

Janus Henderson Research Portfolio

Institutional Shares
Ticker
JAGRX

Janus Aspen Series

Prospectus

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or passed on the accuracy or adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Beginning on January 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the insurance company that offers your variable life insurance contract or variable annuity contract, may determine that it will no longer send you paper copies of the Portfolio's shareholder reports, unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports. Beginning on January 1, 2021, for shareholders who are not insurance contract holders, paper copies of the Portfolio's shareholder reports will no longer be sent by mail unless you specifically request paper copies of the reports. Instead, the reports will be made available on a website, and your insurance company or plan sponsor, broker-dealer, or financial intermediary will notify you by mail each time a report is posted and provide you with a website link to access the report. Instructions for requesting paper copies will be provided by your insurance company or plan sponsor, broker-dealer, or financial intermediary.

If you already elected to receive shareholder reports electronically, you will not be affected by this change and you need not take any action. You may elect to receive shareholder reports and other communications from the Portfolio electronically by contacting your insurance company or plan sponsor, broker-dealer, or other financial intermediary.

You may elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge by contacting your insurance company or plan sponsor, broker-dealer or other financial intermediary. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all funds held in your account with your insurance company or plan sponsor, broker-dealer or other financial intermediary.

This Prospectus describes Janus Henderson Research Portfolio (the “Portfolio”), a series of Janus Aspen Series (the “Trust”). Janus Capital Management LLC (“Janus Capital”) serves as investment adviser to the Portfolio. The Portfolio currently offers two classes of shares. The Institutional Shares (the “Shares”) are offered by this Prospectus in connection with investment in and payments under variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts (collectively, “variable insurance contracts”), as well as certain qualified retirement plans.

This Prospectus contains information that a prospective purchaser of a variable insurance contract or plan participant should consider in conjunction with the accompanying separate account prospectus of the specific insurance company product before allocating purchase payments or premiums to the Portfolio. Each variable insurance contract involves fees and expenses that are not described in this Prospectus. Refer to the accompanying contract prospectus for information regarding contract fees and expenses and any restrictions on purchases or allocations.

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PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

Janus Henderson Research Portfolio

Ticker: JAGRX Institutional Shares

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

Janus Henderson Research Portfolio (“Research Portfolio”) seeks long-term growth of capital.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE PORTFOLIO

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold Shares of the Portfolio. **Owners of variable insurance contracts that invest in the Shares should refer to the variable insurance contract prospectus for a description of fees and expenses, as the following table and examples do not reflect deductions at the separate account level or contract level for any charges that may be incurred under a contract. Inclusion of these charges would increase the fees and expenses described below.**

ANNUAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Management Fees ⁽¹⁾ | 0.49% |
| Other Expenses | 0.10% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses | 0.59% |

(1) This fee may adjust up or down monthly based on the Portfolio’s performance relative to its benchmark index over the performance measurement period. For more information regarding performance-based advisory fees, refer to “Management Expenses” in the Portfolio’s Prospectus.

EXAMPLE:

The 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, reinvest all dividends and distributions, and then redeem all of your Shares at the end of each period. 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 on these assumptions your costs would be:

| | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|----------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------|
| Institutional Shares | \$ 60 | \$ 189 | \$ 329 | \$ 738 |

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 annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Portfolio’s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Portfolio’s turnover rate was 38% of the average value of its portfolio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The Portfolio pursues its investment objective by investing primarily in common stocks selected for their growth potential. The Portfolio may invest in companies of any size, from larger, well-established companies to smaller, emerging growth companies.

Janus Capital’s equity research analysts, overseen by the Portfolio Oversight Team led by Janus Capital’s Director of Centralized Equity Research Matthew Peron (the “Research Team”), select investments for the Portfolio that represent the Research Team’s high-conviction investment ideas in all market capitalizations and styles. The Research Team, comprised of sector specialists, conducts fundamental analysis with a focus on “bottom up” research, quantitative modeling, and valuation analysis. Using this research process, analysts rate their stocks based upon attractiveness. Stocks considered to be attractive may have all or some of the following characteristics: (i) good and preferably growing free cash flow, (ii) strong and defensible market position, (iii) healthy risk/return profile, (iv) exemplary governance, and (v) attractive valuation. Analysts bring their high-conviction ideas to their respective sector teams. Sector teams compare the appreciation and risk potential of each of the team’s high-conviction ideas and construct a sector portfolio that is intended to maximize the best risk-reward

opportunities. Although the Research Team may find high-conviction investment ideas anywhere in the world, the Research Team emphasizes investments in securities of U.S.-based issuers.

Positions may be sold when, among other things, there is no longer high conviction in the return potential of the investment or if the risk characteristics have caused a re-evaluation of the opportunity. This may occur if the stock has appreciated and reflects the anticipated value, if another company represents a better risk-reward opportunity, or if the investment's fundamental characteristics deteriorate. Securities may also be sold from the portfolio to rebalance sector weightings.

Mr. Peron oversees the investment process and is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Portfolio. It is expected that the Portfolio will be broadly diversified among a variety of industry sectors. The Portfolio intends to be fully invested under normal circumstances. However, under unusual circumstances, if the Research Team does not have high conviction in enough investment opportunities, the Portfolio's uninvested assets may be held in cash or similar instruments.

The Portfolio may lend portfolio securities on a short-term or long-term basis, in an amount equal to up to one-third of its total assets as determined at the time of the loan origination.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT RISKS

The biggest risk is that the Portfolio's returns will vary, and you could lose money. The Portfolio is designed for long-term investors seeking an equity portfolio, including common stocks. Common stocks tend to be more volatile than many other investment choices.

Market Risk. The value of the Portfolio's holdings may decrease if the value of an individual company or security, or multiple companies or securities, in the Portfolio decreases or if the investment personnel's belief about a company's intrinsic worth is incorrect. Further, regardless of how well individual companies or securities perform, the value of the Portfolio's holdings could also decrease if there are deteriorating economic or market conditions. It is important to understand that the value of your investment may fall, sometimes sharply, in response to changes in the market, and you could lose money. Market risk may affect a single issuer, industry, economic sector, or the market as a whole. Market risk may be magnified if certain social, political, economic, and other conditions and events (such as natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) adversely interrupt the global economy and financial markets.

Growth Securities Risk. The Portfolio invests in companies that the investment personnel believe have growth potential. Securities of companies perceived to be "growth" companies may be more volatile than other stocks and may involve special risks. If the investment personnel's perception of a company's growth potential is not realized, the securities purchased may not perform as expected, reducing the Portfolio's returns. In addition, because different types of stocks tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market and economic conditions, "growth" stocks may perform differently from the market as a whole and other types of securities. The Portfolio's Research Team compares and broadly matches the Portfolio's sector weights to those of a growth-based index. If growth stocks are out of favor, sectors that are larger in a growth index may underperform, leading to Portfolio underperformance relative to indices less biased toward growth stocks.

Securities Lending Risk. The Portfolio may seek to earn additional income through lending its securities to certain qualified broker-dealers and institutions. There is the risk that when portfolio securities are lent, the securities may not be returned on a timely basis, and the Portfolio may experience delays and costs in recovering the security or gaining access to the collateral provided to the Portfolio to collateralize the loan. If the Portfolio is unable to recover a security on loan, the Portfolio may use the collateral to purchase replacement securities in the market. There is a risk that the value of the collateral could decrease below the cost of the replacement security by the time the replacement investment is made, resulting in a loss to the Portfolio.

Mid-Sized Companies Risk. The Portfolio's investments in securities issued by mid-sized companies may involve greater risks than are customarily associated with larger, more established companies. Securities issued by mid-sized companies tend to be more volatile than securities issued by larger or more established companies and may underperform as compared to the securities of larger or more established companies.

Management Risk. The Portfolio is an actively managed investment portfolio and is therefore subject to the risk that the investment strategies employed for the Portfolio may fail to produce the intended results. The Portfolio may underperform its benchmark index or other mutual funds with similar investment objectives.

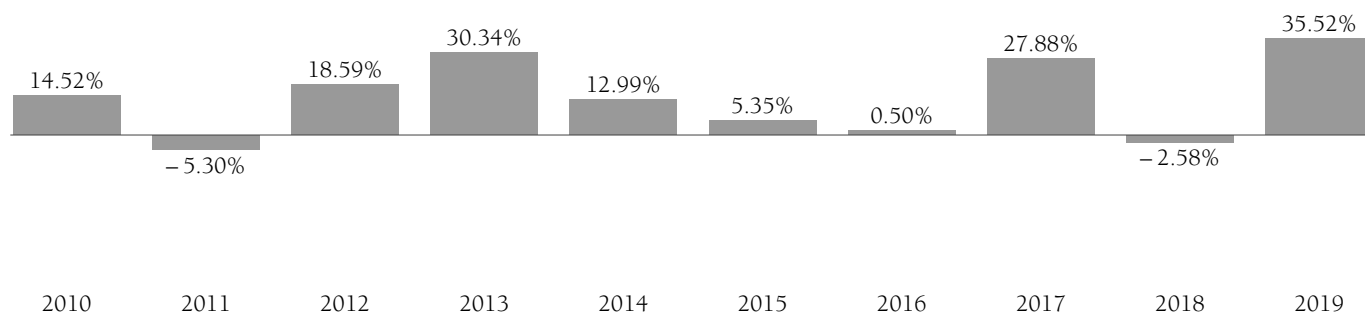
An investment in the Portfolio is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The following information provides some indication of the risks of investing in the Portfolio by showing how the Portfolio's performance has varied over time. The bar chart depicts the change in performance from year to year during the periods indicated, but does not include charges or expenses attributable to any insurance product, which would lower the performance illustrated. The Portfolio does not impose any sales or other charges that would affect total return computations. Total return figures include the effect of the Portfolio's expenses. The table compares the average annual returns for the Institutional Shares of the Portfolio for the periods indicated to broad-based securities market indices. All figures assume reinvestment of dividends and distributions.

The Portfolio's past performance does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future. Updated performance information is available at janushenderson.com/VITperformance or by calling 1-877-335-2687.

Annual Total Returns for Institutional Shares (calendar year-end)



Best Quarter: 1st Quarter 2019 **16.80%** **Worst Quarter:** 3rd Quarter 2011 **-16.19%**

Average Annual Total Returns (periods ended 12/31/19)

| | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years | Since Inception (9/13/93) |
|--|--------|---------|----------|---------------------------|
| Research Portfolio | | | | |
| Institutional Shares | 35.52% | 12.32% | 12.97% | 8.95% |
| Russell 1000® Growth Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes) | 36.39% | 14.63% | 15.22% | 9.89% |
| S&P 500® Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes) | 31.49% | 11.70% | 13.56% | 9.82% |

The Portfolio's primary benchmark index is the Russell 1000 Growth Index. The Portfolio also compares its performance to the S&P 500 Index. The Russell 1000 Growth Index is used to calculate the Portfolio's performance fee adjustment. The indices are described below.

- The Russell 1000 Growth Index measures the performance of those Russell 1000 companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values.
- The S&P 500 Index is a commonly recognized, market capitalization-weighted index of 500 widely held equity securities, designed to measure broad U.S. equity performance.

MANAGEMENT

Investment Adviser: Janus Capital Management LLC

Portfolio Management: **Matthew Peron**, Janus Capital's Director of Centralized Equity Research, provides general oversight of the Research Team and has done so since April 2020.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

Purchases of Shares may be made only by the separate accounts of insurance companies for the purpose of funding variable insurance contracts or by certain qualified retirement plans. Redemptions, like purchases, may be effected only through the separate accounts of participating insurance companies or through qualified retirement plans. Requests are duly processed at the NAV next calculated after your order is received in good order by the Portfolio or its agents. Refer to the appropriate separate account prospectus or plan documents for details.

TAX INFORMATION

Because Shares of the Portfolio may be purchased only through variable insurance contracts and certain qualified retirement plans, it is anticipated that any income dividends or net capital gains distributions made by the Portfolio will be exempt from current federal income taxation if left to accumulate within the variable insurance contract or qualified retirement plan. The federal income tax status of your investment depends on the features of your qualified retirement plan or variable insurance contract.

PAYMENTS TO INSURERS, BROKER-DEALERS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Portfolio shares are generally available only through an insurer's variable contracts, or through certain employer or other retirement plans (Retirement Products). Retirement Products are generally purchased through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary. The Portfolio or its distributor (and/or their related companies) may make payments to the insurer and/or its related companies for distribution and/or other services; some of the payments may go to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries. These payments may create a conflict of interest for an intermediary, or be a factor in the insurer's decision to include the Portfolio as an underlying investment option in a variable contract. Ask your financial advisor, visit your intermediary's website, or consult your insurance contract prospectus for more information.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO

FEES AND EXPENSES

Please refer to the following important information when reviewing the “Fees and Expenses of the Portfolio” table in the Portfolio Summary of the Prospectus. The fees and expenses shown were determined based on average net assets as of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019.

- “Annual Fund Operating Expenses” are paid out of the Portfolio’s assets and include fees for portfolio management and administrative services, including recordkeeping, subaccounting, and other shareholder services. You do not pay these fees directly but, as the Example in the Portfolio Summary shows, these costs are borne indirectly by all shareholders.
- The “Management Fee” is the investment advisory fee rate paid by the Portfolio to Janus Capital. Research Portfolio pays an investment advisory fee rate that adjusts up or down by a variable rate of up to 0.15% (assuming constant assets) on a monthly basis based upon the Portfolio’s performance relative to its benchmark index during a measurement period. This base fee rate, prior to any performance adjustment, is 0.64%. Refer to “Management Expenses” in this Prospectus for additional information with further description in the Statement of Additional Information (“SAI”).
- “Other Expenses”
 - include an administrative services fee of 0.05% of the average daily net assets to compensate insurance companies or other financial intermediaries for services provided to contract owners and plan participants.
 - include acquired fund fees and expenses, which are indirect expenses the Portfolio may incur as a result of investing in shares of an underlying fund. “Acquired Fund” refers to any underlying fund (including, but not limited to, exchange-traded funds) in which a portfolio invests or has invested during the period. To the extent that the Portfolio invests in Acquired Funds, the Portfolio’s “Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses” may not correlate to the “Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets” presented in the Financial Highlights table because that ratio includes only the direct operating expenses incurred by the Portfolio, not the indirect costs of investing in Acquired Funds. Such amounts are less than 0.01%.
 - may include reimbursement to Janus Services LLC (“Janus Services”), the Portfolio’s transfer agent, of its out-of-pocket costs for serving as transfer agent and providing servicing to shareholders, including servicing provided by third parties.
- All expenses in the Portfolio’s “Fees and Expenses of the Portfolio” table are shown without the effect of expense offset arrangements. Pursuant to such arrangements, credits realized as a result of uninvested cash balances are used to reduce custodian and transfer agent expenses.

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND GENERAL PORTFOLIO POLICIES

The Portfolio’s Board of Trustees (“Trustees”) may change the Portfolio’s investment objective or non-fundamental principal investment strategies without a shareholder vote. The Portfolio will notify you in writing at least 60 days before making any such change it considers material. If there is a material change to the Portfolio’s investment objective or principal investment strategies, you should consider whether the Portfolio remains an appropriate investment for you. There is no guarantee that the Portfolio will achieve its investment objective.

Unless otherwise stated, the following section provides additional information about the investment strategies and general policies that are summarized in the Portfolio Summary section, including the types of securities the Portfolio may invest in when pursuing its investment objective. This section also describes investment strategies and policies that the Portfolio may use to a lesser extent. These non-principal investment strategies and policies may become more important in the future since the Portfolio’s composition can change over time. Except for the Portfolio’s policies with respect to illiquid investments and borrowing, the percentage limitations included in these policies and elsewhere in this Prospectus and/or the SAI normally apply only at the time of purchase of a security. So, for example, if the Portfolio exceeds a limit as a result of market fluctuations or the sale of other securities, it will not be required to dispose of any securities. The “Glossary of Investment Terms” includes descriptions of investment terms used throughout the Prospectus.

Security Selection

Janus Capital’s equity research analysts, overseen by the Portfolio Oversight Team led by Janus Capital’s Director of Centralized Equity Research Matthew Peron (the “Research Team”), select investments for the Portfolio that reflect the Research Team’s high-conviction investment ideas in all market capitalizations and styles. The Research Team, comprised of sector specialists, conducts fundamental analysis with a focus on “bottom up” research, quantitative modeling, and valuation analysis and rate their stocks based upon attractiveness. Stocks considered to be attractive may have all or some of the

following characteristics: i) good and preferably growing free cash flow, ii) strong and defensible market position, iii) healthy risk/return profile, iv) exemplary governance, and v) attractive valuation. Analysts bring their high-conviction ideas to their respective sector teams. Sector teams compare the appreciation and risk potential of each of the team's high-conviction ideas and construct a sector portfolio that is intended to maximize the best risk-reward opportunities. Although the Research Team may find high-conviction investment ideas anywhere in the world with respect to the Portfolio, the Research Team emphasizes investments in securities of U.S.-based issuers for the Portfolio.

Positions may be sold when, among other things, there is no longer high conviction in the return potential of the investment or if the risk characteristics have caused a re-evaluation of the opportunity. This may occur if the stock has appreciated and reflects the anticipated value, if another company represents a better risk-reward opportunity, or if the investment's fundamental characteristics deteriorate. Securities may also be sold from the portfolio to rebalance sector weightings.

Cash Position

The Portfolio may not always stay fully invested. For example, when the investment personnel believe that market conditions are unfavorable for investing, or when they are otherwise unable to locate attractive investment opportunities, the Portfolio's cash or similar investments may increase. In other words, cash or similar investments generally are a residual – they represent the assets that remain after the Portfolio has committed available assets to desirable investment opportunities. When the Portfolio's investments in cash or similar investments increase, it may not participate in market advances or declines to the same extent that it would if the Portfolio remained more fully invested. To the extent the Portfolio invests its uninvested cash through a sweep program (meaning its uninvested cash is pooled with uninvested cash of other funds and invested in certain securities such as repurchase agreements), it is subject to the risks of the account or fund into which it is investing, including liquidity issues that may delay the Portfolio from accessing its cash.

In addition, the Portfolio may temporarily increase its cash position under certain unusual circumstances, such as to protect its assets or maintain liquidity in certain circumstances to meet unusually large redemptions. The Portfolio's cash position may also increase temporarily due to unusually large cash inflows. Under unusual circumstances such as these, the Portfolio may invest up to 100% of its assets in cash or similar investments. In this case, the Portfolio may take positions that are inconsistent with its investment policies. As a result, the Portfolio may not achieve its investment objective.

Emerging Markets

Within the parameters of its specific investment policies, the Portfolio may invest in securities of issuers or companies from or with exposure to one or more "developing countries" or "emerging market countries." Such countries include, but are not limited to, countries included in the MSCI Emerging Markets IndexSM.

Foreign Securities

The Portfolio may invest in foreign securities. The investment personnel seek investments that meet the selection criteria, regardless of where an issuer or company is located. Foreign securities are generally selected on a security-by-security basis without regard to any predetermined allocation among countries or geographic regions. However, certain factors, such as expected levels of inflation, government policies influencing business conditions, the outlook for currency relationships, and prospects for economic growth among countries, regions, or geographic areas, may warrant greater consideration in selecting foreign securities. There are no limitations on the countries in which the Portfolio may invest, and the Portfolio may at times have significant foreign exposure, including exposure to emerging markets.

High-Yield/High-Risk Bonds

A high-yield/high-risk bond (also known as a "junk" bond) is a bond rated below investment grade by major rating agencies (i.e., BB+ or lower by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("Standard & Poor's") and Fitch, Inc. ("Fitch"), or Ba1 or lower by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's")) or is an unrated bond of similar quality. It presents greater risk of default (the failure to make timely interest and principal payments) than higher quality bonds. To the extent the Portfolio invests in high-yield/high-risk bonds, under normal circumstances, the Portfolio will limit its investments in high-yield/high-risk bonds to 35% or less of its net assets.

Illiquid Investments

The Portfolio will not acquire any illiquid investment if, immediately after the acquisition, the Portfolio would have invested more than 15% of its net assets in illiquid investments. An illiquid investment is any investment that the Portfolio reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment.

Initial Public Offerings and Secondary Offerings

An IPO is the first sale of stock by a private company to the public. IPOs are often issued by smaller, younger companies seeking the capital to expand, but can also be done by large privately-owned companies looking to become publicly traded. Secondary offerings may be made by companies for a number of reasons, including as part of a refinancing, to raise capital for growth, and/or to provide existing shareholders with a way to register and sell restricted shares.

Leverage

Certain of the Portfolio's investments, including derivatives and short sale transactions, involve the use of leverage. Leverage is investment exposure which exceeds the initial amount invested. Leverage occurs when the Portfolio increases its assets available for investment using reverse repurchase agreements or other similar transactions. In addition, other investment techniques, such as short sales and certain derivative transactions, can create a leveraging effect.

Portfolio Turnover

In general, the Portfolio intends to purchase securities for long-term investment, although, to a limited extent, the Portfolio may purchase securities in anticipation of relatively short-term gains. Short-term transactions may also result from liquidity needs, securities having reached a price or yield objective, changes in interest rates or the credit standing of an issuer, or by reason of economic or other developments not foreseen at the time of the initial investment decision. The Portfolio may also sell one security and simultaneously purchase the same or a comparable security to take advantage of short-term differentials in bond yields or securities prices. Portfolio turnover is affected by market conditions, changes in the size of the Portfolio (including due to shareholder purchases and redemptions), the nature of the Portfolio's investments, and the investment style of the investment personnel. Changes are normally made in the Portfolio's holdings whenever the investment personnel believe such changes are desirable. Portfolio turnover rates are generally not a factor in making buy and sell decisions for the Portfolio.

Increased portfolio turnover may result in higher costs for brokerage commissions, dealer mark-ups, and other transaction costs. Higher costs associated with increased portfolio turnover also may have a negative effect on the Portfolio's performance. The "Financial Highlights" section of this Prospectus shows the Portfolio's historical turnover rates.

Real Estate-Related Securities

The Portfolio may invest in equity and debt securities of real estate-related companies. Such companies may include those in the real estate industry or real estate-related industries. These securities may include common stocks, preferred stocks, and other securities, including, but not limited to, mortgage-backed securities, real estate-backed securities, securities of real estate investment trusts ("REITs") and similar REIT-like entities. A REIT is a trust that invests in real estate-related projects, such as properties, mortgage loans, and construction loans. REITs are generally categorized as equity, mortgage, or hybrid REITs. A REIT may be listed on an exchange or traded over-the-counter.

Securities Lending

The Portfolio may seek to earn additional income through lending its securities to certain qualified broker-dealers and institutions on a short-term or long-term basis. The Portfolio may lend portfolio securities on a short-term or long-term basis, in an amount equal to up to one-third of its total assets as determined at the time of the loan origination. When the Portfolio lends its securities, it receives collateral (including cash collateral), at least equal to the value of securities loaned. The Portfolio may earn income by investing this collateral in one or more affiliated or non-affiliated cash management vehicles or in time deposits. It is also possible that, due to a decline in the value of a cash management vehicle in which collateral is invested, the Portfolio may lose money. There is also the risk that when portfolio securities are lent, the securities may not be returned on a timely basis, and the Portfolio may experience delays and costs in recovering the security or gaining access to the collateral provided to the Portfolio to collateralize the loan. If the Portfolio is unable to recover a security on loan, the Portfolio may use the collateral to purchase replacement securities in the market. There is a risk that the value of the collateral could decrease below the cost of the replacement security by the time the replacement investment is made, resulting in a loss to the Portfolio. In certain circumstances, individual loan transactions could yield negative returns. Janus Capital intends to manage the cash collateral in an affiliated cash management vehicle and will receive an investment advisory fee for managing such assets.

Short Sales

The Portfolio may engage in short sales. No more than 10% of the Portfolio's net assets may be invested in short positions (through short sales of stocks, structured products, futures, swaps, and uncovered written calls). The Portfolio may engage in short sales "against the box," which involve selling short a security that the Portfolio owns, and options for hedging purposes

that are not subject to this 10% limit. A short sale is generally a transaction in which the Portfolio sells a security it does not own or have the right to acquire (or that it owns but does not wish to deliver) in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline. To complete the transaction, the Portfolio must borrow the security to make delivery to the buyer. The Portfolio is then obligated to replace the security borrowed by purchasing the security at the market price at the time of replacement. A short sale is subject to the risk that if the price of the security sold short increases in value, the Portfolio will incur a loss because it will have to replace the security sold short by purchasing it at a higher price. In addition, the Portfolio may not always be able to close out a short position at a particular time or at an acceptable price. A lender may request, or market conditions may dictate, that the securities sold short be returned to the lender on short notice, and the Portfolio may have to buy the securities sold short at an unfavorable price. If this occurs at a time that other short sellers of the same security also want to close out their positions, it is more likely that the Portfolio will have to cover its short sale at an unfavorable price and potentially reduce or eliminate any gain, or cause a loss, as a result of the short sale. Because there is no upper limit to the price a borrowed security may reach prior to closing a short position, the Portfolio's losses are potentially unlimited in a short sale transaction. The Portfolio's gains and losses will also be decreased or increased, as the case may be, by the amount of any dividends, interest, or expenses, including transaction costs and borrowing fees, the Portfolio may be required to pay in connection with a short sale. Such payments may result in the Portfolio having higher expenses than a portfolio that does not engage in short sales and may negatively affect the Portfolio's performance.

The Portfolio may also enter into short positions through derivative instruments such as options contracts, futures contracts, and swap agreements which may expose the Portfolio to similar risks. To the extent that the Portfolio enters into short derivative positions, the Portfolio may be exposed to risks similar to those associated with short sales, including the risk that the Portfolio's losses are theoretically unlimited. Short sales and short derivatives positions have a leveraging effect on the Portfolio, which may increase the Portfolio's volatility.

Special Situations

The Portfolio may invest in companies that demonstrate special situations or turnarounds, meaning companies that have experienced significant business problems but are believed to have favorable prospects for recovery. For example, a special situation or turnaround may arise when, in the opinion of the investment personnel, the securities of a particular issuer will be recognized as undervalued by the market and appreciate in value due to a specific development with respect to that issuer. Special situations may include significant changes in a company's allocation of its existing capital, a restructuring of assets, or a redirection of free cash flow. For example, issuers undergoing significant capital changes may include companies involved in spin-offs, sales of divisions, mergers or acquisitions, companies involved in bankruptcy proceedings, or companies initiating large changes in their debt to equity ratio. Companies that are redirecting cash flows may be reducing debt, repurchasing shares, or paying dividends. Special situations may also result from: (i) significant changes in industry structure through regulatory developments or shifts in competition; (ii) a new or improved product, service, operation, or technological advance; (iii) changes in senior management or other extraordinary corporate event; (iv) differences in market supply of and demand for the security; or (v) significant changes in cost structure. Investments in "special situations" companies can present greater risks than investments in companies not experiencing special situations, and the Portfolio's performance could be adversely impacted if the securities selected decline in value or fail to appreciate in value.

Swap Agreements

Certain portfolios may utilize swap agreements including, but not limited to, credit default swaps, equity swaps, inflation index swaps, interest rate and currency swaps, total return swaps (including fixed-income total return swaps), and swaps on exchange-traded funds, as a means to gain exposure to certain companies or countries, and/or to "hedge" or protect their holdings from adverse movements in securities prices, the rate of inflation, or interest rates. Swaps may also be used for capital appreciation. Swap agreements are two-party contracts to exchange one set of cash flows for another. Swap agreements entail the risk that a party will default on its payment obligations to a portfolio. If the other party to a swap defaults, the portfolio would risk the loss of the net amount of the payments that it contractually is entitled to receive. If a portfolio utilizes a swap at the wrong time or judges market conditions incorrectly, the swap may result in a loss to the portfolio and reduce the portfolio's total return. Various types of swaps such as credit default, equity, interest rate, and total return are described in the "Glossary of Investment Terms."

Other Types of Investments

Unless otherwise stated within its specific investment policies, the Portfolio may also invest in other types of domestic and foreign securities and use other investment strategies, as described in the "Glossary of Investment Terms." These securities and strategies are not intended to be principal investment strategies of the Portfolio. If successful, they may benefit the

Portfolio by earning a return on the Portfolio's assets or reducing risk; however, they may not achieve the Portfolio's investment objective. These securities and strategies may include:

- debt securities (such as bonds, notes, and debentures)
- other investment companies (such as exchange-traded funds)
- preferred stocks and securities convertible into common stocks or preferred stocks
- indexed/structured securities (such as commercial and residential mortgage- and asset-backed securities)
- various derivative transactions including, but not limited to, options, futures on U.S. and foreign exchanges, forwards, swap agreements, participatory notes, structured notes, and other types of derivatives individually or in combination for hedging purposes or for nonhedging purposes such as seeking to earn income and enhance return, to protect unrealized gains, or to avoid realizing losses; such techniques may also be used to adjust currency exposure relative to a benchmark index, to gain exposure to the market pending investment of cash balances, or to meet liquidity needs
- securities purchased on a when-issued, delayed delivery, or forward commitment basis
- equity and fixed-income securities issued in private placement transactions

RISKS OF THE PORTFOLIO

The value of your investment will vary over time, sometimes significantly, and you may lose money by investing in the Portfolio. To varying degrees, the Portfolio may invest in stocks, fixed-income securities, money market instruments or cash/cash equivalents, and derivatives. The following information is intended to help you better understand some of the risks of investing in the Portfolio, including those risks that are summarized in the Portfolio Summary section. This information also includes descriptions of other risks the Portfolio may be subject to as a result of additional investment strategies and general policies that may apply to the Portfolio. The impact of the following risks on the Portfolio may vary depending on the Portfolio's investments. The greater the Portfolio's investment in a particular security, the greater the Portfolio's exposure to the risks associated with that security. Before investing in the Portfolio, you should consider carefully the risks that you assume when investing in the Portfolio.

Counterparty Risk. Portfolio transactions involving a counterparty are subject to the risk that the counterparty or a third party will not fulfill its obligation to the Portfolio ("counterparty risk"). Counterparty risk may arise because of the counterparty's financial condition (i.e., financial difficulties, bankruptcy, or insolvency), market activities and developments, or other reasons, whether foreseen or not. A counterparty's inability to fulfill its obligation may result in significant financial loss to the Portfolio. The Portfolio may be unable to recover its investment from the counterparty or may obtain a limited recovery, and/or recovery may be delayed. The Portfolio may be exposed to counterparty risk to the extent it participates in lending its securities to third parties and/or cash sweep arrangements whereby the Portfolio's cash balance is invested in one or more types of cash management vehicles. In addition, the Portfolio may be exposed to counterparty risk through its investments in certain securities, including, but not limited to, repurchase agreements, debt securities, and derivatives (including various types of swaps, futures, and options). The Portfolio intends to enter into financial transactions with counterparties that Janus Capital believes to be creditworthy at the time of the transaction. There is always the risk that Janus Capital's analysis of a counterparty's creditworthiness is incorrect or may change due to market conditions. To the extent that the Portfolio focuses its transactions with a limited number of counterparties, it will have greater exposure to the risks associated with one or more counterparties.

Derivatives Risk. Derivatives can be highly volatile and involve risks in addition to the risks of the underlying referenced securities or asset. Gains or losses from a derivative investment can be substantially greater than the derivative's original cost, and can therefore involve leverage. Leverage may cause the Portfolio to be more volatile than if it had not used leverage. Derivatives can be complex instruments and may involve analysis that differs from that required for other investment types used by the Portfolio. If the value of a derivative does not correlate well with the particular market or other asset class to which the derivative is intended to provide exposure, the derivative may not produce the anticipated result. Derivatives can also reduce the opportunity for gain or result in losses by offsetting positive returns in other investments. Derivatives can be less liquid than other types of investments and entail the risk that the counterparty will default on its payment obligations. If the counterparty to a derivative transaction defaults, the Portfolio would risk the loss of the net amount of the payments that

it contractually is entitled to receive. To the extent the Portfolio enters into short derivative positions, the Portfolio may be exposed to risks similar to those associated with short sales, including the risk that the Portfolio's losses are theoretically unlimited.

Emerging Markets Risk. Within the parameters of its specific investment policies, the Portfolio may invest in securities of issuers or companies from or with exposure to one or more “developing countries” or “emerging market countries.” Such countries include, but are not limited to, countries included in the MSCI Emerging Markets IndexSM. To the extent that the Portfolio invests a significant amount of its assets in one or more of these countries, its returns and net asset value may be affected to a large degree by events and economic conditions in such countries. The risks of foreign investing are heightened when investing in emerging markets, which may result in the price of investments in emerging markets experiencing sudden and sharp price swings. In many developing markets, there is less government supervision and regulation of business and industry practices (including the potential lack of strict finance and accounting controls and standards), stock exchanges, brokers, and listed companies than in more developed markets, making these investments potentially more volatile in price and less liquid than investments in developed securities markets, resulting in greater risk to investors. There is a risk in developing countries that a future economic or political crisis could lead to price controls, forced mergers of companies, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, imposition or enforcement of foreign ownership limits, seizure, nationalization, sanctions or imposition of restrictions by various governmental entities on investment and trading, or creation of government monopolies, any of which may have a detrimental effect on the Portfolio's investments. The securities markets of many of these countries may also be smaller, less liquid, and subject to greater price volatility than those in the United States. In the event of a default on any investments in foreign debt obligations, it may be more difficult for the Portfolio to obtain or to enforce a judgment against the issuers of such securities. In addition, the Portfolio's investments may be denominated in foreign currencies and therefore, changes in the value of a country's currency compared to the U.S. dollar may affect the value of the Portfolio's investments. To the extent that the Portfolio invests a significant portion of its assets in the securities of emerging markets issuers in or companies of a single country or region, it is more likely to be impacted by events or conditions affecting that country or region, which could have a negative impact on the Portfolio's performance. The Portfolio may be subject to emerging markets risk to the extent that it invests in securities of issuers or companies which are not considered to be from emerging markets, but which have customers, products, or transactions associated with emerging markets. Some of the risks of investing directly in emerging market securities may be reduced when the Portfolio invests indirectly in such securities through various other investment vehicles including derivatives, but such investments also involve other risks.

Eurozone Risk. A number of countries in the European Union (“EU”) have experienced, and may continue to experience, severe economic and financial difficulties. In particular, many EU nations are susceptible to economic risks associated with high levels of debt, notably due to investments in sovereign debt. As a result, financial markets in the EU have been subject to increased volatility and declines in asset values and liquidity. Responses to these financial problems by European governments, central banks, and others, including austerity measures and reforms, may not work, may result in social unrest, and may limit future growth and economic recovery or have other unintended consequences. The risk of investing in British issuers may also be heightened due to the withdrawal agreement, which came into force in January 2020, in which the United Kingdom ended its membership in the EU (commonly known as “Brexit”) and entered an 11-month transition period. There is considerable uncertainty relating to the consequences of the exit and how negotiations for new trade agreements will be conducted or whether a new trade deal will be reached by the end of the transition period. During this period of uncertainty, the negative impact on not only the United Kingdom and European economies, but the broader global economy, could be significant, potentially resulting in increased volatility and illiquidity and lower economic growth for companies that rely significantly on the United Kingdom and/or Europe for their business activities and revenues. Any further exits from the EU, or an increase in the belief that such exits are likely or possible, would likely cause additional market disruption globally and introduce new legal and regulatory uncertainties. To the extent that the Portfolio has exposure to European markets or to transactions tied to the value of the euro, these events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the Portfolio's investments. All of these developments may continue to significantly affect the economies of all EU countries, which in turn may have a material adverse effect on the Portfolio's investments in such countries, other countries that depend on EU countries for significant amounts of trade or investment, or issuers with exposure to debt issued by certain EU countries.

Foreign Exposure Risk. Within the parameters of its specific investment policies, the Portfolio may invest in foreign debt and equity securities either indirectly (e.g., depositary receipts, depositary shares, and passive foreign investment companies) or directly in foreign markets, including emerging markets. Some of the risks of investing directly in foreign securities may be reduced when the Portfolio invests indirectly in such securities through various other investment vehicles including

derivatives, but such investments also involve other risks. With respect to investments in securities of issuers or companies that are economically tied to different countries throughout the world, securities may be deemed to be economically tied to a particular country based on such factors as the issuer's country of incorporation, primary listing, and other factors including, but not limited to operations, revenues, headquarters, management, and shareholder base. Investments in foreign securities, including securities of foreign and emerging market governments, may involve greater risks than investing in domestic securities because the Portfolio's performance may depend on factors other than the performance of a particular company. These factors include:

- **Currency Risk.** As long as the Portfolio holds a foreign security, its value will be affected by the value of the local currency relative to the U.S. dollar. When the Portfolio sells a foreign currency denominated security, its value may be worth less in U.S. dollars even if the security increases in value in its home country. U.S. dollar-denominated securities of foreign issuers may also be affected by currency risk, as the value of these securities may also be affected by changes in the issuer's local currency.
- **Political and Economic Risk.** Foreign investments may be subject to heightened political and economic risks, particularly in emerging markets which may have relatively unstable governments, immature economic structures, national policies restricting investments by foreigners, social instability, and different and/or developing legal systems. In some countries, there is the risk that the government may take over the assets or operations of a company or that the government may impose withholding and other taxes or limits on the removal of the Portfolio's assets from that country. In addition, the economies of emerging markets may be predominantly based on only a few industries, may be highly vulnerable to changes in local or global trade conditions, and may suffer from extreme and volatile debt burdens or inflation rates.
- **Regulatory Risk.** There may be less government supervision of foreign markets. As a result, foreign issuers may not be subject to the uniform accounting, auditing, and financial reporting standards and practices applicable to domestic issuers, and there may be less publicly available information about foreign issuers.
- **Foreign Market Risk.** Foreign securities markets, particularly those of emerging market countries, may be less liquid and more volatile than domestic markets. These securities markets may trade a small number of securities, may have a limited number of issuers and a high proportion of shares, or may be held by a relatively small number of persons or institutions. Local securities markets may be unable to respond effectively to increases in trading volume, potentially making prompt liquidation of substantial holdings difficult or impossible at times. It is also possible that certain markets may require payment for securities before delivery, and delays may be encountered in settling securities transactions. In some foreign markets, there may not be protection against failure by other parties to complete transactions. It may not be possible for the Portfolio to repatriate capital, dividends, interest, and other income from a particular country or governmental entity. In addition, securities of issuers located in or economically tied to countries with emerging markets may have limited marketability and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements which could also have a negative effect on the Portfolio. Such factors may hinder the Portfolio's ability to buy and sell emerging market securities in a timely manner, affecting the Portfolio's investment strategies and potentially affecting the value of the Portfolio.
- **Geographic Concentration Risk.** To the extent that the Portfolio invests a substantial amount of its assets in issuers located in a single country or region, the economic, political, social, regulatory, or other developments or conditions within such country or region will generally have a greater effect on the Portfolio than they would on a more geographically diversified fund, which may result in greater losses and volatility. Adverse developments in certain regions could also adversely affect securities of other countries whose economies appear to be unrelated and could have a negative impact on the Portfolio's performance.
- **Transaction Costs.** Costs of buying, selling, and holding foreign securities, including brokerage, tax, and custody costs, may be higher than those involved in domestic transactions.

High-Yield/High-Risk Bond Risk. High-yield/high-risk bonds (also known as "junk" bonds) are bonds rated below investment grade by the primary rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's, Fitch, and Moody's or are unrated bonds of similar quality. The value of lower quality bonds generally is more dependent on credit risk than investment grade bonds. Issuers of high-yield/high-risk bonds may not be as strong financially as those issuing bonds with higher credit ratings and are more vulnerable to real or perceived economic changes, political changes, or adverse developments specific to the issuer. In addition, the junk bond market can experience sudden and sharp price swings.

Please refer to the "Explanation of Rating Categories" section of the SAI for a description of bond rating categories.

Industry and Sector Risk. Industry and sector risk is the possibility that a group of related securities will decline in price due to industry-specific or economic sector-specific developments. Companies in the same or similar industries and economic sectors may share common characteristics and are more likely to react similarly to industry-specific market or economic developments. The Portfolio's investments, if any, in multiple companies in a particular industry or economic sector may increase the Portfolio's exposure to industry and sector risk.

Initial Public Offering and Secondary Offering Risk. A portfolio's purchase of shares issued in an initial public offering ("IPO") exposes it to the risks associated with companies that have little operating history as public companies, as well as to the risks inherent in those sectors of the market where these new issuers operate. Attractive IPOs are often oversubscribed and may not be available to the portfolio, or may be available only in very limited quantities. The market for IPO issuers has been volatile, and share prices of newly public companies have fluctuated up and down significantly over short periods of time. Although IPO investments may have had a positive impact on certain portfolios' performance in the past, there can be no assurance that the portfolio will identify favorable IPO investment opportunities in the future. In addition, under certain market conditions, a relatively small number of companies may issue securities in IPOs. Similarly, as the number of portfolios to which IPO securities are allocated increases, the number of securities issued to any one portfolio may decrease. In addition, as the portfolio increases in size, the impact of IPOs on the portfolio's performance will generally decrease.

Like IPOs, secondary offerings may have a magnified impact on the performance of a portfolio with a small asset base. Secondary offering shares frequently are volatile in price. As a result, a portfolio may hold secondary offering shares for a very short period of time. This may increase the portfolio turnover rate of a portfolio and may lead to increased expenses for a portfolio, such as commissions and transaction costs. In addition, secondary offering shares can experience an immediate drop in value if the demand for the securities does not continue to support the offering price.

Leverage Risk. Engaging in transactions using leverage or those having a leveraging effect subjects the Portfolio to certain risks. Leverage can magnify the effect of any gains or losses, causing the Portfolio to be more volatile than if it had not been leveraged. Certain commodity-linked derivatives may subject the Portfolio to leveraged market exposure to commodities. In addition, the Portfolio's assets that are used as collateral to secure short sale transactions may decrease in value while the short positions are outstanding, which may force the Portfolio to use its other assets to increase collateral. There is no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful.

Liquidity Risk. The Portfolio may invest in securities or instruments that do not trade actively or in large volumes, and may make investments that are less liquid than other investments. Also, the Portfolio may make investments that may become less liquid in response to market developments or adverse investor perceptions. Investments that are illiquid or that trade in lower volumes may be more difficult to value. When there is no willing buyer and investments cannot be readily sold at the desired time or price, the Portfolio may have to accept a lower price or may not be able to sell the security or instrument at all. Investments in foreign securities, particularly those of issuers located in emerging market countries, tend to have greater exposure to liquidity risk than domestic securities. In unusual market conditions, even normally liquid securities may be affected by a degree of liquidity risk (i.e., if the number and capacity of traditional market participants is reduced). An inability to sell one or more portfolio positions can adversely affect the Portfolio's value or prevent the Portfolio from being able to take advantage of other investment opportunities.

Liquidity risk may also refer to the risk that the Portfolio will not be able to pay redemption proceeds within the allowable time period because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, or other reasons. While the Portfolio may pay redemptions in-kind, the Portfolio may instead choose to raise cash to meet redemption requests through the sale of portfolio securities or permissible borrowings. If the Portfolio is forced to sell securities at an unfavorable time and/or under unfavorable conditions, such sales may adversely affect the Portfolio's net asset value and may increase brokerage costs.

Management Risk. The Portfolio is an actively managed investment portfolio and is therefore subject to the risk that the investment strategies employed for the Portfolio may fail to produce the intended results. The Portfolio may underperform its benchmark index or other mutual funds with similar investment objectives.

Because the Portfolio may invest substantially all of its assets in common stocks, the main risk is the risk that the value of the stocks it holds might decrease in response to the activities of an individual company or in response to general market and/or economic conditions. If this occurs, the Portfolio's share price may also decrease.

The Portfolio may use short sales, futures, options, swap agreements (including, but not limited to, equity, interest rate, credit default, and total return), and other derivative instruments individually or in combination to “hedge” or protect its portfolio from adverse movements in securities prices and interest rates. The Portfolio may also use a variety of currency hedging techniques, including the use of forward currency contracts, to manage currency risk. There is no guarantee that the investment personnel’s use of derivative investments will benefit the Portfolio. The Portfolio’s performance could be worse than if the Portfolio had not used such instruments. Use of such investments may instead increase risk to the Portfolio, rather than reduce risk.

The Portfolio’s performance may also be significantly affected, positively or negatively, by the investment personnel’s use of certain types of investments, such as foreign (non-U.S.) securities, non-investment grade bonds (also known as “junk” bonds), initial public offerings, or securities of companies with relatively small market capitalizations. Note that the investment personnel’s use of such investments may have a magnified performance impact on a portfolio with a small asset base and the portfolio may not experience similar performance as its assets grow.

Market Risk. The value of the Portfolio’s holdings may decrease if the value of an individual company or security, or multiple companies or securities, in the Portfolio decreases or if the investment personnel’s belief about a company’s intrinsic worth is incorrect. Further, regardless of how well individual companies or securities perform, the value of the Portfolio’s holdings could also decrease if there are deteriorating economic or market conditions, including, but not limited to, a general decline in prices on the stock markets, a general decline in real estate markets, a decline in commodities prices, or if the market favors different types of securities than the types of securities in which the Portfolio invests. If the value of the Portfolio’s holdings decreases, the Portfolio’s net asset value will also decrease, which means if you sell your shares in the Portfolio you may lose money. Market risk may affect a single issuer, industry, economic sector, or the market as a whole.

The increasing interconnectivity between global economies and financial markets increases the likelihood that events or conditions in one region or financial market may adversely impact issuers in a different country, region or financial market. Social, political, economic and other conditions and events, such as natural disasters, health emergencies (e.g., the COVID-19 outbreak, epidemics and other pandemics), terrorism, conflicts and social unrest, could reduce consumer demand or economic output, result in market closures, travel restrictions and/or quarantines, and generally have a significant impact on the global economies and financial markets. The effects of COVID-19, which may be short-term or may last for an extended period of time, have contributed to increased volatility in global financial markets and may affect certain countries, regions, issuers, industries and market sectors more dramatically than others. These conditions and events could have a significant impact on the Portfolio and its investments, the Portfolio’s ability to meet redemption requests, and the processes and operations of the Portfolio’s service providers, including Janus Capital.

Real Estate Securities Risk. To the extent it holds equity and/or debt securities of real estate-related companies, the Portfolio may be affected by the risks associated with real estate investments. The value of securities of companies in real estate and real estate-related industries, including securities of REITs, is sensitive to decreases in real estate values and rental income, property taxes, interest rates, tax and regulatory requirements, overbuilding/supply and demand, increased competition, local and general economic conditions, increases in operating costs, environmental liabilities, management skill in running a REIT, and the creditworthiness of the REIT. In addition, mortgage REITs and mortgage-backed securities are subject to prepayment risk. Mortgage-backed securities comprised of subprime mortgages and investments in other real estate-backed securities comprised of under-performing real estate assets also may be subject to a higher degree of credit risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk. If the Portfolio has REIT investments, the Portfolio’s shareholders will indirectly bear their proportionate share of the REIT’s expenses, in addition to their proportionate share of the Portfolio’s expenses.

REIT Risk. To the extent that the Portfolio holds REITs, it may be subject to the additional risks associated with REIT investments. The ability to trade REITs in the secondary market can be more limited compared to other equity investments, and certain REITs have relatively small market capitalizations, which can increase the volatility of the market price for their securities. REITs are also subject to heavy cash flow dependency to allow them to make distributions to their shareholders. The prices of equity REITs are affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the REITs and changes in capital markets and interest rates. The prices of mortgage REITs are affected by the quality of any credit they extend, the creditworthiness of the mortgages they hold, as well as by the value of the property that secures the mortgages. Equity REITs and mortgage REITs generally are not diversified and are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, defaults by borrowers, and self-liquidation. There is also the risk that borrowers under mortgages held by a REIT or lessees of a property that a REIT owns may be unable to meet their obligations to the REIT. In the event of a default by a borrower or lessee, the REIT may incur substantial costs associated with protecting its investments. Certain “special purpose” REITs in which the Portfolio may

invest focus their assets in specific real property sectors, such as hotels, shopping malls, nursing homes, or warehouses, and are therefore subject to the specific risks associated with adverse developments in these sectors.

Small- and Mid-Sized Companies Risk. The Portfolio's investments in securities issued by small- and mid-sized companies, which can include smaller, start-up companies offering emerging products or services, may involve greater risks than are customarily associated with larger, more established companies. For example, while small- and mid-sized companies may realize more substantial growth than larger or more established issuers, they may also suffer more significant losses as a result of their narrow product lines, limited operating history, greater exposure to competitive threats, limited financial resources, limited trading markets, and the potential lack of management depth. Securities issued by small- and mid-sized companies tend to be more volatile and somewhat more speculative than securities issued by larger or more established companies and may underperform as compared to the securities of larger or more established companies. These holdings are also subject to wider price fluctuations and tend to be less liquid than stocks of larger or more established companies, which could have a significant adverse effect on the Portfolio's returns, especially as market conditions change.

Warrants and Rights Risk. The price, performance and liquidity of warrants and rights to purchase equity securities are typically linked to the underlying stock. These instruments have many characteristics of convertible securities and, similarly, will react to variations in the general market for equity securities. Rights are similar to warrants, but normally have a short duration and are distributed directly by the issuer to its shareholders. Rights and warrants have no voting rights, receive no dividends and have no rights with respect to the assets of the issuer.

MANAGEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Janus Capital Management LLC, 151 Detroit Street, Denver, Colorado 80206-4805, is the investment adviser to the Portfolio. Janus Capital is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Portfolio's investment portfolio and furnishes continuous advice and recommendations concerning the Portfolio's investments. Janus Capital also provides certain administration and other services and is responsible for other business affairs of the Portfolio.

Janus Capital (together with its predecessors and affiliates) has served as investment adviser to Janus Henderson mutual funds since 1970 and currently serves as investment adviser to all of the funds that are series of the Trust (the "Janus Henderson funds"), acts as subadviser for a number of private-label mutual funds, and provides separate account advisory services for institutional accounts and other unregistered products.

The Trust and Janus Capital have received an exemptive order from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") that permits Janus Capital, subject to the approval of the Trustees, to appoint or replace certain subadvisers to manage all or a portion of the Portfolio's assets and enter into, amend, or terminate a subadvisory agreement with certain subadvisers without obtaining shareholder approval (a "manager-of-managers structure"). The manager-of-managers structure applies to subadvisers that are not affiliated with the Trust or Janus Capital ("non-affiliated subadvisers"), as well as any subadviser that is an indirect or direct "wholly-owned subsidiary" (as such term is defined by the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended) of Janus Capital or of another company that, indirectly or directly, wholly owns Janus Capital (collectively, "wholly-owned subadvisers").

Pursuant to the order, Janus Capital, with the approval of the Trustees, has the discretion to terminate any subadviser and allocate and, as appropriate, reallocate the Portfolio's assets among Janus Capital and any other non-affiliated subadvisers or wholly-owned subadvisers (including terminating a non-affiliated subadviser and replacing it with a wholly-owned subadviser). To the extent that the Portfolio's assets are allocated to one or more subadvisers, Janus Capital, subject to oversight by the Trustees, would have the responsibility to oversee such subadviser(s) to the Portfolio and to recommend for approval by the Trustees, the hiring, termination, and replacement of a subadviser for the Portfolio. In the event that Janus Capital hires a subadviser pursuant to the manager-of-managers structure, the Portfolio would provide shareholders with information about the subadviser and subadvisory agreement within 90 days.

Janus Capital furnishes certain administration, compliance, and accounting services to the Portfolio, including providing office space for the Portfolio and providing personnel to serve as officers to the Portfolio. The Portfolio reimburses Janus Capital for certain of its costs in providing these services (to the extent Janus Capital seeks reimbursement and such costs are not otherwise waived). These costs include some or all of the salaries, fees, and expenses of Janus Capital employees and Portfolio officers, including the Portfolio's Chief Compliance Officer and compliance staff, that provide specified administration and compliance services to the Portfolio. The Portfolio pays these costs based on out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Janus Capital, and these costs are separate and apart from advisory fees and other expenses paid in connection with the investment advisory services Janus Capital provides to the Portfolio.

MANAGEMENT EXPENSES

The Portfolio pays Janus Capital an investment advisory fee and incurs expenses, including administrative services fees payable pursuant to the Transfer Agency Agreement, any other transfer agent and custodian fees and expenses, legal and auditing fees, printing and mailing costs of sending reports and other information to existing shareholders, and Independent Trustees' fees and expenses. The Portfolio's investment advisory fee is calculated daily and paid monthly. The Portfolio's advisory agreement details the investment advisory fee and other expenses that the Portfolio must pay.

Research Portfolio pays an investment advisory fee rate that may adjust up or down based on the Portfolio's performance relative to the cumulative investment record of its benchmark index over a rolling 36-month performance measurement period.

The table below reflects the Portfolio's base fee rate (expressed as an annual rate), as well as the actual investment advisory fee rate paid by the Portfolio to Janus Capital. The third column shows the full performance rate for outperformance or underperformance during the measurement period relative to the Portfolio's benchmark index. The fourth column shows the performance adjusted investment advisory fee rate, which is equal to the Portfolio's base fee rate plus or minus the performance adjustment over the period. This fourth column shows the actual amount of the investment advisory fee rate paid by the Portfolio as of the end of the fiscal year.

As an example, if the Portfolio outperformed its benchmark index over the performance measurement period by its full performance rate (listed in the table below), the advisory fee would increase by 0.15% (assuming constant assets). Conversely, if the Portfolio underperformed its benchmark index over the performance measurement period by its full performance rate (listed in the table below), the advisory fee would decrease by 0.15% (assuming constant assets). Actual performance within the full range of the full performance rate may result in positive or negative incremental adjustments to the advisory fee of greater or less than 0.15%. Additional details discussing the performance fee are included below with further description in the SAI.

| Portfolio Name | Base Fee Rate (%) | Full Performance Rate vs. Benchmark Index | Performance Adjusted/Actual Investment Advisory Fee Rate (%) (for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| Research Portfolio | 0.64 | ± 5.00% | 0.49 |

The investment advisory fee rate is determined by calculating a base fee (shown in the previous table) and applying a performance adjustment (described in further detail below). The performance adjustment either increases or decreases the base fee depending on how well the Portfolio has performed relative to its benchmark index. Previously, the benchmark index used to calculate the Portfolio's performance was the Core Growth Index utilizing the full performance rate of +/- 4.50%. Effective May 1, 2017, the full performance rate for Research Portfolio changed to +/- 5.00% and the benchmark index used for purposes of calculating the performance adjustment changed from the Core Growth Index to the Russell 1000 Growth Index. Details regarding the implementation of the new benchmark index are contained in the SAI.

The calculation of the performance adjustment applies as follows:

Investment Advisory Fee = Base Fee Rate +/- Performance Adjustment

The investment advisory fee rate paid to Janus Capital by the Portfolio consists of two components: (1) a base fee calculated by applying the contractual fixed rate of the advisory fee to the Portfolio's average daily net assets during the previous month ("Base Fee Rate"), plus or minus (2) a performance-fee adjustment ("Performance Adjustment") calculated by applying a variable rate of up to 0.15% (positive or negative) to the Portfolio's average daily net assets based on the Portfolio's relative performance compared to the cumulative investment record of its benchmark index over a 36-month rolling performance measurement period.

No Performance Adjustment is applied unless the difference between the Portfolio's investment performance and the cumulative investment record of the Portfolio's benchmark index is 0.50% or greater (positive or negative) during the applicable performance measurement period. The Base Fee Rate is subject to an upward or downward Performance Adjustment for every full 0.50% increment by which the Portfolio outperforms or underperforms its benchmark index. Because the Performance Adjustment is tied to the Portfolio's relative performance compared to its benchmark index (and not its absolute performance), the Performance Adjustment could increase Janus Capital's fee even if the Portfolio's Shares lose value during the performance measurement period and could decrease Janus Capital's fee even if the Portfolio's Shares increase in value during the performance measurement period. For purposes of computing the Base Fee Rate and the Performance Adjustment, net assets are averaged over different periods (average daily net assets during the previous month for the Base Fee Rate, versus average daily net assets during the performance measurement period for the Performance Adjustment). Performance of the Portfolio is calculated net of expenses whereas the Portfolio's benchmark index does not have any fees or expenses. Reinvestment of dividends and distributions is included in calculating both the performance of the Portfolio and the Portfolio's benchmark index. The Base Fee Rate is calculated and accrued daily. The Performance Adjustment is calculated monthly in arrears and is accrued throughout the month. The investment fee is paid monthly in arrears. Under extreme circumstances involving underperformance by a rapidly shrinking Portfolio, the dollar amount of the Performance Adjustment could be more than the dollar amount of the Base Fee Rate. In such circumstances, Janus Capital would reimburse the Portfolio.

The investment performance of the Portfolio's Service Shares for the performance measurement period is used to calculate the Performance Adjustment. After Janus Capital determines whether the Portfolio's performance was above or below its benchmark index by comparing the investment performance of the Portfolio's Service Shares against the cumulative

investment record of the Portfolio's benchmark index, Janus Capital applies the same Performance Adjustment (positive or negative) across each other class of shares of the Portfolio, as applicable. It is not possible to predict the effect of the Performance Adjustment on future overall compensation to Janus Capital since it depends on the performance of the Portfolio relative to the record of the Portfolio's benchmark index and future changes to the size of the Portfolio.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Trustees' approval of the Portfolio's investment advisory agreement is included in the Portfolio's annual report (for the period ending December 31) or semiannual report (for the period ending June 30) to shareholders. You can request the Portfolio's annual or semiannual reports (as they become available), free of charge, by contacting your plan sponsor, broker-dealer, or financial intermediary, or by contacting a Janus Henderson representative at 1-877-335-2687. The reports are also available, free of charge, at janushenderson.com/VIT.

INVESTMENT PERSONNEL

Research Portfolio

The Research Team selects investments for Research Portfolio and has done so since May 2017. The Research Team consists of Janus Capital's equity research analysts overseen by the Portfolio Oversight Team led by Matthew Peron.

Matthew Peron is Janus Capital's Director of Centralized Equity Research. Mr. Peron is primarily responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Portfolio. He leads the Portfolio Oversight Team that reviews the Portfolio's risks, overall structure, and guidelines and has done so since April 2020. Mr. Peron is also Portfolio Manager of other Janus Henderson accounts. Prior to joining Janus Capital in April 2020, Mr. Peron was Chief Investment Officer for City National Rochdale since 2018. Prior to serving in that role, Mr. Peron held various positions at Northern Trust, including serving as Executive Vice President and Managing Director of Global Equity, and as a member of the asset allocation committee.

Information about Mr. Peron's compensation structure and other accounts managed, as well as the range of his individual ownership of securities, and the aggregate range of his individual ownership in all mutual funds advised by Janus Capital, is included in the SAI.

Conflicts of Interest

Janus Capital manages other funds and numerous other accounts, which may include separate accounts and other pooled investment vehicles, such as hedge funds. Side-by-side management of multiple accounts, including the management of a cash collateral pool for securities lending and investing the Janus Henderson funds' cash, may give rise to conflicts of interest among those accounts, and may create potential risks, such as the risk that investment activity in one account may adversely affect another account. For example, short sale activity in an account could adversely affect the market value of long positions in one or more other accounts (and vice versa). Side-by-side management may raise additional potential conflicts of interest relating to the allocation of investment opportunities and the aggregation and allocation of trades. Additionally, Janus Capital is the adviser to the Janus Capital "funds of funds," which are funds that invest primarily in other mutual funds managed by Janus Capital. Because Janus Capital is the adviser to the Janus Capital "funds of funds" and the Janus Henderson funds, it is subject to certain potential conflicts of interest when allocating the assets of a Janus Capital "fund of funds" among such Janus Henderson funds. To the extent that the Portfolio is an underlying fund in a Janus Capital "fund of funds," a potential conflict of interest arises when allocating the assets of the Janus Capital "fund of funds" to the Portfolio. Purchases and redemptions of fund shares by a Janus Capital "fund of funds" due to reallocations or rebalancings may result in a fund having to sell securities or invest cash when it otherwise would not do so. Such transactions could accelerate the realization of taxable income if sales of securities resulted in gains. In addition, redemptions by a Janus Capital "fund of funds" could cause actual expenses to increase, or could result in the Portfolio's current expenses being allocated over a smaller asset base, which may lead to an increase in the Portfolio's expense ratio. The impact of these transactions is likely to be greater when a Janus Capital "fund of funds" purchases, redeems, or owns a substantial portion of the Portfolio's shares. A further discussion of potential conflicts of interest and a discussion of certain procedures intended to mitigate such potential conflicts are contained in the Portfolio's SAI.

OTHER INFORMATION

CLASSES OF SHARES

Only Institutional Shares are offered by this Prospectus. The Shares are available only in connection with investment in and payments under variable insurance contracts, as well as certain qualified retirement plans. Service Shares are offered only in connection with investment in and payments under variable insurance contracts, as well as certain qualified retirement plans, that require a fee from Portfolio assets to procure distribution and/or administrative services to contract owners and plan participants. Because the expenses of each class may differ, the performance of each class is expected to differ. If you would like additional information about the Service Shares, please call 1-800-525-0020. In addition, for an analysis of fees associated with an investment in either share class or other similar funds, please visit www.finra.org/fundalyzer.

CLOSED PORTFOLIO POLICIES

The Portfolio may limit sales of its Shares to new investors. If sales of the Portfolio are limited, it is expected that existing shareholders invested in the Portfolio would be permitted to continue to purchase Shares through their existing Portfolio accounts and to reinvest any dividends or capital gains distributions in such accounts, absent highly unusual circumstances. Requests for new accounts into a closed portfolio would be reviewed by management, taking into consideration eligibility requirements and whether the addition to the portfolio is believed to negatively impact existing portfolio shareholders. The closed portfolio may decline opening new accounts, including eligible new accounts, if it would be in the best interests of the portfolio and its shareholders. If applicable, additional information regarding general policies and exceptions can be found in a closed portfolio's prospectuses and in the "Shares of the Trust" section of the SAI.

LIQUIDATION/REORGANIZATION OF A PORTFOLIO

It is important to know that, pursuant to the Trust's Amended and Restated Trust Instrument, the Trustees have the authority to merge, liquidate, and/or reorganize a portfolio into another portfolio without seeking shareholder vote or consent.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE PORTFOLIO

The Portfolio is distributed by Janus Distributors LLC dba Janus Henderson Distributors ("Janus Henderson Distributors"), which is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA"). To obtain information about FINRA member firms and their associated persons, you may contact FINRA at www.finra.org, or 1-800-289-9999.

DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

DISTRIBUTIONS

To avoid taxation of the Portfolio, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Internal Revenue Code”) requires the Portfolio to distribute all or substantially all of its net investment income and any net capital gains realized on its investments at least annually. The Portfolio’s income from certain dividends, interest, and any net realized short-term capital gains are paid to shareholders as ordinary income dividends. Net realized long-term capital gains, if any, are paid to shareholders as capital gains distributions, regardless of how long Shares of the Portfolio have been held. Distributions are made at the class level, so they may vary from class to class within a single portfolio.

Distribution Schedule

Dividends for the Portfolio are normally declared and distributed in June and December. Capital gains are normally declared and distributed in June. However, in certain situations it may be necessary for the Portfolio to declare and distribute capital gains in December. If necessary, dividends and net capital gains may be distributed at other times as well. Unless otherwise instructed, distributions of net investment income and net capital gains, if any, are automatically reinvested in additional Shares of the Portfolio.

How Distributions Affect the Portfolio’s NAV

Distributions are paid to shareholders as of the record date of a distribution of the Portfolio, regardless of how long the shares have been held. Undistributed dividends and net capital gains are included in the Portfolio’s daily net asset value (“NAV”). The share price of the Portfolio drops by the amount of the distribution, net of any subsequent market fluctuations. For example, assume that on December 31, the Portfolio declared a dividend in the amount of \$0.25 per share. If the Portfolio’s share price was \$10.00 on December 30, the Portfolio’s share price on December 31 would be \$9.75, barring market fluctuations.

TAXES

Taxes on Distributions

Because Shares of the Portfolio may be purchased only through variable insurance contracts and certain qualified retirement plans, it is anticipated that any income dividends or net capital gains distributions made by the Portfolio will be exempt from current federal income taxation if left to accumulate within the variable insurance contract or qualified retirement plan. Generally, withdrawals from such contracts or plans may be subject to federal income tax at ordinary income rates and, if withdrawals are made from a retirement plan before age 59½, a 10% penalty tax may be imposed. The federal income tax status of your investment depends on the features of your qualified retirement plan or variable insurance contract. Further information may be found in your plan documents or in the prospectus of the separate account offering such contract.

Taxation of the Portfolio

Dividends, interest, and some capital gains received by the Portfolio on foreign securities may be subject to foreign tax withholding or other foreign taxes. If the Portfolio is eligible, it may from year to year make the election permitted under Section 853 of the Internal Revenue Code to pass through such taxes to shareholders as a foreign tax credit. If such an election is not made, any foreign taxes paid or accrued will represent an expense to the Portfolio.

The Portfolio does not expect to pay any federal income or excise taxes because it intends to meet certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, because the Shares of the Portfolio are sold in connection with variable insurance contracts, the Portfolio intends to satisfy the diversification requirements applicable to insurance company separate accounts under the Internal Revenue Code. If the Portfolio invests in partnerships, it may be subject to state tax liabilities.

SHAREHOLDER'S GUIDE

Investors may not purchase or redeem Shares of the Portfolio directly. Shares may be purchased or redeemed only through variable insurance contracts offered by the separate accounts of participating insurance companies or through certain qualified retirement plans. **Refer to the prospectus for the participating insurance company's separate account or your plan documents for instructions on purchasing or selling variable insurance contracts and on how to select the Portfolio as an investment option for a contract or a qualified retirement plan.**

With certain exceptions, the Portfolio is generally available only to shareholders residing in the United States and employees of Janus Capital or its affiliates. For purposes of this policy, the Portfolio requires that a shareholder and/or entity be a U.S. citizen residing in the United States or a U.S. Territory (including overseas U.S. military or diplomatic addresses) or a resident alien residing in the United States or a U.S. Territory with a valid U.S. Taxpayer Identification Number to open an account with the Portfolio.

PRICING OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

The per share NAV for each class is computed by dividing the total value of assets allocated to the class, less liabilities allocated to that class, by the total number of outstanding shares of the class. The Portfolio's NAV is calculated as of the close of the regular trading session of the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") (normally 4:00 p.m. New York time) each day that the NYSE is open ("business day"). However, the time at which the Portfolio's NAV is calculated may be changed if trading on the NYSE is restricted, the NYSE closes at a different time, or as permitted by the SEC. Foreign securities held by the Portfolio may be traded on days and at times when the NYSE is closed and the NAV is therefore not calculated. Accordingly, the value of the Portfolio's holdings may change on days that are not business days in the United States and on which you will not be able to purchase or redeem the Portfolio's Shares.

All purchases and redemptions will be duly processed at the NAV next calculated after your request is received in good order by the Portfolio or its agents. In order to receive a day's price, your order must be received in good order by the Portfolio (or insurance company or plan sponsor) or its agents by the close of the regular trading session of the NYSE.

Securities held by the Portfolio are valued in accordance with policies and procedures established by and under the oversight of the Trustees. To the extent available, equity securities are generally valued on the basis of market quotations. Most fixed-income securities are typically valued using an evaluated bid price supplied by an approved pricing service that is intended to reflect market value. The evaluated bid price is an evaluation that may consider factors such as security prices, yields, maturities, and ratings. Certain short-term instruments maturing within 60 days or less may be valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. If a market quotation or evaluated price for a security is not readily available or is deemed unreliable, or if an event that is expected to affect the value of the security occurs after the close of the principal exchange or market on which the security is traded, and before the close of the NYSE, a fair value of the security will be determined in good faith under the policies and procedures. Such events include, but are not limited to: (i) a significant event that may affect the securities of a single issuer, such as a merger, bankruptcy, or significant issuer-specific development; (ii) an event that may affect an entire market, such as a natural disaster or significant governmental action; (iii) a non-significant event such as a market closing early or not opening, or a security trading halt; and (iv) pricing of a non-valued security and a restricted or non-public security. This type of fair value pricing may be more commonly used with foreign equity securities, but it may also be used with, among other things, thinly-traded domestic securities or fixed-income securities. Special valuation considerations may apply with respect to "odd-lot" fixed-income transactions which, due to their small size, may receive evaluated prices by pricing services which reflect a large block trade and not what actually could be obtained for the odd-lot position. For valuation purposes, quotations of foreign portfolio securities, other assets and liabilities, and forward contracts stated in foreign currency are generally translated into U.S. dollar equivalents at the prevailing market rates. The Portfolio uses systematic fair valuation models provided by an independent pricing service to value foreign equity securities in order to adjust for stale pricing, which may occur between the close of certain foreign exchanges and the close of the NYSE.

Due to the subjective nature of systematic fair value pricing, the Portfolio's value for a particular security may be different from the last quoted market price. Systematic fair value pricing may reduce arbitrage activity involving the frequent buying and selling of mutual fund shares by investors seeking to take advantage of a perceived lag between a change in the value of the Portfolio's securities and the reflection of such change in the Portfolio's NAV, as further described in the "Excessive Trading" section of this Prospectus. While funds that invest in foreign securities may be at a greater risk for arbitrage activity, such activity may also arise in funds which do not invest in foreign securities, for example, when trading in a security held by a portfolio is halted and does not resume prior to the time the portfolio calculates its NAV (referred to as "stale pricing"). Portfolios that hold thinly-traded securities, such as certain small-capitalization securities or high-yield fixed-income

securities, may be subject to attempted use of arbitrage techniques. To the extent that the Portfolio's valuation of a security is different from the security's market value, short-term arbitrage traders buying and/or selling shares of the Portfolio may dilute the NAV of the Portfolio, which negatively impacts long-term shareholders. The Portfolio's fair value pricing and excessive trading policies and procedures may not completely eliminate short-term trading in certain omnibus accounts and other accounts traded through intermediaries.

The value of the securities of other open-end funds held by the Portfolio, if any, will be calculated using the NAV of such open-end funds, and the prospectuses for such open-end funds explain the circumstances under which they use fair value pricing and the effects of using fair value pricing.

ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

Janus Services receives an administrative services fee at an annual rate of 0.05% of the average daily net assets of the Portfolio for arranging for the provision by participating insurance companies and qualified plan service providers of administrative services, including recordkeeping, subaccounting, order processing, or other shareholder services provided on behalf of contract holders or plan participants investing in the Portfolio. Other shareholder services may include the provision of order confirmations, periodic account statements, forwarding prospectuses, shareholder reports, and other materials to existing customers, and answering inquiries regarding accounts. Janus Services expects to use this entire fee to compensate insurance companies and qualified plan service providers for providing these services to their customers who invest in the Portfolio.

PAYMENTS TO FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES BY JANUS CAPITAL OR ITS AFFILIATES

From its own assets, Janus Capital or its affiliates pay fees to selected insurance companies, qualified plan service providers or their affiliates, or other financial intermediaries that distribute, market, or promote the Portfolio or perform related services for contract owners and plan participants. The amount of these payments is determined from time to time by Janus Capital, may be substantial, and may differ for different financial intermediaries. Janus Capital and its affiliates consider a number of factors in making payments to financial intermediaries.

Janus Capital or its affiliates may pay fees, from their own assets, to selected insurance companies, qualified plan service providers, and other financial intermediaries for providing recordkeeping, subaccounting, transaction processing, and other shareholder or administrative services (including payments for processing transactions via the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") or other means) in connection with investments in the Janus Henderson funds. These fees are in addition to any fees that may be paid by the Janus Henderson funds for these types of services or other services.

In addition, Janus Capital or its affiliates periodically share certain marketing expenses with selected intermediaries, or pay for or sponsor informational meetings, seminars, client awareness events, support for marketing materials, sales reporting, or business building programs for such intermediaries to raise awareness of the Portfolio. Janus Capital or its affiliates make payments to participate in selected intermediary marketing support programs which may provide Janus Capital or its affiliates with one or more of the following benefits: attendance at sales conferences, participation in meetings or training sessions, access to or information about intermediary personnel, use of an intermediary's marketing and communication infrastructure, fund analysis tools, data, business planning and strategy sessions with intermediary personnel, information on industry- or platform-specific developments, trends and service providers, and other marketing-related services. Such payments may be in addition to, or in lieu of, the fees described above. These payments are intended to promote the sales of Janus Henderson funds and to reimburse financial intermediaries, directly or indirectly, for the costs that they or their salespersons incur in connection with educational seminars, meetings, and training efforts about the Janus Henderson funds to enable the intermediaries and their salespersons to make suitable recommendations, provide useful services, and maintain the necessary infrastructure to make the Janus Henderson funds available to their customers.

The receipt of (or prospect of receiving) fees or reimbursements and other forms of compensation described above may provide a financial intermediary and its salespersons with an incentive to favor sales of Janus Henderson funds' shares over sales of other mutual funds (or non-mutual fund investments) or to favor sales of one class of Janus Henderson funds' shares over sales of another Janus Henderson funds' share class, with respect to which the financial intermediary does not receive such payments or receives them in a lower amount. The receipt of these payments may cause certain financial intermediaries to elevate the prominence of the Janus Henderson funds within such financial intermediary's organization by, for example, placement on a list of preferred or recommended funds and/or the provision of preferential or enhanced opportunities to promote the Janus Henderson funds in various ways within such financial intermediary's organization.

From time to time, certain financial intermediaries approach Janus Capital to request that Janus Capital make contributions to certain charitable organizations. In these cases, Janus Capital's contribution may result in the financial intermediary, or its salespersons, recommending Janus Henderson funds over other mutual funds (or non-mutual fund investments).

The payment arrangements described above will not change the price a contract owner or plan participant pays for Shares nor the amount that a Janus Henderson fund receives to invest on behalf of the contract owner or plan participant. You should consider whether such arrangements exist when evaluating any recommendations from an intermediary to purchase or sell Shares of the Portfolio and, if applicable, when considering which share class of the Portfolio is most appropriate for you. Please contact your insurance company or plan sponsor for details on such arrangements.

PURCHASES

Purchases of Shares may be made only by the separate accounts of insurance companies for the purpose of funding variable insurance contracts or by certain qualified retirement plans. Refer to the prospectus of the appropriate insurance company separate account or your plan documents for information on how to invest in the Shares of the Portfolio. Under certain circumstances, the Portfolio may permit an in-kind purchase of Shares. Participating insurance companies and certain other designated organizations are authorized to receive purchase orders on the Portfolio's behalf. As discussed under "Payments to Financial Intermediaries by Janus Capital or its Affiliates," Janus Capital and its affiliates may make payments to selected insurance companies, qualified plan service providers, or their affiliates, or other financial intermediaries that were instrumental in the acquisition or retention of accounts for the Portfolio or that provide services in connection with investments in the Portfolio. You should consider such arrangements when evaluating any recommendation of the Portfolio.

The Portfolio reserves the right to reject any purchase order, including exchange purchases, for any reason. The Portfolio is not intended for excessive trading. For more information about the Portfolio's policy on excessive trading, refer to "Excessive Trading."

The Portfolio may discontinue sales to a qualified plan and require plan participants with existing investments in the Shares to redeem those investments if the plan loses (or in the opinion of Janus Capital, is at risk of losing) its qualified plan status.

In compliance with the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 ("USA PATRIOT Act"), your insurance company or plan sponsor is required to verify certain information on your account application as part of its Anti-Money Laundering Program. You will be required to provide your full name, date of birth, Social Security number, and permanent street address to assist in verifying your identity. You may also be asked to provide documents that may help to establish your identity. Until verification of your identity is made, your insurance company or plan sponsor may temporarily limit additional share purchases. In addition, your insurance company or plan sponsor may close an account if they are unable to verify a shareholder's identity. Please contact your insurance company or plan sponsor if you need additional assistance when completing your application or additional information about the insurance company or plan sponsor's Anti-Money Laundering Program.

In an effort to ensure compliance with this law, Janus Capital's Anti-Money Laundering Program (the "Program") provides for the development of internal practices, procedures and controls, designation of anti-money laundering compliance officers, an ongoing training program, and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program.

Potential Conflicts

Although the Portfolio does not currently anticipate any disadvantages to policy owners because the Portfolio offers its Shares to unaffiliated variable annuity and variable life separate accounts of insurance companies that are unaffiliated with Janus Capital and to certain qualified retirement plans, there is a possibility that a material conflict may arise. The Trustees monitor events in an effort to identify any disadvantages or material irreconcilable conflicts and to determine what action, if any, should be taken in response. If a material disadvantage or conflict is identified, the Trustees may require one or more insurance company separate accounts or qualified plans to withdraw its investments in the Portfolio or substitute Shares of another portfolio. If this occurs, the Portfolio may be forced to sell its securities at disadvantageous prices. In addition, the Portfolio may refuse to sell its Shares to any separate account or qualified plan or may suspend or terminate the offering of the Portfolio's Shares if such action is required by law or regulatory authority or is in the best interests of the Portfolio's shareholders. It is possible that a qualified plan investing in the Portfolio could lose its qualified plan status under the Internal Revenue Code, which could have adverse tax consequences on insurance company separate accounts investing in the Portfolio. Janus Capital intends to monitor such qualified plans, and the Portfolio may discontinue sales to a qualified plan

and require plan participants with existing investments in the Portfolio to redeem those investments if a plan loses (or in the opinion of Janus Capital is at risk of losing) its qualified plan status.

REDEMPTIONS

Redemptions, like purchases, may be effected only through the separate accounts of participating insurance companies or through certain qualified retirement plans. Please refer to the appropriate separate account prospectus or plan documents for details.

Shares of the Portfolio may be redeemed on any business day on which the Portfolio's NAV is calculated. Redemptions are duly processed at the NAV next calculated after your redemption order is received in good order by the Portfolio or its agents. Redemption proceeds will normally be sent within two business days following receipt of the redemption order. The Portfolio typically expects to meet redemption requests by paying out proceeds from cash or cash equivalent portfolio holdings, or by selling portfolio holdings. In stressed market conditions, and other appropriate circumstances, redemption methods may include borrowing funds or redeeming in-kind.

The Portfolio reserves the right to postpone payment of redemption proceeds for up to seven calendar days. Additionally, the right to require the Portfolio to redeem its Shares may be suspended, or the date of payment may be postponed beyond seven calendar days, whenever: (i) trading on the NYSE is restricted, as determined by the SEC, or the NYSE is closed (except for holidays and weekends); (ii) the SEC permits such suspension and so orders; or (iii) an emergency exists as determined by the SEC so that disposal of securities or determination of NAV is not reasonably practicable.

Large Shareholder Redemptions

Certain large shareholders, such as other portfolios, participating insurance companies, accounts, and Janus Capital affiliates, may from time to time own (beneficially or of record) or control a significant percentage of the Portfolio's Shares. Redemptions by these large shareholders of their holdings in the Portfolio may cause the Portfolio to sell securities at times when it would not otherwise do so, which may negatively impact the Portfolio's NAV and liquidity. Similarly, large Portfolio share purchases may adversely affect the Portfolio's performance to the extent that the Portfolio is delayed in investing new cash and is required to maintain a larger cash position than it ordinarily would. A large shareholder purchase or redemption may also increase transaction costs. In addition, a large redemption could result in the Portfolio's current expenses being allocated over a smaller asset base, which could lead to an increase in the Portfolio's expense ratio.

Redemptions In-Kind

Shares normally will be redeemed for cash, although the Portfolio retains the right to redeem some or all of its shares in-kind under unusual circumstances, in order to protect the interests of remaining shareholders, to accommodate a request by a particular shareholder that does not adversely affect the interests of the remaining shareholders, or in connection with the liquidation of a portfolio, by delivery of securities selected from its assets at its discretion. However, the Portfolio is required to redeem shares solely for cash up to the lesser of \$250,000 or 1% of the NAV of the Portfolio during any 90-day period for any one shareholder. Should redemptions by any shareholder exceed such limitation, the Portfolio will have the option of redeeming the excess in cash or in-kind. In-kind payment means payment will be made in portfolio securities rather than cash, and may potentially include illiquid investments. Illiquid investments may not be able to be sold quickly or at a price that reflects full value, or there may not be a market for such investments, which could cause the redeeming shareholder to realize losses on the investment if it is sold at a price lower than that at which it had been valued. If the Portfolio makes an in-kind payment, the redeeming shareholder might incur brokerage or other transaction costs to convert the securities to cash, whereas such costs are borne by the Portfolio for cash redemptions.

While the Portfolio may pay redemptions in-kind, the Portfolio may instead choose to raise cash to meet redemption requests through the sale of portfolio securities or permissible borrowings. If the Portfolio is forced to sell securities at an unfavorable time and/or under unfavorable conditions, such sales may adversely affect the Portfolio's NAV and may increase brokerage costs.

EXCESSIVE TRADING

Excessive and Short-Term Trading Policies and Procedures

The Trustees have adopted policies and procedures with respect to short-term and excessive trading of Portfolio shares ("excessive trading"). The Portfolio is intended for long-term investment purposes, and the Portfolio will take reasonable steps

to attempt to detect and deter short-term and excessive trading. Transactions placed in violation of the Portfolio's excessive trading policies and procedures may be cancelled or rescinded by the Portfolio by the next business day following receipt by the Portfolio. The trading history of accounts determined to be under common ownership or control within any of the Janus Henderson funds may be considered in enforcing these policies and procedures. As described below, however, the Portfolio may not be able to identify all instances of excessive trading or completely eliminate the possibility of excessive trading. In particular, it may be difficult to identify excessive trading in certain omnibus accounts and other accounts traded through intermediaries (such as insurance companies or plan sponsors). By their nature, omnibus accounts, in which purchases and redemptions of the Portfolio's shares by multiple investors are aggregated by the intermediary and presented to the Portfolio on a net basis, may effectively conceal the identity of individual investors and their transactions from the Portfolio and its agents. This makes the elimination of excessive trading in the accounts impractical without the assistance of the intermediary.

The Janus Henderson funds attempt to deter excessive trading through at least the following methods:

- trade monitoring; and
- fair valuation of securities as described under "Pricing of Portfolio Shares."

The Portfolio monitors for patterns of shareholder short-term trading and may suspend or permanently terminate the purchase and exchange privilege (if permitted by your insurance company or plan sponsor) of any investor who is identified as having a pattern of short-term trading. The Portfolio at all times reserves the right to reject any purchase or exchange request and to modify or terminate the purchase and exchange privileges for any investor for any reason without prior notice, in particular, if the trading activity in the account(s) is deemed to be disruptive to the Portfolio. For example, the Portfolio may refuse a purchase order if the investment personnel believe they would be unable to invest the money effectively in accordance with the Portfolio's investment policies or the Portfolio would otherwise be adversely affected due to the size of the transaction, frequency of trading, or other factors.

The Portfolio's Trustees may approve from time to time a redemption fee to be imposed by any Janus Henderson fund, subject to 60 days' notice to shareholders of that fund.

Investors who place transactions through the same insurance company or plan sponsor on an omnibus basis may be deemed part of a group for the purpose of the Portfolio's excessive trading policies and procedures and may be rejected in whole or in part by the Portfolio. The Portfolio, however, cannot always identify or reasonably detect excessive trading that may be facilitated by insurance companies or plan sponsors or made difficult to identify through the use of omnibus accounts by those intermediaries that transmit purchase, exchange, and redemption orders to the Portfolio, and thus the Portfolio may have difficulty curtailing such activity. Transactions accepted by an insurance company or plan sponsor in violation of the Portfolio's excessive trading policies may be cancelled or revoked by the Portfolio by the next business day following receipt by the Portfolio.

In an attempt to detect and deter excessive trading in omnibus accounts, the Portfolio or its agents may require intermediaries to impose restrictions on the trading activity of accounts traded through those intermediaries. Such restrictions may include, but are not limited to, requiring that trades be placed by U.S. mail, prohibiting future purchases by investors who have recently redeemed Portfolio shares, requiring intermediaries to report information about customers who purchase and redeem large amounts, and similar restrictions. The Portfolio's ability to impose such restrictions with respect to accounts traded through particular intermediaries may vary depending on the systems' capabilities, applicable contractual and legal restrictions, and cooperation of those intermediaries.

Generally, the Portfolio's excessive trading policies and procedures do not apply to (i) a money market fund, although money market funds at all times reserve the right to reject any purchase request (including exchange purchases, if permitted by your insurance company or plan sponsor) for any reason without prior notice; (ii) transactions in the Janus Henderson funds by a Janus Capital "fund of funds," which is a fund that primarily invests in other Janus Henderson mutual funds; (iii) periodic rebalancing and identifiable transactions by certain funds of funds and asset allocation programs to realign portfolio investments with existing target allocations; and (iv) systematic purchase, exchange, or redemption programs.

The Portfolio's policies and procedures regarding excessive trading may be modified at any time by the Portfolio's Trustees.

Excessive Trading Risks

Excessive trading may present risks to the Portfolio's long-term shareholders. Excessive trading into and out of the Portfolio may disrupt portfolio investment strategies, may create taxable gains to remaining Portfolio shareholders, and may increase

Portfolio expenses, all of which may negatively impact investment returns for all remaining shareholders, including long-term shareholders.

Portfolios that invest in foreign securities may be at a greater risk for excessive trading. Investors may attempt to take advantage of anticipated price movements in securities held by a portfolio based on events occurring after the close of a foreign market that may not be reflected in the portfolio's NAV (referred to as "price arbitrage"). Such arbitrage opportunities may also arise in portfolios which do not invest in foreign securities, for example, when trading in a security held by a portfolio is halted and does not resume prior to the time the portfolio calculates its NAV (referred to as "stale pricing"). Portfolios that hold thinly-traded securities, such as certain small-capitalization securities, may be subject to attempted use of arbitrage techniques. To the extent that the Portfolio's valuation of a security differs from the security's market value, short-term arbitrage traders may dilute the NAV of the Portfolio, which negatively impacts long-term shareholders. Although the Portfolio has adopted valuation policies and procedures intended to reduce the Portfolio's exposure to price arbitrage, stale pricing, and other potential pricing inefficiencies, under such circumstances there is potential for short-term arbitrage trades to dilute the value of shares held by the Portfolio.

Although the Portfolio takes steps to detect and deter excessive trading pursuant to the policies and procedures described in this Prospectus and approved by the Trustees, there is no assurance that these policies and procedures will be effective in limiting excessive trading in all circumstances. For example, the Portfolio may be unable to completely eliminate the possibility of excessive trading in certain omnibus accounts and other accounts traded through intermediaries. Omnibus accounts may effectively conceal the identity of individual investors and their transactions from the Portfolio and its agents. This makes the Portfolio's identification of excessive trading transactions in the Portfolio through an omnibus account difficult and makes the elimination of excessive trading in the account impractical without the assistance of the intermediary. Moreover, the contract between an insurance company and the owner of a variable insurance contract may govern the frequency with which the contract owner may cause the insurance company to purchase or redeem shares of the Portfolio. Although the Portfolio encourages intermediaries to take necessary actions to detect and deter excessive trading, some intermediaries may be unable or unwilling to do so, and accordingly, the Portfolio cannot eliminate completely the possibility of excessive trading.

Shareholders that invest through an omnibus account should be aware that they may be subject to the policies and procedures of their insurance company or plan sponsor with respect to excessive trading in the Portfolio.

AVAILABILITY OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

The Mutual Fund Holdings Disclosure Policies and Procedures adopted by Janus Capital and all mutual funds managed within the Janus Henderson fund complex are designed to be in the best interests of the portfolios and to protect the confidentiality of the portfolios' holdings. The following describes policies and procedures with respect to disclosure of portfolio holdings.

- **Full Holdings.** A schedule of the Portfolio's holdings, consisting of at least the names of the holdings, is generally available on a monthly basis with a 30-day lag and is posted under Full Holdings for the Portfolio at janushenderson.com/VIT. A complete schedule of the Portfolio's holdings is also available semiannually and annually in shareholder reports and, after the first and third fiscal quarters, in Form N-PORT. Information reported in shareholder reports and in Form N-PORT will be made publicly available within 60 days after the end of the respective fiscal quarter. The Portfolio's shareholder reports and Form N-PORT filings are available on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, the Portfolio's shareholder reports are available without charge, upon request, by calling a Janus Henderson representative at 1-877-335-2687 (toll free).
- **Top Holdings.** The Portfolio's top portfolio holdings, in order of position size and as a percentage of the Portfolio's total portfolio, are available monthly with a 15-day lag.
- **Other Information.** The Portfolio may occasionally provide security breakdowns (e.g., industry, sector, regional, market capitalization, and asset allocation) and specific portfolio level performance attribution information and statistics monthly with a 15-day lag. Top/bottom equity securities ranked by performance attribution, including the percentage attribution to Portfolio performance, average Portfolio weighting, and other relevant data points, may be provided monthly with a 15-day lag.

Janus Capital may exclude from publication on its websites all or any portion of portfolio holdings or change the time periods of disclosure as deemed necessary to protect the interests of the Janus Henderson funds. Under extraordinary circumstances, exceptions to the Mutual Fund Holdings Disclosure Policies and Procedures may be made by Janus Henderson's Chief Investment Officer, in consultation with the Chief Compliance Officer or a designee. Such exceptions may be made without prior notice to shareholders. A summary of the Portfolio's holdings disclosure policies and procedures, which includes a discussion of any exceptions, is contained in the Portfolio's SAI.

SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

Your insurance company or plan sponsor is responsible for providing annual and semiannual reports, including the financial statements of the Portfolio. These reports show the Portfolio's investments and the market value of such investments, as well as other information about the Portfolio and its operations. Please contact your insurance company or plan sponsor to obtain these reports. The Trust's fiscal year ends December 31.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Portfolio's financial performance for the period ended December 31 of the fiscal years shown. Items "Net asset value, beginning of period" through "Net asset value, end of period" reflect financial results for a single Portfolio Share. The gross expense ratio reflects expenses prior to any expense offset arrangement and waivers (reimbursements), if applicable. The net expense ratio reflects expenses after any expense offset arrangement and waivers (reimbursements), if applicable. The information shown for the fiscal years ended December 31 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, whose report, along with the Portfolio's financial statements, is included in the Annual Report, which is available upon request, and incorporated by reference into the SAI.

The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Institutional Shares of the Portfolio (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions) but do not include charges and expenses attributable to any insurance product. If these charges and expenses had been included, the performance for the years shown would be lower. "Total return" information may include adjustments in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. As a result, returns may differ from returns for shareholder transactions.

Research Portfolio – Institutional Shares

| | Years ended December 31 | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 |
| Net asset value, beginning of period | \$33.70 | \$36.51 | \$28.93 | \$30.84 | \$35.76 |
| Income from investment operations: | | | | | |
| Net investment income/(loss) ⁽¹⁾ | 0.21 | 0.19 | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.17 |
| Net gain/(loss) on securities (both realized and unrealized) | 11.26 | (0.94) | 7.87 | (0.03) | 1.92 |
| Total from investment operations | 11.47 | (0.75) | 8.03 | 0.11 | 2.09 |
| Less distributions: | | | | | |
| Dividends (from net investment income) | (0.18) | (0.21) | (0.13) | (0.16) | (0.23) |
| Distributions (from capital gains) | (4.20) | (1.85) | (0.32) | (1.86) | (6.78) |
| Total distributions | (4.38) | (2.06) | (0.45) | (2.02) | (7.01) |
| Net asset value, end of period | \$40.79 | \$33.70 | \$36.51 | \$28.93 | \$30.84 |
| Total return⁽²⁾ | 35.52% | (2.58)% | 27.88% | 0.50% | 5.35% |
| Net assets, end of period (in thousands) | \$398,888 | \$328,803 | \$379,048 | \$330,516 | \$380,663 |
| Average net assets for the period (in thousands) | \$374,004 | \$380,194 | \$360,896 | \$353,738 | \$413,393 |
| Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets | 0.59% | 0.58% | 0.61% | 0.62% | 0.71% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets | 0.59% | 0.58% | 0.61% | 0.62% | 0.71% |
| Ratio of net investment income/(loss) to average net assets | 0.55% | 0.50% | 0.48% | 0.47% | 0.49% |
| Portfolio turnover rate | 38% | 47% | 55% | 58% | 54% |

(1) Per share amounts are calculated using the average shares outstanding method.

(2) The return includes adjustments in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles required at period end date. Total return does not include fees, charges, or expenses imposed by the variable annuity and life insurance contracts for which Janus Aspen Series serves as an underlying investment vehicle.

GLOSSARY OF INVESTMENT TERMS

This glossary provides a more detailed description of some of the types of securities, investment strategies, and other instruments in which the Portfolio may invest, as well as some general investment terms. The Portfolio may invest in these instruments to the extent permitted by its investment objective and policies. The Portfolio is not limited by this discussion and may invest in any other types of instruments not precluded by the policies discussed elsewhere in this Prospectus.

EQUITY AND DEBT SECURITIES

Average-Weighted Effective Maturity is a measure of a bond's maturity. The stated maturity of a bond is the date when the issuer must repay the bond's entire principal value to an investor. Some types of bonds may also have an "effective maturity" that is shorter than the stated date due to prepayment or call provisions. Securities without prepayment or call provisions generally have an effective maturity equal to their stated maturity. Average-weighted effective maturity is calculated by averaging the effective maturity of bonds held by a Portfolio with each effective maturity "weighted" according to the percentage of net assets that it represents.

Bank loans include institutionally-traded floating and fixed-rate debt securities generally acquired as a participation interest in or assignment of a loan originated by a lender or financial institution. Assignments and participations involve credit, interest rate, and liquidity risk. Interest rates on floating rate securities adjust with interest rate changes and/or issuer credit quality. If a Portfolio purchases a participation interest, it may only be able to enforce its rights through the lender and may assume the credit risk of both the borrower and the lender. There are also risks involved in purchasing assignments. If a loan is foreclosed, a Portfolio may become part owner of any collateral securing the loan and may bear the costs and liabilities associated with owning and disposing of any collateral. The Portfolio could be held liable as a co-lender. In addition, there is no assurance that the liquidation of any collateral from a secured loan would satisfy a borrower's obligations or that any collateral could be liquidated. A Portfolio may have difficulty trading assignments and participations to third parties or selling such securities in secondary markets, which in turn may affect the Portfolio's NAV.

Bonds are debt securities issued by a company, municipality, government, or government agency. The issuer of a bond is required to pay the holder the amount of the loan (or par value of the bond) at a specified maturity and to make scheduled interest payments.

Certificates of Participation ("COPs") are certificates representing an interest in a pool of securities. Holders are entitled to a proportionate interest in the underlying securities.

Commercial paper is a short-term debt obligation with a maturity ranging from 1 to 270 days issued by banks, corporations, and other borrowers to investors seeking to invest idle cash. A Portfolio may purchase commercial paper issued in private placements under Section 4(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act").

Common stocks are equity securities representing shares of ownership in a company and usually carry voting rights and earn dividends. Unlike preferred stock, dividends on common stock are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the issuer's board of directors.

Convertible securities are preferred stocks or bonds that pay a fixed dividend or interest payment and are convertible into common stock at a specified price or conversion ratio.

Debt securities are securities representing money borrowed that must be repaid at a later date. Such securities have specific maturities and usually a specific rate of interest or an original purchase discount.

Depository receipts are receipts for shares of a foreign-based corporation that entitle the holder to dividends and capital gains on the underlying security. Receipts include those issued by domestic banks (American Depositary Receipts), foreign banks (Global or European Depositary Receipts), and broker-dealers (depository shares).

Duration is a measurement of price sensitivity to interest rate changes. Unlike average maturity, duration reflects both principal and interest payments. Generally, the higher the coupon rate on a bond, the lower its duration will be. The duration of a bond portfolio is calculated by averaging the duration of bonds held by a Portfolio with each duration "weighted" according to the percentage of net assets that it represents. Because duration accounts for interest payments, a Portfolio's duration is usually shorter than its average maturity. Securities with longer durations tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rates, and are usually more volatile than securities with shorter duration. For example, the price of a bond portfolio

with an average duration of five years would be expected to fall approximately 5% if interest rates rose by one percentage point. A Portfolio with a longer portfolio duration is more likely to experience a decrease in its share price as interest rates rise.

Equity securities generally include domestic and foreign common stocks; preferred stocks; securities convertible into common stocks or preferred stocks; warrants to purchase common or preferred stocks; and other securities with equity characteristics.

Exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) are index-based investment companies which hold substantially all of their assets in securities with equity characteristics. As a shareholder of another investment company, a Portfolio would bear its pro rata portion of the other investment company’s expenses, including advisory fees, in addition to the expenses the Portfolio bears directly in connection with its own operations.

Fixed-income securities are securities that pay a specified rate of return. The term generally includes short- and long-term government, corporate, and municipal obligations that pay a specified rate of interest, dividends, or coupons for a specified period of time. Coupon and dividend rates may be fixed for the life of the issue or, in the case of adjustable and floating rate securities, for a shorter period.

High-yield/high-risk bonds are bonds that are rated below investment grade by the primary rating agencies (i.e., BB+ or lower by Standard & Poor’s and Fitch, or Ba1 or lower by Moody’s). Other terms commonly used to describe such bonds include “lower rated bonds,” “non-investment grade bonds,” and “junk bonds.”

Mortgage- and asset-backed securities are shares in a pool of mortgages or other debt instruments. These securities are generally pass-through securities, which means that principal and interest payments on the underlying securities (less servicing fees) are passed through to shareholders on a pro rata basis. These securities involve both extension risk, where borrowers pay off their debt obligations more slowly in times of rising interest rates, and prepayment risk, which is the risk that the underlying mortgages or other debt may be refinanced or paid off prior to their maturities during periods of declining interest rates. In that case, a Portfolio may have to reinvest the proceeds from the securities at a lower rate. Potential market gains on a security subject to prepayment risk may be more limited than potential market gains on a comparable security that is not subject to prepayment risk. These risks may reduce a Portfolio’s returns.

Mortgage dollar rolls are transactions in which a Portfolio sells a mortgage-related security, such as a security issued by Government National Mortgage Association, to a dealer and simultaneously agrees to purchase a similar security (but not the same security) in the future at a predetermined price. A “dollar roll” can be viewed as a collateralized borrowing in which a Portfolio pledges a mortgage-related security to a dealer to obtain cash.

Municipal securities are bonds or notes issued by a U.S. state or political subdivision. A municipal security may be a general obligation backed by the full faith and credit (i.e., the borrowing and taxing power) of a municipality or a revenue obligation paid out of the revenues of a designated project, facility, or revenue source.

Pass-through securities are shares or certificates of interest in a pool of debt obligations that have been repackaged by an intermediary, such as a bank or broker-dealer.

Passive foreign investment companies (“PFICs”) are any foreign corporations which generate certain amounts of passive income or hold certain amounts of assets for the production of passive income. Passive income includes dividends, interest, royalties, rents, and annuities. To avoid taxes and interest that a Portfolio must pay if these investments are profitable, the Portfolio may make various elections permitted by the tax laws. These elections could require that a Portfolio recognize taxable income, which in turn must be distributed, before the securities are sold and before cash is received to pay the distributions.

Pay-in-kind bonds are debt securities that normally give the issuer an option to pay cash at a coupon payment date or give the holder of the security a similar bond with the same coupon rate and a face value equal to the amount of the coupon payment that would have been made.

Preferred stocks are equity securities that generally pay dividends at a specified rate and have preference over common stock in the payment of dividends and liquidation. Preferred stock generally does not carry voting rights.

Real estate investment trust (“REIT”) is an investment trust that operates through the pooled capital of many investors who buy its shares. Investments are in direct ownership of either income property or mortgage loans. A REIT may be listed on an exchange or traded over-the-counter.

Rule 144A securities are securities that are not registered for sale to the general public under the 1933 Act, but that may be resold to certain institutional investors.

Standby commitment is a right to sell a specified underlying security or securities within a specified period of time and at an exercise price equal to the amortized cost of the underlying security or securities plus accrued interest, if any, at the time of exercise, that may be sold, transferred, or assigned only with the underlying security or securities. A standby commitment entitles the holder to receive same day settlement, and will be considered to be from the party to whom the investment company will look for payment of the exercise price.

Step coupon bonds are high-quality issues with above-market interest rates and a coupon that increases over the life of the bond. They may pay monthly, semiannual, or annual interest payments. On the date of each coupon payment, the issuer decides whether to call the bond at par, or whether to extend it until the next payment date at the new coupon rate.

Strip bonds are debt securities that are stripped of their interest (usually by a financial intermediary) after the securities are issued. The market value of these securities generally fluctuates more in response to changes in interest rates than interest-paying securities of comparable maturity.

“To be announced” or “TBA” commitments are forward agreements for the purchase or sale of securities, including mortgage-backed securities, for a fixed price, with payment and delivery on an agreed upon future settlement date. The specific securities to be delivered are not identified at the trade date. However, delivered securities must meet specified terms, including issuer, rate, and mortgage terms. At the time the TBA commitment is made, the transaction is recorded and thereafter the value of such securities is reflected each day in determining a Portfolio’s net asset value (“NAV”). Because a Portfolio is generally not required to pay for the security until the settlement date, if the Portfolio remains substantially fully invested at a time when TBA commitment purchases are outstanding, the purchases may result in a form of leverage. To facilitate these TBA commitments, a Portfolio is required to segregate or otherwise earmark liquid assets marked to market daily in an amount at least equal to such TBA commitments.

U.S. Government securities include direct obligations of the U.S. Government that are supported by its full faith and credit. Treasury bills have initial maturities of less than one year, Treasury notes have initial maturities of one to ten years, and Treasury bonds may be issued with any maturity but generally have maturities of at least ten years. U.S. Government securities also include indirect obligations of the U.S. Government that are issued by federal agencies and government sponsored entities. Unlike Treasury securities, agency securities generally are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Some agency securities are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the Treasury, others are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. Government to purchase the agency’s obligations, and others are supported only by the credit of the sponsoring agency.

Variable and floating rate securities have variable or floating rates of interest and, under certain limited circumstances, may have varying principal amounts. Variable and floating rate securities pay interest at rates that are adjusted periodically according to a specified formula, usually with reference to some interest rate index or market interest rate (the “underlying index”). The floating rate tends to decrease the security’s price sensitivity to changes in interest rates.

Warrants are securities, typically issued with preferred stock or bonds, which give the holder the right to buy a proportionate amount of common stock at a specified price. The specified price is usually higher than the market price at the time of issuance of the warrant. The right may last for a period of years or indefinitely.

Zero coupon bonds are debt obligations that do not pay regular cash interest payments at regular intervals, but are issued at a discount from face value. The discount approximates the total amount of interest the security will accrue from the date of issuance to maturity. The market value of these securities generally fluctuates more in response to changes in interest rates than interest-paying securities.

FUTURES, OPTIONS, AND OTHER DERIVATIVES

Credit default swaps are a specific kind of counterparty agreement that allows the transfer of third party credit risk from one party to the other. One party in the swap is a lender and faces credit risk from a third party, and the counterparty in the credit default swap agrees to insure this risk in exchange for regular periodic payments.

Derivatives are instruments that have a value derived from, or directly linked to, an underlying asset (stock, bond, commodity, currency, interest rate or market index). Types of derivatives can include, but are not limited to options, forward currency contracts, swaps, and futures contracts.

Equity-linked structured notes are derivative securities which are specially designed to combine the characteristics of one or more underlying securities and their equity derivatives in a single note form. The return and/or yield or income component may be based on the performance of the underlying equity securities, an equity index, and/or option positions. Equity-linked structured notes are typically offered in limited transactions by financial institutions in either registered or non-registered form. An investment in equity-linked structured notes creates exposure to the credit risk of the issuing financial institution, as well as to the market risk of the underlying securities. There is no guaranteed return of principal with these securities, and the appreciation potential of these securities may be limited by a maximum payment or call right. In certain cases, equity-linked structured notes may be more volatile and less liquid than less complex securities or other types of fixed-income securities. Such securities may exhibit price behavior that does not correlate with other fixed-income securities.

Equity swaps involve the exchange by two parties of future cash flow (e.g., one cash flow based on a referenced interest rate and the other based on the performance of stock or a stock index).

Forward contracts are contracts to purchase or sell a specified amount of a financial instrument for an agreed upon price at a specified time. Forward contracts are not currently exchange-traded and are typically negotiated on an individual basis. A Portfolio may enter into forward currency contracts for investment purposes or to hedge against declines in the value of securities denominated in, or whose value is tied to, a currency other than the U.S. dollar or to reduce the impact of currency appreciation on purchases of such securities. It may also enter into forward contracts to purchase or sell securities or other financial indices.

Futures contracts are contracts that obligate the buyer to receive and the seller to deliver an instrument or money at a specified price on a specified date. A Portfolio may buy and sell futures contracts on foreign currencies, securities, and financial indices including indices of U.S. Government, foreign government, equity, or fixed-income securities. A Portfolio may also buy options on futures contracts. An option on a futures contract gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a futures contract at a specified price on or before a specified date. Futures contracts and options on futures are standardized and traded on designated exchanges. To the extent a Portfolio engages in futures contracts on foreign exchanges, such exchanges may not provide the same protection as U.S. exchanges.

Indexed/structured securities are typically short- to intermediate-term debt securities whose value at maturity or interest rate is linked to currencies, interest rates, equity securities, indices, commodity prices, or other financial indicators. Such securities may be positively or negatively indexed (e.g., their value may increase or decrease if the reference index or instrument appreciates). Indexed/structured securities may have return characteristics similar to direct investments in the underlying instruments and may be more volatile than the underlying instruments. A Portfolio bears the market risk of an investment in the underlying instruments, as well as the credit risk of the issuer.

Inflation-linked swaps involve the exchange by a Portfolio with another party of their respective commitments to pay or receive interest (e.g., an exchange of fixed rate payments for floating rate payments or an exchange of floating rate payments based on two different reference indices). By design, one of the reference indices is an inflation index, such as the Consumer Price Index.

Interest rate swaps involve the exchange by two parties of their respective commitments to pay or receive interest (e.g., an exchange of floating rate payments for fixed rate payments).

Inverse floaters are debt instruments whose interest rate bears an inverse relationship to the interest rate on another instrument or index. For example, upon reset, the interest rate payable on the inverse floater may go down when the underlying index has risen. Certain inverse floaters may have an interest rate reset mechanism that multiplies the effects of change in the underlying index. Such mechanism may increase the volatility of the security's market value.

Options are the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a specified amount of securities or other assets on or before a fixed date at a predetermined price. A Portfolio may purchase and write put and call options on securities, securities indices, and foreign currencies. A Portfolio may purchase or write such options individually or in combination.

Participatory notes are derivative securities which are linked to the performance of an underlying Indian security and which allow investors to gain market exposure to Indian securities without trading directly in the local Indian market.

Total return swaps involve an exchange by two parties in which one party makes payments based on a set rate, either fixed or variable, while the other party makes payments based on the return of an underlying asset, which includes both the income it generates and any capital gains over the payment period. A fixed-income total return swap may be written on many different kinds of underlying reference assets, and may include different indices for various kinds of debt securities (e.g., U.S. investment grade bonds, high-yield bonds, or emerging market bonds).

OTHER INVESTMENTS, STRATEGIES, AND/OR TECHNIQUES

Cash sweep program is an arrangement in which a Portfolio's uninvested cash balance is used to purchase shares of affiliated or non-affiliated money market funds or cash management pooled investment vehicles that operate pursuant to the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), that govern the operation of money market funds at the end of each day.

Diversification is a classification given to a fund under the 1940 Act. Portfolios are classified as either "diversified" or "nondiversified." To be classified as "diversified" under the 1940 Act, a portfolio may not, with respect to 75% of its total assets, invest more than 5% of its total assets in any issuer and may not own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of an issuer. A portfolio that is classified as "nondiversified" under the 1940 Act, on the other hand, has the flexibility to take larger positions in a smaller number of issuers than a portfolio that is classified as "diversified." However, because the appreciation or depreciation of a single security may have a greater impact on the net asset value of a portfolio which is classified as nondiversified, its share price can be expected to fluctuate more than a comparable portfolio which is classified as diversified.

Industry concentration for purposes under the 1940 Act is the investment of 25% or more of a Portfolio's total assets in an industry or group of industries.

Leverage is investment exposure which exceeds the initial amount invested. Leverage occurs when a Portfolio increases its assets available for investment using reverse repurchase agreements or other similar transactions. In addition, other investment techniques, such as short sales and certain derivative transactions, can create a leveraging effect. Engaging in transactions using leverage or those having a leveraging effect subjects a Portfolio to certain risks. Leverage can magnify the effect of any gains or losses, causing a Portfolio to be more volatile than if it had not been leveraged. Certain commodity-linked derivative investments may subject a Portfolio to leveraged market exposure to commodities. In addition, a Portfolio's assets that are used as collateral to secure short sale transactions may decrease in value while the short positions are outstanding, which may force the Portfolio to use its other assets to increase collateral. There is no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful.

Market capitalization is the most commonly used measure of the size and value of a company. It is computed by multiplying the current market price of a share of the company's stock by the total number of its shares outstanding. Market capitalization is an important investment criterion for certain portfolios, while others do not emphasize investments in companies of any particular size.

Repatriation is the ability to move liquid financial assets from a foreign country to an investor's country of origin.

Repurchase agreements involve the purchase of a security by a Portfolio and a simultaneous agreement by the seller (generally a bank or dealer) to repurchase the security from the Portfolio at a specified date or upon demand. This technique offers a method of earning income on idle cash. These securities involve the risk that the seller will fail to repurchase the security, as agreed. In that case, a Portfolio will bear the risk of market value fluctuations until the security can be sold and may encounter delays and incur costs in liquidating the security.

Reverse repurchase agreements involve the sale of a security by a Portfolio to another party (generally a bank or dealer) in return for cash and an agreement by the Portfolio to buy the security back at a specified price and time. This technique will be used primarily to provide cash to satisfy unusually high redemption requests, or for other temporary or emergency purposes.

Short sales in which a Portfolio may engage may be either "short sales against the box" or other short sales. Short sales against the box involve selling short a security that a Portfolio owns, or a Portfolio has the right to obtain the amount of the security sold short at a specified date in the future. A Portfolio may also enter into a short sale to hedge against anticipated declines in the market price of a security or to reduce portfolio volatility. If the value of a security sold short increases prior to the scheduled delivery date, the Portfolio loses the opportunity to participate in the gain. For short sales, the Portfolio will

incur a loss if the value of a security increases during this period because it will be paying more for the security than it has received from the purchaser in the short sale. If the price declines during this period, a Portfolio will realize a short-term capital gain. Although a Portfolio's potential for gain as a result of a short sale is limited to the price at which it sold the security short less the cost of borrowing the security, its potential for loss is theoretically unlimited because there is no limit to the cost of replacing the borrowed security.

When-issued, delayed delivery, and forward commitment transactions generally involve the purchase of a security with payment and delivery at some time in the future – i.e., beyond normal settlement. A Portfolio does not earn interest on such securities until settlement and bears the risk of market value fluctuations in between the purchase and settlement dates. New issues of stocks and bonds, private placements, and U.S. Government securities may be sold in this manner.

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You can make inquiries and request other information, including a Statement of Additional Information, annual report, or semiannual report (as they become available), free of charge, by contacting your insurance company or plan sponsor, or by contacting a Janus Henderson representative at 1-877-335-2687. The Portfolio's Statement of Additional Information and most recent annual and semiannual reports are also available, free of charge, at janushenderson.com/VIT. Additional information about the Portfolio's investments is available in the Portfolio's annual and semiannual reports. In the Portfolio's annual and semiannual reports, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Portfolio's performance during its last fiscal period. Other information is also available from financial intermediaries that sell Shares of the Portfolio.

The Statement of Additional Information provides detailed information about the Portfolio and is incorporated into this Prospectus by reference. Reports and other information about the Portfolio are available on the Electronic Data Gathering Analysis and Retrieval (EDGAR) Database on the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may obtain copies of this information, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

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