to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"). As qualified, the Portfolio is not subject to federal income tax on that part of its taxable income that it distributes to the separate accounts. Taxable income consists generally of net investment income, and any capital gains. It is the Portfolio's intention to distribute all such income and gains.

Generally, owners of variable insurance contracts are not taxed currently on income or gains realized with respect to such contracts. However, some distributions from such contracts may be taxable at ordinary income tax rates. In addition, distributions made to an owner who is younger than 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10% penalty tax. Investors should ask their own tax advisors for more information on their own tax situation, including possible state or local taxes.

Shares of the Portfolio are offered to the separate accounts of the participating life insurance companies and their affiliates. Separate accounts are insurance company separate accounts that fund the annuity contracts. Under the Code, the insurance company pays no tax with respect to income of a qualifying separate account when the income is properly allocable to the value of eligible variable annuity contracts. In order for shareholders to receive the favorable tax treatment available to holders of variable insurance contracts, the separate accounts, as well as the Portfolio, must meet certain diversification requirements. If the Portfolio does not meet such requirements, income allocable to the contracts would be taxable currently to the holders of such contracts. The diversification requirements are discussed below.

Section 817(h) of the Code and the regulations thereunder impose “diversification” requirements on the Portfolio. The Portfolio intends to comply with the diversification requirements. These requirements are in addition to the diversification requirements imposed on the Portfolio by Subchapter M and the Investment Company Act of 1940. The 817(h) requirements place certain limitations on the assets of each separate account that may be invested in securities of a single issuer. Specifically, the regulations provide that, except as permitted by “safe harbor” rules described below, as of the end of each calendar quarter or within 30 days thereafter, no more than 55% of a portfolio's total assets may be represented by any one investment, no more than 70% by any two investments, no more than 80% by any three investments, and no more than 90% by any four investments.

Section 817(h) also provides, as a safe harbor, that a separate account will be treated as being adequately diversified if the diversification requirements under Subchapter M are satisfied and no more than 55% of the value of the account's total assets is cash and cash items, government securities, and securities of other regulated investment companies. For purposes of Section 817(h), all securities of the same issuer, all interests in the same real property, and all interests in the same commodity are treated as a single investment. In addition, each U.S. government agency or instrumentality is treated as a separate issuer, while the securities of a particular foreign government and its agencies, instrumentalities, and political subdivisions all will be considered securities issued by the same issuer. If the Portfolio does not satisfy the Section 817(h) requirements, the separate accounts, the insurance company, the policies and the annuity contracts may be taxable. See the prospectuses for the policies and annuity contracts.

For a more complete discussion of the taxation of the life insurance company and the separate accounts, as well as the tax treatment of the annuity contracts and the holders thereof, see the prospectus for the applicable annuity contract.

The preceding is only a summary of some of the important federal income tax considerations generally affecting the Portfolio and you; see the Statement of Additional Information for a more detailed discussion. You are urged to consult your tax advisors for more information.

## **DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

All dividends are distributed to the separate accounts or other shareholders on an annual basis or more frequently and will be automatically reinvested in Portfolio shares unless an election is made on behalf of a separate account or other shareholder to receive some or all of the dividends in cash. Dividends are not taxable as current income to you or other purchasers of variable insurance contracts.

## **FREQUENT PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS OF PORTFOLIO SHARES**

The Portfolio discourages and does not accommodate market timing. Frequent trading into and out of the Portfolio can harm all Portfolio shareholders by disrupting the Portfolio's investment strategies, increasing Portfolio expenses, decreasing tax efficiency and diluting the value of shares held by long-term shareholders. The Portfolio is designed for long-term investors and is not intended for market timing or other disruptive trading activities. Accordingly, the Trust's Board has approved policies that seek to curb these disruptive activities while recognizing that shareholders may have a legitimate need to adjust their Portfolio investments as their financial needs or circumstances change.

The Portfolio reserves the right to reject or restrict purchase or exchange requests for any reason, particularly when a shareholder's trading activity suggests that the shareholder may be engaged in market timing or other disruptive trading activities. Neither the Portfolio nor the adviser will be liable for any losses resulting from rejected purchase or exchange orders. The adviser may also bar an investor who has violated these policies (and the investor's financial adviser) from opening new accounts with the Portfolio.

Because purchase and sale transactions are submitted to the Portfolio on an aggregated basis by the insurance company issuing the variable insurance contract or variable life contract, or other shareholder, the Portfolio is not able to identify market timing transactions by individual variable insurance contract or plan participant. Short of rejecting all transactions made by a separate account, the Portfolio lacks the ability to reject individual short-term trading transactions. The Portfolio, therefore, has to rely upon the insurance company or other shareholder to police restrictions in the variable insurance

contracts or according to the insurance company's administrative policies, or such shareholder's plan documents. The Portfolio has entered into an information sharing agreement with the insurance company or other shareholders that use the Portfolio as an underlying investment vehicle for its separate accounts. Under this agreement, the insurance company or other shareholder is obligated to (i) adopt and enforce during the term of the agreement a market timing policy, the terms of which are acceptable to the Portfolio; (ii) furnish the Portfolio, upon its request, with information regarding contract or policyholder trading activities in shares of the Portfolio; and (iii) enforce its market timing policy with respect to contract, policyholders or plan participants identified by the Portfolio as having engaged in market timing.

The Portfolio will seek to monitor for market timing activities, such as unusual cash flows, and work with the applicable insurance company or plan to determine whether or not short-term trading is involved. When information regarding transactions in the Portfolio's shares is requested by the Portfolio and such information is in the possession of a person that is itself a financial intermediary to the insurance company (an "indirect intermediary"), the insurance company is obligated to obtain transaction information from the indirect intermediary or, if directed by the Portfolio, to restrict or prohibit the indirect intermediary from purchasing shares of the Portfolio on behalf of the contract or policyholder or any other persons. The Portfolio will seek to apply these policies as uniformly as practicable. It is, however, more difficult to locate and eliminate individual market timers in the separate accounts because information about trading is received on a delayed basis and there can be no assurances that the Portfolio will be able to do so. In addition, the right of an owner of a variable insurance product to transfer among sub-accounts is governed by a contract between the insurance company and the owner. Many of these contracts do not limit the number of transfers that a contract owner may make among the available investment options. The terms of these contracts, the presence of financial intermediaries (including the insurance company) between the Portfolio and the contract and policyholders and other factors such as state insurance laws may limit the Portfolio's ability to deter market timing. Multiple tiers of such financial intermediaries may further compound the Portfolio's difficulty in deterring such market timing activities. Variable insurance contract holders should consult the prospectus for their variable insurance contract for additional information on contract level restrictions relating to market timing.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF SHARES**

**Distributor:** Northern Lights Distributors, LLC, 17605 Wright Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68130, is the distributor for the shares of the Portfolio. Northern Lights Distributors, LLC is a registered broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). Shares of the Portfolio are offered on a continuous basis.

**Distribution Fees:** The Trust, with respect to the Portfolio, has adopted the Trust's Master Distribution and Shareholder Servicing Plan (the "Plan"), pursuant to Rule 12b-1 of the 1940 Act, which allows the Portfolio to pay the Portfolio's distributor an annual fee for distribution and shareholder servicing expenses of 0.50% of the Portfolio's average daily net assets attributable to Class 2 shares. A portion of the fee payable pursuant to the Plan, equal to up to 0.25% of the average daily net assets, may be characterized as a service fee as such term is defined under Rule 2341 of the FINRA Conduct Rules. A service fee is a payment made for personal service and/or the maintenance of shareholder accounts.

The Portfolio's distributor and other entities are paid under the Plan for services provided and the expenses borne by the distributor and others in the distribution of Portfolio shares, including the payment of commissions for sales of the shares and incentive compensation to and expenses of dealers and others who engage in or support distribution of shares or who service shareholder accounts, including overhead and telephone expenses; printing and distribution of prospectuses and reports used in connection with the offering of the Portfolio's shares to other than current shareholders; and preparation, printing and distribution of sales literature and advertising materials.

In addition, the distributor or other entities may utilize fees paid pursuant to the Plan to compensate dealers or other entities for their opportunity costs in advancing such amounts, which compensation would be in the form of a carrying charge on any un-reimbursed expenses.

You should be aware that if you hold your shares for a substantial period of time, you may indirectly pay more than the economic equivalent of the maximum front-end sales charge allowed by the FINRA due to the recurring nature of distribution (12b-1) fees.

**Additional Compensation to Financial Intermediaries:** The Portfolio's distributor, its affiliates, and the Portfolio's adviser may each, at its own expense and out of their own legitimate profits, provide additional cash payments to financial intermediaries who sell shares of the Portfolio. Financial intermediaries include brokers, financial planners, banks, insurance companies, retirement or 401(k) plan administrators and others. These payments may be in addition to the Rule 12b-1 fees and any sales charges that are disclosed elsewhere in this Prospectus. These payments are generally made to financial intermediaries that provide shareholder or administrative services, or marketing support. Marketing support may include access to sales meetings, sales representatives and financial intermediary management representatives, inclusion of the

Portfolio on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list, or other sales programs. These payments also may be made as an expense reimbursement in cases where the financial intermediary provides shareholder services to Portfolio shareholders. The Distributor may, from time to time, provide promotional incentives, including reallowance and/or payment of up to the entire sales charge, to certain investment firms. Such incentives may, at the Distributor's discretion, be limited to investment firms who allow their individual selling representatives to participate in such additional commissions.

**Householding:** To reduce expenses, we mail only one copy of the prospectus and each annual and semi-annual report to those addresses shared by two or more accounts. If you wish to receive individual copies of these documents, please call the Portfolio at 1-877-BTS-9820 (1-877-287-9820) between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time on days the Portfolio is open for business or contact your financial institution. We will begin sending you individual copies thirty days after receiving your request.

## **Voting and Meetings**

The Participating Insurance Company that issued your variable contract will solicit voting instructions from you and other purchasers of variable annuity contracts with respect to any matters that are presented to a vote of shareholders. The insurance company may be required to vote on a proportional basis, which means that for shares outstanding for which it receives no instructions, the insurance company will vote those shares in the same proportion as the shares for which it did receive instructions (either for or against a proposal). To the extent the insurance company is required to vote the total Portfolio shares held in its separate accounts on a proportional basis, it is possible that a small number of variable insurance contract owners would be able to determine the outcome of a matter. Shareholders shall be entitled to one vote for each share held.

The Portfolio does not hold annual meetings of shareholders but may hold special meetings. Special meetings are held, for example, to elect or remove Trustees, change the Portfolio's fundamental investment policies, or approve an investment advisory contract. Unless required otherwise by applicable laws, one-third of the outstanding shares constitute a quorum (or one-third of the class if the matter relates only to a class). The Portfolio and the insurance company may vote all shares as set forth above.

## **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Portfolio's financial performance for the period of the Portfolio's operations. Certain information reflects financial results for a single Portfolio share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Portfolio (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). This information for the Portfolio has been derived from the financial statements audited by BBD, LLP, whose report, along with the Portfolio's financial statements, are included in the Portfolio's December 31, 2016 annual report, which is available upon request.

### Per Share Data and Ratios for a Share of Beneficial Interest Outstanding Throughout each Period Presented

	<b>Class 1</b>			
	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2016</b>	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2015</b>	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2014</b>	<b>For the Period Ended December 31, 2013 <sup>(1)</sup></b>
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$ 9.49	\$ 9.83	\$ 9.75	\$ 10.00
Activity from investment operations:				
Net investment income <sup>(2)</sup>	0.17	0.16	0.00 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.21
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	1.08	(0.50)	0.08	(0.46)
Total from investment operations	1.25	(0.34)	0.08	(0.25)
Net asset value, end of period	\$ 10.74	\$ 9.49	\$ 9.83	\$ 9.75
Total return <sup>(4)</sup>	13.17%	(3.46)%	0.82%	(2.50)% <sup>(5)</sup>
Net assets, end of period	\$ 11	\$ 10	\$ 10	\$ 10
Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets before waiver/recapture <sup>(6,7)</sup>	1.30%	1.51%	1.71%	2.55% <sup>(8)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets after waiver/recapture <sup>(6)</sup>	1.30%	1.64%	1.71%	2.00% <sup>(8)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets <sup>(6,9)</sup>	3.20%	0.54%	0.85%	2.66% <sup>(8)</sup>
Portfolio Turnover Rate	289%	627%	207%	198% <sup>(5)</sup>

(1) The BTS Tactical Fixed Income VIT Fund commenced operations on April 29, 2013.

(2) Per share amounts calculated using the average shares method, which appropriately presents the per share data for the period.

(3) Less than \$0.01.

(4) Total returns shown are historical in nature and assume changes in share price and reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions, if any. Had the Advisor not waived a portion of the Fund's expenses during the period ended December 31, 2013, total return would have been lower.

(5) Not annualized.

(6) The ratios of expenses and net investment income to average net assets do not reflect the Fund's proportionate share of income and expenses of underlying investments companies in which the Fund invests.

(7) Represents the ratio of expenses to average net assets absent fee waivers and/or fees recaptured by the Advisor and/or Administrator.

(8) Annualized.

(9) Recognition of net investment income by the Fund is affected by the timing of the declaration of dividends by the underlying investments in which the Fund invests.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Per Share Data and Ratios for a Share of Beneficial Interest Outstanding Throughout each Period Presented

	<b>Class 2</b>			
	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2016</b>	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2015</b>	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2014</b>	<b>For the Period Ended December 31, 2013 <sup>(1)</sup></b>
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$ 9.49	\$ 9.83	\$ 9.75	\$ 10.00
Activity from investment operations:				
Net investment income <sup>(2)</sup>	0.28	0.00 <sup>(3)</sup>	0.03	0.14
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.97	(0.32)	0.11	(0.39)
Total from investment operations	1.25	(0.32)	0.14	(0.25)
Less distributions from:				
Net investment income	0.00	(0.02)	(0.06)	—
Total distributions	0.00	(0.02)	(0.06)	—
Net asset value, end of period	\$ 10.74	\$ 9.49	\$ 9.83	\$ 9.75
Total return <sup>(4)</sup>	13.19%	(3.21)%	1.40%	(2.50)% <sup>(5)</sup>
Net assets, end of period (000s)	\$ 36,697	\$ 18,824	\$ 15,671	\$ 10,652
Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets before waiver/recapture <sup>(6,7)</sup>	1.80%	2.01%	2.21%	3.05% <sup>(8)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets after waiver/recapture <sup>(6)</sup>	1.80%	2.14%	2.21%	2.50% <sup>(8)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets <sup>(6,9)</sup>	2.70%	0.04%	0.35%	2.16% <sup>(8)</sup>
Portfolio Turnover Rate	289%	627%	207%	198% <sup>(5)</sup>

(1) The BTS Tactical Fixed Income VIT Fund commenced operations on April 29, 2013.

(2) Per share amounts calculated using the average shares method, which appropriately presents the per share data for the period.

(3) Less than \$0.01.

(4) Total returns shown are historical in nature and assume changes in share price and reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions, if any. Had the Advisor not waived a portion of the Fund's expenses during the period ended December 31, 2013, total return would have been lower.

(5) Not annualized.

(6) The ratios of expenses and net investment income to average net assets do not reflect the Fund's proportionate share of income and expenses of underlying investments companies in which the Fund invests.

(7) Represents the ratio of expenses to average net assets absent fee waivers and/or fees recaptured by the Advisor and/or Administrator.

(8) Annualized.

(9) Recognition of net investment income by the Fund is affected by the timing of the declaration of dividends by the underlying investments in which the Fund invests.

# PRIVACY NOTICE

Rev. February 2014

## FACTS

### WHAT DOES NORTHERN LIGHTS VARIABLE TRUST DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?

#### Why?

Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some, but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.

#### What?

The types of personal information we collect and share depends on the product or service that you have with us. This information can include:

- Social Security number and wire transfer instructions
- account transactions and transaction history
- investment experience and purchase history

When you are *no longer* our customer, we continue to share your information as described in this notice.

#### How?

All financial companies need to share customers' personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their customers' personal information; the reasons Northern Lights Variable Trust chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.

Reasons we can share your personal information:	Does Northern Lights Variable Trust share information?	Can you limit this sharing?
<b>For our everyday business purposes</b> - such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus.	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>For our marketing purposes</b> - to offer our products and services to you.	<b>NO</b>	<b>We don't share</b>
<b>For joint marketing with other financial companies.</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>We don't share</b>
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes</b> - information about your transactions and records.	<b>NO</b>	<b>We don't share</b>
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes</b> - information about your credit worthiness.	<b>NO</b>	<b>We don't share</b>
<b>For nonaffiliates to market to you</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>We don't share</b>

#### QUESTIONS?

Call 1-402-493-4603

What we do :	
How does Northern Lights Variable Trust protect my personal information?	<p>To protect your personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law. These measures include computer safeguards and secured files and buildings.</p> <p>Our service providers are held accountable for adhering to strict policies and procedures to prevent any misuse of your nonpublic personal information.</p>
How does Northern Lights Variable Trust collect my personal information?	<p>We collect your personal information, for example, when you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open an account or deposit money</li> <li>• direct us to buy securities or direct us to sell your securities</li> <li>• seek advice about your investments</li> </ul> <p>We also collect your personal information from others, such as credit bureaus, affiliates, or other companies.</p>
Why can't I limit all sharing?	<p>Federal law gives you the right to limit only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes – information about your creditworthiness.</li> <li>• affiliates from using your information to market to you.</li> <li>• sharing for nonaffiliates to market to you.</li> </ul> <p>State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing.</p>

Definitions	
Affiliates	<p>Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.</p> <p>• <i>Northern Lights Variable Trust does not share with its affiliates.</i></p>
Nonaffiliates	<p>Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.</p> <p>• <i>Northern Lights Variable Trust does not share with nonaffiliates so they can market to you.</i></p>
Joint marketing	<p>A formal agreement between nonaffiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you.</p> <p>• <i>Northern Lights Variable Trust doesn't jointly market.</i></p>



## BTS TACTICAL FIXED INCOME VIT FUND

Adviser	<b>BTS Asset Management, Inc.</b> 420 Bedford Street, Suite 340 Lexington, MA 02420	Distributor	<b>Northern Lights Distributors, LLC</b> 17605 Wright Street Omaha, NE 68130
Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	<b>BBD, LLP</b> 1835 Market Street, 26th Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103	Legal Counsel	<b>Thompson Hine LLP</b> 41 South High Street, Suite 1700 Columbus, OH 43215
Custodian	<b>MUFG Union Bank, N.A.</b> 400 California Street San Francisco, CA 94104	Transfer Agent	<b>Gemini Fund Services, LLC</b> 17605 Wright Street, Suite 2 Omaha, NE 68130

Additional information about the Portfolio is included in the Portfolio's Statement of Additional Information dated May 1, 2017 (the "SAI"). The SAI is incorporated into this Prospectus by reference (i.e., legally made a part of this Prospectus). The SAI provides more details about the Portfolio's policies and management. Additional information about the Portfolio's investments will also be available in the Portfolio's Annual and Semi-Annual Reports to Shareholders. In the Portfolio's Annual Report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Portfolio's performance during its last fiscal year.

To obtain a free copy of the SAI, the Annual and Semi-Annual Reports to Shareholders, or other information about the Portfolio, or to make shareholder inquiries about the Portfolio, please call 1-877-BTS-9820 (1-877-287-9820) or visit [www.btsfunds.com](http://www.btsfunds.com). You may also write to:

**BTS Tactical Fixed Income VIT Fund**  
c/o Gemini Fund Services, LLC  
17605 Wright Street, Suite 2  
Omaha, Nebraska 68130

You may review and obtain copies of the Portfolio's information at the SEC Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Please call 1-202-551-8090 for information relating to the operation of the Public Reference Room. Reports and other information about the Portfolio are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. Copies of the information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov), or by writing the Public Reference Section, Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, D.C. 20549-1520.

Investment Company Act File # 811-21853