

Morgan Stanley

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Morgan Stanley Variable Insurance Fund, Inc.

Discovery Portfolio

Prospectus | April 30, 2019

<u>Share Class</u>	<u>Ticker Symbol</u>
Class II	MMGTX

Morgan Stanley Variable Insurance Fund, Inc. (the "Company") is a mutual fund that provides investment vehicles for variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies and for certain tax-qualified investors. In this prospectus, shares of the Discovery Portfolio (the "Fund") are being offered.



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The Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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Discovery Portfolio

Investment Objective

The Fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing primarily in common stocks and other equity securities.

Fees and Expenses of the Fund (Class II)

The table below describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold Class II shares of the Fund. The Fund does not charge any sales loads or other fees when you purchase or redeem shares. The table and the example below do not reflect the impact of any charges by your insurance company. If they did, Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses would be higher.

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

Advisory Fee	0.75%
Distribution (12b-1) Fee	0.25%
Other Expenses	0.40%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses*	1.40%
Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement*	0.35%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement*	1.05%

Example

The example below is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund, your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same (except that the example incorporates the fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement arrangement for only the first year). 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
Discovery Portfolio	\$107	\$409	\$732	\$1,649

* The Fund's "Adviser," Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc., has agreed to reduce its advisory fee and/or reimburse the Fund so that Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses, excluding certain investment related expenses, taxes, interest and other extraordinary expenses (including litigation), will not exceed 1.05%. In addition, the Fund's "Distributor," Morgan Stanley Distribution, Inc., has agreed to waive 0.15% of the 0.25% 12b-1 fee that it may receive. These fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements will continue for at least one year or until such time as the Company's Board of Directors acts to discontinue all or a portion of such waivers and/or reimbursements when it deems such action is appropriate.

Portfolio Turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 89% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategies

Under normal circumstances, the Adviser seeks to achieve the Fund's investment objective by investing primarily in established and emerging companies, with capitalizations within the range of companies included in the Russell Midcap® Growth Index. As of December 31, 2018, these market capitalizations ranged between \$262 million and \$33.4 billion.

The Adviser emphasizes a bottom-up stock selection process, seeking attractive investments on an individual company basis. In selecting securities for investment, the Adviser seeks to invest in high quality companies it believes have sustainable competitive advantages and the ability to redeploy capital at high rates of return. The Adviser typically favors companies with rising returns on invested capital, above average business visibility, strong free cash flow generation and an attractive risk/reward. The Adviser generally considers selling an investment when it determines the company no longer satisfies its investment criteria.

The Adviser actively integrates sustainability into the investment process by using environmental, social and governance ("ESG") factors as a lens for additional fundamental research, which can contribute to investment decision-making. The Adviser conducts research to examine how environmental and social initiatives within companies can drive enterprise value by creating growth opportunities, reducing risk, driving profitability, strengthening durable competitive advantages and/or aligning with secular growth trends. Other aspects of the investment process include a proprietary, systematic evaluation of governance policies, specifically focusing on compensation alignment on long-term value creation. The Adviser does not treat ESG as a deterministic, reductive screen, nor as a portfolio construction tool layered on top of a passive vehicle.

The Fund may invest in equity securities. The Fund may also invest in privately placed and restricted securities.

The Adviser may invest up to 25% of the Fund's net assets in foreign securities, including emerging market securities classified as American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs"), American Depositary Shares ("ADSs") or Global Depositary Shares ("GDSs"), foreign U.S. dollar-denominated securities that are traded on a U.S. exchange or local shares of non-U.S. issuers.

Principal Risks

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective, and you can lose money investing in this Fund. The principal risks of investing in the Fund include:

- **Equity Securities.** In general, prices of equity securities are more volatile than those of fixed-income securities. The prices of equity securities fluctuate, and sometimes widely fluctuate, in response to activities specific to the issuer of the security as well as factors unrelated to the fundamental condition of the issuer, including general market, economic and political conditions.
- **Mid Cap Companies.** Investments in mid cap companies may involve greater risks than investments in larger, more

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established companies. The securities issued by mid cap companies may be less liquid and such companies may have more limited markets, financial resources and product lines and may lack the depth of management of larger companies.

- Foreign and Emerging Market Securities.** Investments in foreign markets entail special risks such as currency, political, economic and market risks. There also may be greater market volatility, less reliable financial information, higher transaction and custody costs, decreased market liquidity and less government and exchange regulation associated with investments in foreign markets. In addition, investments in certain foreign markets that have historically been considered stable may become more volatile and subject to increased risk due to ongoing developments and changing conditions in such markets. Moreover, the growing interconnectivity of global economies and financial markets has increased the probability that adverse developments and conditions in one country or region will affect the stability of economies and financial markets in other countries or regions. Certain foreign markets may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, organizations, entities and/or individuals, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. Economic sanctions could, among other things, effectively restrict or eliminate the Fund's ability to purchase or sell securities or groups of securities for a substantial period of time, and may make the Fund's investments in such securities harder to value. The risks of investing in emerging market countries are greater than the risks associated with investments in foreign developed countries. In addition, the Fund's investments in foreign issuers may be denominated in foreign currencies and therefore, to the extent unhedged, the value of those investments will fluctuate with U.S. dollar exchange rates.
- Liquidity.** The Fund may make investments that are illiquid or restricted or that may become less liquid in response to overall economic conditions or adverse investor perceptions, and which may entail greater risk than investments in other types of securities. These investments may be more difficult to value or sell, particularly in times of market turmoil, and there may be little trading in the secondary market available for particular securities. If the Fund is forced to sell an illiquid or restricted security to fund redemptions or for other cash needs, it may be forced to sell the security at a loss or for less than its fair value.
- Focused Investing.** To the extent that the Fund invests in a limited number of issuers, the Fund will be more susceptible to negative events affecting those issuers and a decline in the value of a particular instrument may cause the Fund's overall value to decline to a greater degree than if the Fund were invested more widely.

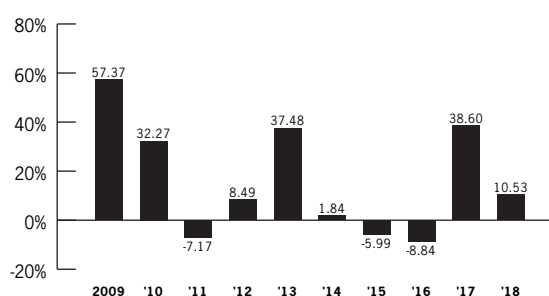
Shares of the Fund are not bank deposits and are not guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

Performance Information

The bar chart and table below provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's Class II shares' performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's Class II shares' average annual returns for the past one, five and 10 year periods compare with those of a broad measure of market performance over time. This performance information does not include the impact of any charges deducted by your insurance company. If it did, returns would be lower. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Annual Total Returns—Calendar Years (Class II)

Commenced operations on May 5, 2003



High Quarter	06/30/09	26.10%
Low Quarter	09/30/11	-19.75%

Average Annual Total Returns (Class II)

(for the calendar periods ended December 31, 2018)

	Past One Year	Past Five Years	Past Ten Years
Class II			
Return before Taxes	10.53%	5.98%	14.44%
Russell Midcap® Growth Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes) ¹	-4.75%	7.42%	15.12%

⁽¹⁾ The Russell Midcap® Growth Index measures the performance of the mid-cap growth segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell Midcap® Index companies with higher price-to-book ratios and higher forecasted growth values. The Russell Midcap® Index is a subset of the Russell 1000® Index and includes approximately 800 of the smallest securities in the Russell 1000® Index, which in turn consists of approximately 1,000 of the largest U.S. securities based on a combination of market capitalization and current index membership. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Fund Management

Adviser. Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc.

Portfolio Managers. The Fund is managed by members of the Counterpoint Global team. Information about the members jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund is shown below:

Name	Title with Adviser	Date Began Managing Fund
Dennis P. Lynch	Managing Director	April 2003
Sam G. Chainani	Managing Director	June 2004

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Name	Title with Adviser	Date Began Managing Fund
Jason C. Yeung	Managing Director	September 2007
Armistead B. Nash	Managing Director	September 2008
David S. Cohen	Managing Director	April 2003
Alexander T. Norton	Executive Director	July 2005

include the Fund as an underlying investment option in its variable insurance products. Ask your salesperson or visit your insurance company's web site for more information.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

The Prospectus offers Class II shares of the Fund. The Company also offers Class I shares of the Fund through a separate prospectus. Class I shares are subject to lower expenses, but may not be available through your insurance company, qualified pension plan or retirement plan. For eligibility information, contact your insurance company or qualified pension or retirement plan.

Fund shares will be sold at the net asset value per share ("NAV") next determined after we receive the redemption request on your behalf.

The Fund offers its shares only to insurance companies for separate accounts that they establish to fund variable life insurance and variable annuity contracts, and to other entities under qualified pension and retirement plans. An insurance company purchases or redeems shares of the Fund based on, among other things, the amount of net contract premiums or purchase payments allocated to a separate account investment division, transfers to or from a separate account investment division, contract loans and repayments, contract withdrawals and surrenders, and benefit payments. The contract prospectus describes how contract owners may allocate, transfer and withdraw amounts to, and from, separate accounts.

For more information, please refer to the section of the Prospectus entitled "Shareholder Information—Purchasing and Selling Fund Shares."

Tax Information

Special tax rules apply to life insurance companies, variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts. For information on federal income taxation of a life insurance company with respect to its receipt of distributions from the Fund and federal income taxation of owners of variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, refer to the contract prospectus.

For more information, please refer to the section of the Prospectus entitled "Shareholder Information—Taxes."

Payments to Insurance Companies and Other Financial Intermediaries

The Adviser and/or the Distributor may pay insurance companies or their affiliates in connection with Fund-related administrative services that the insurance companies provide in connection with the issuance of their variable annuity contracts. These payments, which may be significant in amount, may create a conflict of interest by influencing the insurance company to recommend one variable annuity contract over another or be a factor in an insurance company's decision to

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Investment Objective

The Fund seeks long-term capital growth by investing primarily in common stocks and other equity securities.

Approach

The Adviser seeks to achieve the Fund's investment objective by investing primarily in established and emerging companies, with capitalizations within the range of companies included in the Russell Midcap® Growth Index. As of December 31, 2018, these market capitalizations ranged between \$262 million and \$33.4 billion.

Process

The Adviser emphasizes a bottom-up stock selection process, seeking attractive investments on an individual company basis. In selecting securities for investment, the Adviser seeks to invest in high quality companies it believes have sustainable competitive advantages and the ability to redeploy capital at high rates of return. The Adviser typically favors companies with rising returns on invested capital, above average business visibility, strong free cash flow generation and an attractive risk/reward.

Fundamental research drives the investment process. The Adviser studies on an ongoing basis company developments, including business strategy and financial results. The Adviser generally considers selling an investment when it determines the company no longer satisfies its investment criteria.

The Adviser actively integrates sustainability into the investment process by using ESG factors as a lens for additional fundamental research, which can contribute to investment decision-making. The Adviser conducts research to examine how environmental and social initiatives within companies can drive enterprise value by creating growth opportunities, reducing risk, driving profitability, strengthening durable competitive advantages and/or aligning with secular growth trends. Other aspects of the investment process include a proprietary, systematic evaluation of governance policies, specifically focusing on compensation alignment on long-term value creation. The Adviser does not treat ESG as a deterministic, reductive screen, nor as a portfolio construction tool layered on top of a passive vehicle.

A company is considered to be a mid cap company if it has a total market capitalization within the range of companies included in the Russell Midcap® Growth Index.

The Fund may invest in equity securities. The Fund may also invest in privately placed and restricted securities.

The Adviser may invest up to 25% of the Fund's net assets in foreign securities, including emerging market securities classified as ADRs, GDRs, ADSs or GDSs, foreign U.S. dollar-denominated securities that are traded on a U.S. exchange or local shares of non-U.S. issuers.

Risks

An investment in the Fund is subject to risks, and you could lose money on your investment in the Fund. There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. Investing in the Fund may be appropriate for you if you are willing to accept the risks and uncertainties of investing in a portfolio of equity securities of mid cap companies. In general, prices of equity securities are more volatile than those of fixed-income securities. The prices of equity securities will rise and fall in response to a number of different factors. In particular, prices of equity securities fluctuate, and sometimes widely fluctuate, in response to activities specific to the issuer of the security as well as factors unrelated to the fundamental condition of the issuer, including general market, economic and political conditions. In addition, at times, mid capitalization growth-oriented equity securities may underperform relative to the overall market. Growth stocks may trade at higher multiples of current earnings compared to other styles of investing (e.g., "value"), leading to inflated prices and thus potentially greater declines in value.

Investments in mid cap companies may involve greater risk than investments in larger, more established companies. The securities issued by mid cap companies may be less liquid and their prices may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements. In addition mid cap companies may have more limited markets, financial resources and product lines, and may lack the depth of management of larger companies. Certain market conditions may favor growth stocks or stocks of mid-sized companies, while other conditions may favor value stocks or stocks of larger or smaller companies. Accordingly, a portfolio of mid cap growth stocks may, over certain periods of time, underperform a portfolio of value stocks or stocks of larger or smaller companies or the overall market.

Investing in the securities of foreign issuers, particularly those located in emerging market or developing countries, entails the risk that news and events unique to a country or region will affect those markets and their issuers. The value of the Fund's shares may vary widely in response to political and economic factors affecting companies in foreign countries. In addition, investments in certain foreign markets, which have historically been considered stable, may become more volatile and subject to increased risk due to ongoing developments and changing conditions in such markets. Although these events will not necessarily have an effect on the U.S. economy or similar issuers located in the United States, the growing interconnectivity of global economies and financial markets has increased the probability that adverse developments and conditions in one country or region will affect the stability of economies and financial markets in other countries or regions. Certain foreign markets may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital

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and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, organizations, entities and/or individuals, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. Economic sanctions could, among other things, effectively restrict or eliminate the Fund's ability to purchase or sell securities or groups of securities for a substantial period of time, and may make the Fund's investments in such securities harder to value.

The Fund's investments in foreign issuers may be denominated in foreign currencies and therefore, to the extent unhedged, the value of the investment will fluctuate with the U.S. dollar exchange rates. These changes may occur separately from and in response to events that do not otherwise affect the value of the security in the issuer's home country.

The Fund may make investments that are illiquid or restricted or that may become less liquid in response to overall economic conditions or adverse investor perceptions, and which may entail greater risk than investments in other types of securities. These investments may be more difficult to value or sell, particularly in times of market turmoil, and there may be little trading in the secondary market available for particular securities. Liquidity risk may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment or in other circumstances where investor redemptions from fixed-income mutual funds may be higher than normal. If the Fund is forced to sell an illiquid or restricted security to fund redemptions or for other cash needs, it may be forced to sell the security at a loss or for less than its fair value.

To the extent that the Fund invests in a limited number of issuers, the Fund will be more susceptible to negative events affecting those issuers and a decline in the value of a particular investment may cause the Fund's overall value to decline to a greater degree than if the Fund were invested more widely.

Please see "Additional Risk Factors and Information" for further information about these and other risks of investing in the Fund.

Additional Risk Factors and Information

This section discusses additional risk factors and information relating to the Fund. The Fund's investment practices and limitations are described in more detail in the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI"), which is incorporated by reference and legally is a part of this Prospectus. For details on how to obtain a copy of the SAI and other reports and information, see the back cover of this Prospectus.

Market and Geopolitical Risk

The value of your investment in the Fund is based on the market prices of the securities the Fund holds. These prices change daily due to economic and other events that affect markets generally, as well as those that affect particular regions, countries, industries, companies or governments. These price movements, sometimes called volatility, may be greater or less depending on the types of securities the Fund owns and the markets in which the securities trade. 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. Securities in the Fund's portfolio may underperform due to inflation (or expectations for inflation), interest rates, global demand for particular products or resources, natural disasters, terrorism, regulatory events and governmental or quasi-governmental actions. The occurrence of global events similar to those in recent years, such as the aftermath of the war in Iraq, instability in Venezuela, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, North Korea, Russia, Ukraine and the Middle East among other countries and regions, terrorist attacks in the United States and around the world, natural disasters, social and political discord or debt crises and downgrades, among others, may result in market volatility and may have long term effects on both the U.S. and global financial markets. It is difficult to predict when similar events affecting the U.S. or global financial markets may occur, the effects that such events may have and the duration of those effects. Any such event(s) could have a significant adverse impact on the value and risk profile of the Fund's portfolio. There is a risk that you may lose money by investing in the Fund.

Equity Securities

Equity securities may include common and preferred stocks, convertible securities and equity-linked securities, real estate investment trusts ("REITs"), rights and warrants to purchase common stocks, depositary receipts, shares of investment companies, limited partnership interests and other specialty securities having equity features. The Fund may invest in equity securities that are publicly traded on securities exchanges or over-the-counter ("OTC") or in equity securities that are not publicly traded. Securities that are not publicly traded may be more difficult to value or sell and their value may fluctuate more dramatically than other securities. The prices of convertible securities are affected by changes similar to those of equity and fixed-income securities.

A depositary receipt is generally issued by a bank or financial institution and represents the common stock or other equity securities of a foreign company. Depositary receipts involve many of the same risks as those associated with direct investment in foreign securities. In addition, the underlying issuers of certain depositary receipts, particularly unsponsored or unregistered depositary receipts, are under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications to the holders of such receipts, or to pass through to them any voting rights with respect to the deposited securities.

A convertible security is a bond, debenture, note, preferred stock, right, warrant or other security that may be converted into or exchanged for a prescribed amount of common stock or other security of the same or a different issuer or into cash within a particular period of time at a specified price or formula. A convertible security generally entitles the holder to receive interest paid or accrued on debt securities or the dividend paid on preferred stock until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Before conversion, convertible securities generally have characteristics similar to both debt and equity securities. The value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates rise and, because of the conversion feature, tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying securities. Convertible securities ordinarily provide a stream of income with generally higher yields than those of common stock of the same or similar issuers. Convertible securities generally rank senior to common stock in a corporation's capital structure but are usually subordinated to other comparable nonconvertible fixed-income securities in such capital structure. Convertible securities generally do not participate directly in any dividend increases or decreases of the underlying securities although the market prices of convertible securities may be affected by any dividend changes or other changes in the underlying securities.

Foreign Investing

To the extent that the Fund invests in foreign issuers, there is the risk that news and events unique to a country or region will affect those markets and their issuers. These same events will not necessarily have an effect on the U.S. economy or similar issuers located in the United States. In addition, some of the Fund's securities, including underlying securities represented by depositary receipts, may be denominated in foreign currencies. As a result, changes in the value of a country's currency compared to the U.S. dollar may affect the value of the Fund's investments. These changes may happen separately from, and in response to, events that do not otherwise affect the value of the security in the issuer's home country. These risks may be intensified for the Fund's investments in securities of issuers located in emerging market or developing countries.

Additional Risk Factors and Information (Con't)

Foreign Securities

Foreign issuers generally are subject to different accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards than U.S. issuers. There may be less information available to the public about foreign issuers. Securities of foreign issuers can be less liquid and experience greater price movements. In addition, the prices of such securities may be susceptible to influence by large traders, due to the limited size of many foreign securities markets. Moreover, investments in certain foreign markets that have historically been considered stable may become more volatile and subject to increased risk due to ongoing developments and changing conditions in such markets. Also, the growing interconnectivity of global economies and financial markets has increased the probability that adverse developments and conditions in one country or region will affect the stability of economies and financial markets in other countries or regions. In some foreign countries, there is also the risk of government expropriation, excessive taxation, political or social instability, the imposition of currency controls or diplomatic developments that could affect the Fund's investment. There also can be difficulty obtaining and enforcing judgments against issuers in foreign countries. Foreign stock exchanges, broker-dealers and listed issuers may be subject to less government regulation and oversight. The cost of investing in foreign securities, including brokerage commissions and custodial expenses, can be higher than the cost of investing in domestic securities.

Certain foreign markets may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, organizations, entities and/or individuals, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. Economic sanctions could, among other things, effectively restrict or eliminate the Fund's ability to purchase or sell securities or groups of securities for a substantial period of time, and may make the Fund's investments in such securities harder to value. International trade barriers or economic sanctions against foreign countries, organizations, entities and/or individuals may adversely affect the Fund's foreign holdings or exposures. Investments in foreign markets may also be adversely affected by governmental actions such as the imposition of capital controls, nationalization of companies or industries, expropriation of assets or the imposition of punitive taxes. Governmental actions can have a significant effect on the economic conditions in foreign countries, which also may adversely affect the value and liquidity of the Fund's investments. For example, the governments of certain countries may prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on foreign investing in their capital markets or in certain sectors or industries. In addition, a foreign government may limit or cause delay in the convertibility or repatriation of its currency which would adversely affect the U.S. dollar value and/or liquidity of investments denominated in that currency. Any of these actions could severely affect security prices, impair the Fund's ability to purchase or sell foreign securities or transfer the Fund's assets back into the United States, or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations. Certain foreign investments may become less liquid in response to market developments or adverse investor perceptions, or become illiquid after purchase by the Fund, particularly during periods of market turmoil. Certain foreign investments may become illiquid when, for instance, there are few, if any, interested buyers and sellers or when dealers are unwilling to make a market for certain securities. When the Fund holds illiquid investments, its portfolio may be harder to value.

Emerging Market Securities

The Fund may invest in emerging market or developing countries, which are countries that major international financial institutions generally consider to be less economically mature than developed nations (such as the United States or most nations in Western Europe). Emerging market or developing countries may be more likely to experience political turmoil or rapid changes in economic conditions than more developed countries, and the financial condition of issuers in emerging market or developing countries may be more precarious than in other countries. In addition, emerging market securities generally are less liquid and subject to wider price and currency fluctuations than securities issued in more developed countries. These characteristics result in greater risk of price volatility in emerging market or developing countries, which may be heightened by currency fluctuations relative to the U.S. dollar.

Foreign Currency

Investments in foreign securities may be denominated in foreign currencies. The value of foreign currencies may fluctuate relative to the value of the U.S. dollar. Since the Fund may invest in such non-U.S. dollar-denominated securities, and therefore may convert the value of such securities into U.S. dollars, changes in currency exchange rates can increase or decrease the U.S. dollar value of the Fund's assets. Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time for a number of reasons, including changes in interest rates and the overall economic health of the issuer. Devaluation of a currency by a country's government or banking authority also will have a significant impact on the value of any investments denominated in that currency. The Adviser may use derivatives to reduce this risk. The Adviser may in its discretion choose not to hedge against currency risk. In addition, certain market conditions may make it impossible or uneconomical to hedge against currency risk.

Foreign Currency Forward Exchange Contracts

In connection with its investments in foreign securities, the Fund also may enter into contracts with banks, brokers or dealers to purchase or sell securities or foreign currencies at a future date. A foreign currency forward exchange contract is a negotiated agreement between the contracting parties to exchange a specified amount of currency at a specified future time at a specified rate. The rate can be higher or lower than the spot rate between the currencies that are the subject of the contract. Foreign currency forward exchange contracts may be used to protect against uncertainty in the level of future foreign currency exchange rates or to gain or modify exposure to a particular currency. In addition, the Fund may use cross currency hedging or proxy hedging with respect to currencies in which the Fund has or expects to have portfolio or currency exposure. Cross currency and proxy hedges involve the sale

Additional Risk Factors and Information (Con't)

of one currency against the positive exposure to a different currency and may be used for hedging purposes or to establish an active exposure to the exchange rate between any two currencies.

Investments in foreign currency forward exchange contracts may substantially change the Fund's exposure to currency exchange rates and could result in losses to the Fund if currencies do not perform as the Adviser expects. The Adviser's success in these transactions will depend principally on its ability to predict accurately the future exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. Foreign currency forward exchange contracts may be used for non-hedging purposes in seeking to meet the Fund's investment objective, such as when the Adviser anticipates that particular non-U.S. currencies will appreciate or depreciate in value, even though securities denominated in those currencies are not then held in the Fund's investment portfolio. Investing in foreign currency forward exchange contracts for purposes of gaining from projected changes in exchange rates, as opposed to hedging currency risks applicable to the Fund's holdings, further increases the Fund's exposure to foreign securities losses. There is no assurance that the Adviser's use of currency derivatives will benefit the Fund or that they will be, or can be, used at appropriate times.

Derivatives

The Fund may, but is not required to, use derivative instruments for a variety of purposes, including hedging, risk management, portfolio management or to earn income. A derivative is a financial instrument whose value is based, in part, on the value of an underlying asset, interest rate, index or financial instrument. Prevailing interest rates and volatility levels, among other things, also affect the value of derivative instruments. A derivative instrument often has risks similar to its underlying asset and may have additional risks, including imperfect correlation between the value of the derivative and the underlying asset, risks of default by the counterparty to certain transactions, magnification of losses incurred due to changes in the market value of the securities, instruments, indices or interest rates to which the derivative instrument relates, risks that the transactions may not be liquid and risks arising from margin requirements. The use of derivatives involves risks that are different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with other portfolio investments. Derivatives may involve the use of highly specialized instruments that require investment techniques and risk analyses different from those associated with other portfolio investments.

Certain derivative transactions may give rise to a form of leverage. Leverage magnifies the potential for gain and the risk of loss. Leverage associated with derivative transactions may cause the Fund to liquidate portfolio positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or to meet earmarking or segregation requirements, pursuant to applicable SEC rules and regulations, or may cause the Fund to be more volatile than if the Fund had not been leveraged. Although the Adviser seeks to use derivatives to further the Fund's investment objective, there is no assurance that the use of derivatives will achieve this result.

The derivative instruments and techniques that the Fund may use include:

Futures. A futures contract is a standardized, exchange-traded agreement to buy or sell a specific quantity of an underlying asset, reference rate or index at a specific price at a specific future time. The value of a futures contract tends to increase or decrease in tandem with the value of the underlying instrument. Depending on the terms of the particular contract, futures contracts are settled through either physical delivery of the underlying instrument on the settlement date or by payment of a cash settlement amount on the settlement date. A decision as to whether, when and how to use futures contracts involves the exercise of skill and judgment and even a well-conceived futures transaction may be unsuccessful because of market behavior or unexpected events. In addition to the derivatives risks discussed above, the prices of futures contracts can be highly volatile, using futures contracts can lower total return, and the potential loss from futures contracts can exceed the Fund's initial investment in such contracts. No assurance can be given that a liquid market will exist for any particular futures contract at any particular time. There is also the risk of loss by the Fund of margin deposits in the event of bankruptcy of a broker with which the Fund has open positions in the futures contract.

Options. If the Fund buys an option, it buys a legal contract giving it the right to buy or sell a specific amount of the underlying instrument or contract, such as a swap agreement or futures contract, on the underlying instrument at an agreed-upon price typically in exchange for a premium paid by the Fund. If the Fund sells an option, it sells to another person the right to buy from or sell to the Fund a specific amount of the underlying instrument or foreign currency, or futures contract on the underlying instrument or foreign currency, at an agreed-upon price during a period of time or on a specified date typically in exchange for a premium received by the Fund. When options are purchased OTC, the Fund bears the risk that the counterparty that wrote the option will be unable or unwilling to perform its obligations under the option contract. Options may also be illiquid and the Fund may have difficulty closing out its position. A decision as to whether, when and how to use options involves the exercise of skill and judgment and even a well-conceived option transaction may be unsuccessful because of market behavior or unexpected events. The prices of options can be highly volatile and the use of options can lower total returns.

Investments in foreign currency options may substantially change the Fund's exposure to currency exchange rates and could result in losses to the Fund if currencies do not perform as the Adviser expects. There is a risk that such transactions could reduce or preclude the opportunity for gain if the value of the currency moves in the direction opposite to the position taken. The value of a foreign currency option is dependent upon the value of the underlying foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar. The price of the option may vary with changes in the value of either or both currencies and has no relationship to the investment merits of a foreign security. Options on foreign currencies are affected by all of those factors that influence foreign exchange rates and foreign investment

Additional Risk Factors and Information (Con't)

generally. Unanticipated changes in currency prices may result in losses to the Fund and poorer overall performance for the Fund than if it had not entered into such contracts. Options on foreign currencies are traded primarily in the OTC market, but may also be traded on U.S. and foreign exchanges.

Foreign currency options contracts may be used for hedging purposes or non-hedging purposes in pursuing the Fund's investment objective, such as when the Adviser anticipates that particular non-U.S. currencies will appreciate or depreciate in value, even though securities denominated in those currencies are not then held in the Fund's investment portfolio. Investing in foreign currencies for purposes of gaining from projected changes in exchange rates, as opposed to only hedging currency risks applicable to the Fund's holdings, further increases the Fund's exposure to foreign securities losses. There is no assurance that the Adviser's use of currency derivatives will benefit the Fund or that they will be, or can be, used at appropriate times.

Swaps. The Fund may enter into OTC swap contracts or cleared swap transactions. An OTC swap contract is an agreement between two parties pursuant to which the parties exchange payments at specified dates on the basis of a specified notional amount, with the payments calculated by reference to specified securities, indices, reference rates, currencies or other instruments. Typically swap agreements provide that when the period payment dates for both parties are the same, the payments are made on a net basis (i.e., the two payment streams are netted out, with only the net amount paid by one party to the other). The Fund's obligations or rights under a swap contract entered into on a net basis will generally be equal only to the net amount to be paid or received under the agreement, based on the relative values of the positions held by each party. Cleared swap transactions may help reduce counterparty credit risk. In a cleared swap, the Fund's ultimate counterparty is a clearinghouse rather than a swap dealer, bank or other financial institution. OTC swap agreements are not entered into or traded on exchanges and often there is no central clearing or guaranty function for swaps. These OTC swaps are often subject to credit risk or the risk of default or non-performance by the counterparty. Both OTC and cleared swaps could result in losses if interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates or other factors are not correctly anticipated by the Fund or if the reference index, security or investments do not perform as expected. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and related regulatory developments require the clearing and exchange-trading of certain standardized swap transactions. Mandatory exchange-trading and clearing is occurring on a phased-in basis.

Structured Investments. The Fund also may invest a portion of its assets in structured investments. A structured investment is a derivative security designed to offer a return linked to a particular underlying security, currency, commodity or market. Structured investments may come in various forms including notes (such as exchange-traded notes), warrants and options to purchase securities. The Fund will typically use structured investments to gain exposure to a permitted underlying security, currency, commodity or market when direct access to a market is limited or inefficient from a tax or cost standpoint. There can be no assurance that structured investments will trade at the same price or have the same value as the underlying security, currency, commodity or market. Investments in structured investments involve risks including issuer risk, counterparty risk and market risk. Holders of structured investments bear risks of the underlying investment and are subject to issuer or counterparty risk because the Fund is relying on the creditworthiness of such issuer or counterparty and has no rights with respect to the underlying investment. Certain structured investments may be thinly traded or have a limited trading market and may have the effect of increasing the Fund's illiquidity to the extent that the Fund, at a particular point in time, may be unable to find qualified buyers for these securities.

IPOs

The Fund may purchase shares issued as part of, or a short period after, a company's initial public offering ("IPO"), and may at times dispose of those shares shortly after their acquisition. The Fund's purchase of shares issued in IPOs exposes it to the risks associated with companies that have little operating history as public companies, including unseasoned trading, small number of shares available for trading and limited information about the issuer, as well as to the risks inherent in those sectors of the market where these new issuers operate. The market for IPO issuers may be volatile, and share prices of newly-public companies have fluctuated significantly over short periods of time. IPOs may produce high, double-digit returns. Such returns are highly unusual and may not be sustainable.

REITs and Foreign Real Estate Companies

Investing in REITs and foreign real estate companies exposes investors to the risks of owning real estate directly, as well as to risks that relate specifically to the way in which REITs and foreign real estate companies are organized and operated. REITs and foreign real estate companies generally invest directly in real estate, in mortgages or in some combination of the two. Operating REITs and foreign real estate companies requires specialized management skills and the Fund indirectly bears management expenses along with the direct expenses of the Fund. Individual REITs and foreign real estate companies may own a limited number of properties and may concentrate in a particular region or property type. REITs may also be subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers and self-liquidation.

REITs also must satisfy specific requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, in order to qualify for tax-free pass-through income. The failure of a company to qualify as a REIT could have adverse consequences for the Fund, including significantly reducing the return to the Fund on its investment in such company. Foreign real estate companies may be subject to laws, rules and regulations governing those entities and their failure to comply with those laws, rules and regulations could negatively impact the performance of those entities. In addition, REITs and foreign real estate companies, like mutual funds, have expenses,

Additional Risk Factors and Information (Con't)

including management and administration fees, that are paid by their shareholders. As a result, shareholders will absorb their proportionate share of duplicate levels of fees when the Fund invests in REITs and foreign real estate companies.

Exchange-Traded Funds

The Fund may invest in exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). ETFs seek to track the performance of various portions or segments of the equity and fixed-income markets. Shares of ETFs have many of the same risks as direct investments in common stocks or bonds. In addition, the market value of ETF shares may differ from their NAV because the supply and demand in the market for ETF shares at any point in time is not always identical to the supply and demand in the market for the underlying securities. Also, ETFs that track particular indices typically will be unable to match the performance of the index exactly due, among other things, to the ETF's operating expenses and transaction costs. ETFs typically incur fees that are separate from those fees incurred directly by the Fund. Therefore, as a shareholder in an ETF, the Fund would bear its ratable share of that entity's expenses. At the same time, the Fund would continue to pay its own investment management fees and other expenses. As a result, the Fund and its shareholders, in effect, will be absorbing duplicate levels of fees with respect to investments in ETFs.

Sector Risk

The Fund may, from time to time, invest more heavily in companies in a particular economic sector or sectors. Economic or regulatory changes adversely affecting such sectors may have more of an impact on the Fund's performance than if the Fund held a broader range of investments.

Investment Discretion

In pursuing the Fund's investment objective, the Adviser has considerable leeway in deciding which investments it buys, holds or sells on a day-to-day basis, and which trading strategies it uses. For example, the Adviser, in its discretion, may determine to use some permitted trading strategies while not using others. The success or failure of such decisions will affect the Fund's performance.

Large Shareholder Transactions Risk

The Fund may experience adverse effects when certain large shareholders purchase or redeem large amounts of shares of the Fund. Such large shareholder redemptions may cause the Fund to sell portfolio securities at times when it would not otherwise do so, which may negatively impact the Fund's NAV and liquidity. Similarly, large Fund share purchases may adversely affect the Fund's performance to the extent that the Fund is delayed in investing new cash and is required to maintain a larger cash position than it ordinarily would. These transactions may also accelerate the realization of taxable income to shareholders if such sales of investments resulted in gains, and may also increase transaction costs. In addition, a large redemption could result in the Fund's current expenses being allocated over a smaller asset base, leading to an increase in the Fund's expense ratio. Although large shareholder transactions may be more frequent under certain circumstances, the Fund is generally subject to the risk that a large shareholder can purchase or redeem a significant percentage of Fund shares at any time.

Temporary Defensive Investments

When the Adviser believes that changes in market, economic, political or other conditions warrant, the Fund may invest without limit in cash, cash equivalents or other fixed-income securities for temporary defensive purposes that may be inconsistent with the Fund's principal investment strategies. If the Adviser incorrectly predicts the effects of these changes, such defensive investments may adversely affect the Fund's performance and the Fund may not achieve its investment objective.

Portfolio Turnover

Consistent with its investment policies, the Fund will purchase and sell securities without regard to the effect on portfolio turnover. Higher portfolio turnover (e.g., over 100% per year) will cause the Fund to incur additional transaction costs. The Fund may engage in frequent trading of securities to achieve its investment objective.

Fund Management

Adviser

Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc., with principal offices at 522 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10036, conducts a worldwide portfolio management business and provides a broad range of portfolio management services to customers in the United States and abroad. Morgan Stanley (NYSE: “MS”) is the parent of the Adviser, who is the parent of the Distributor. Morgan Stanley is a preeminent global financial services firm engaged in securities trading and brokerage activities, as well as providing investment banking, research and analysis, financing and financial advisory services. As of December 31, 2018, the Adviser, together with its affiliated asset management companies, had approximately \$463 billion in assets under management or supervision.

Advisory Fee

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Adviser received a fee for advisory services (net of fee waivers, if applicable) equal to 0.55% of the Fund’s average daily net assets.

The Adviser has agreed to reduce its advisory fee and/or reimburse the Fund, if necessary, if such fees would cause the total annual operating expenses of the Fund to exceed 1.05% of average daily net assets. In determining the actual amount of fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement for the Fund, if any, the Adviser excludes from total annual operating expenses certain investment related expenses, taxes, interest and other extraordinary expenses (including litigation) (but includes any 12b-1 fee paid to the Distributor). The fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements for the Fund will continue for at least one year or until such time as the Company’s Board of Directors acts to discontinue all or a portion of such waivers and/or reimbursements when it deems such action is appropriate. The Adviser may make additional voluntary fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements. The Adviser may discontinue these voluntary fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements at any time in the future.

A discussion regarding the Board of Directors’ approval of the investment advisory agreement is available in the Fund’s Semi-Annual Report to Shareholders for the period ended June 30, 2018.

Portfolio Management

The Fund is managed by members of the Counterpoint Global team. The team consists of portfolio managers and analysts. Current members of the team jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund are Dennis P. Lynch, Sam G. Chainani, Jason C. Yeung, Armistead B. Nash, David S. Cohen and Alexander T. Norton.

Mr. Lynch has been associated with the Adviser in an investment management capacity since 1998. Mr. Chainani has been associated with the Adviser in an investment management capacity since 1996. Messrs. Yeung and Nash have been associated with the Adviser in an investment management capacity since 2002. Mr. Cohen has been associated with the Adviser in an investment management capacity since 1993. Mr. Norton has been associated with the Adviser in an investment management capacity since 2000.

Mr. Lynch is the lead manager of the Fund. Messrs. Chainani, Yeung, Nash, Cohen and Norton are co-portfolio managers. Members of the team collaborate to manage the assets of the Fund.

The Fund’s SAI provides additional information about the portfolio managers’ compensation structure, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers and the portfolio managers’ ownership of securities in the Fund.

The composition of the team may change from time to time.

Distribution Plan

The Company has adopted a Plan of Distribution (the “Plan”) for the Fund’s Class II shares pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”). Under the Plan, the Fund is authorized to pay the Distributor a monthly 12b-1 fee at an annual rate of 0.25% of the Fund’s average daily net assets attributable to Class II shares. Such amount shall be paid to compensate the Distributor for remittance to insurance companies which offer the Company as an investment option. These payments are intended to compensate insurance companies for distribution and/or administrative-related expenses incurred or paid in connection with the distribution of Class II shares of the Fund. The Distributor has agreed to waive 0.15% of the 0.25% 12b-1 fee that it may receive. This waiver will continue for at least one year or until such time as the Company’s Board of Directors acts to discontinue all or a portion of such waiver when it deems such action is appropriate.

Since the 12b-1 fees associated with the Plan are paid out of the Fund’s assets on an on-going basis, over time these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.

The Adviser and/or the Distributor may pay additional compensation (out of their own funds and not as an expense of the Fund) to certain affiliated or unaffiliated brokers, dealers and/or certain insurance companies or other financial intermediaries or service

Fund Management (Con't)

providers in connection with the sale, distribution, marketing and/or retention of shares of the Fund and/or shareholder servicing. Such compensation may be significant in amount and the prospect of receiving any such additional compensation may provide such affiliated or unaffiliated entities with an incentive to favor sales of the Fund's shares over other investment options. Any such payments will not change the NAV or the price of the Fund's shares. For more information, please see the Fund's SAI.

Shareholder Information

Share Class

This Prospectus offers Class II shares of the Fund. The Company also offers Class I shares of the Fund through a separate prospectus. Class I shares are subject to lower expenses, but may not be available through your insurance company, qualified pension plan or retirement plan. For eligibility information, contact your insurance company or qualified pension or retirement plan.

Purchasing and Selling Fund Shares

Shares are offered on each day that the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) is open for business except as noted below.

The Fund offers its shares only to insurance companies for separate accounts that they establish to fund variable life insurance and variable annuity contracts, and to other entities under qualified pension and retirement plans. An insurance company purchases or redeems shares of the Fund based on, among other things, the amount of net contract premiums or purchase payments allocated to a separate account investment division, transfers to or from a separate account investment division, contract loans and repayments, contract withdrawals and surrenders, and benefit payments. The contract prospectus describes how contract owners may allocate, transfer and withdraw amounts to, and from, separate accounts.

There are no known disadvantages to variable product contract owners or qualified plan participants arising out of the fact that the Fund offers its shares to separate accounts of various insurance companies that offer variable annuity and variable life insurance products and various other entities under qualified pension and retirement plans. Nevertheless, the Board of Directors that oversees the Fund intends to monitor events to identify any material irreconcilable conflicts that may possibly arise due to these arrangements and to determine what action, if any, should be taken in response.

Pricing of Fund Shares

The price per share will be the NAV next determined after the Company or the insurance company receives your purchase or redemption order in good order. NAV is the value of one share’s portion of all of the net assets in the Fund. The Company determines the NAV for the Fund as of the close of the NYSE (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on each day that the NYSE is open for business. Shares will generally not be priced on days that the NYSE is closed. If the NYSE is closed due to inclement weather, technology problems or any other reason on a day it would normally be open for business, or the NYSE has an unscheduled early closing on a day it has opened for business, the Fund reserves the right to treat such day as a business day and accept purchase and redemption orders until, and calculate its NAV as of, the normally scheduled close of regular trading on the NYSE for that day, so long as the Adviser believes there generally remains an adequate market to obtain reliable and accurate market quotations. The Fund may elect to remain open and price its shares on days when the NYSE is closed but the primary securities markets on which the Fund’s securities trade remain open. Trading of securities that are primarily listed on foreign exchanges may take place on weekends and other days when the Fund does not price its shares. Therefore, to the extent, if any, that the Fund invests in securities primarily listed on foreign exchanges, the value of the Fund’s securities may change on days when you will not be able to purchase or sell your shares.

About Net Asset Value

The NAV of Class II shares is determined by dividing the total of the value of the Fund’s investments and other assets attributable to Class II, less any liabilities attributable to Class II, by the total number of outstanding shares of Class II. In making this calculation, the Fund generally values securities at market price. If market prices are unavailable or may be unreliable because of events occurring after the close of trading, the value for those securities will be determined in good faith at fair value using methods approved by the Board of Directors. In addition, with respect to securities that primarily are listed on foreign exchanges, when an event occurs after the close of such exchanges that is likely to have changed the value of the securities (e.g., a percentage change in value of one or more U.S. securities indices in excess of specified thresholds), such securities will be valued at their fair value, as determined under procedures established by the Company’s Board of Directors. Securities also may be fair valued in the event of a significant development affecting a country or region or an issuer-specific development that is likely to have changed the value of the security. In these cases, the Fund’s NAV will reflect certain portfolio securities’ fair value rather than their market price. To the extent the Fund invests in open-end management companies (other than ETFs) that are registered under the 1940 Act, the Fund’s NAV is calculated based, in relevant part, upon the NAV of such funds. The prospectuses for such funds explain the circumstances under which they will use fair value pricing and its effects.

Fair value pricing involves subjective judgments and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security is materially different than the value that could be realized upon the sale of that security.

The NAV of Class II shares will differ from that of Class I shares because of class-specific expenses that each class may pay.

Dividends and Distributions

The Fund distributes its net investment income, if any, at least annually as dividends and makes distributions of its net realized capital gains, if any, at least annually.

Shareholder Information (Con't)

Taxes

The Fund expects that it will not have to pay federal income taxes if it distributes annually all of its net investment income and net realized capital gains. The Fund does not expect to be subject to federal excise taxes with respect to undistributed income.

Special tax rules apply to life insurance companies, variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts. For information on federal income taxation of a life insurance company with respect to its receipt of distributions from the Fund and federal income taxation of owners of variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, refer to the contract prospectus.

Because each investor's tax circumstances are unique and the tax laws may change, you should consult your tax advisor about the federal, state and local tax consequences applicable to your investment.

Frequent Purchases and Redemptions of Shares

Frequent purchases and redemptions of shares pursuant to the instructions of insurance company contract owners or qualified plan participants is referred to as "market-timing" or "short-term trading" and may present risks for other contract owners or participants with long-term interests in the Fund, which may include, among other things, dilution in the value of the Fund's shares indirectly held by contract owners or participants with long-term interests in the Fund, interference with the efficient management of the Fund, increased brokerage and administrative costs and forcing the Fund to hold excess levels of cash.

In addition, the Fund is subject to the risk that market-timers and/or short-term traders may take advantage of time zone differences between the foreign markets on which the Fund's securities trade and the time the Fund's NAV is calculated ("time-zone arbitrage"). For example, a market-timer may submit instructions for the purchase of shares of the Fund based on events occurring after foreign market closing prices are established, but before the Fund's NAV calculation that are likely to result in higher prices in foreign markets the following day. The market-timer would submit instructions to redeem the Fund's shares the next day when the Fund's share price would reflect the increased prices in foreign markets for a quick profit at the expense of contract owners or participants with long-term interests in the Fund.

Investments in other types of securities also may be susceptible to short-term trading strategies. These investments include securities that are, among other things, thinly traded, traded infrequently or relatively illiquid, which have the risk that the current market price for the securities may not accurately reflect current market values. A contract owner may seek to engage in short-term trading to take advantage of these pricing differences (referred to as "price-arbitrage"). The Fund's policies with respect to valuing portfolio securities are described above in "About Net Asset Value."

The Company's Board of Directors has adopted policies and procedures to discourage frequent purchases and redemptions of Fund shares by Fund shareholders. Insurance companies or qualified plans generally do not provide specific contract owner or plan participant transaction instructions to the Fund on an ongoing basis. Therefore, to some extent, the Fund relies on the insurance companies and qualified plans to monitor frequent short-term trading by contract owners. However, the Fund has entered into agreements with insurance companies and qualified plans whereby the insurance companies and qualified plans are required to provide certain contract owner identification and transaction information upon the Fund's request. The Fund may use this information to help identify and prevent market-timing activity in the Fund. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be able to identify or prevent all market-timing activity.

If the Fund identifies suspected market-timing activity, the insurance company or qualified plan will be contacted and asked to take steps to prevent further market-timing activity (e.g., sending warning letters or blocking frequent trading by underlying contract owners or participants). Insurance companies may be prohibited by the terms of the underlying insurance contract from restricting short-term trading of mutual fund shares by contract owners, thereby limiting the ability of such insurance company to implement remedial steps to prevent market-timing activity in the Fund. If the insurance company or qualified plan is unwilling or unable to take remedial steps to discourage or prevent frequent trading, or does not take action promptly, certain contract owners or participants may be able to engage in frequent trading to the detriment of contract owners or participants with long-term interests in the Fund. If the insurance company or qualified plan refuses to take remedial action, or takes action that the Fund deems insufficient, a determination will be made whether it is appropriate to terminate the relationship with such insurance company or qualified plan.

Portfolio Holdings Information

A description of the Company's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's securities is available in the Fund's SAI.

Financial Highlights

The financial highlights table that follows is intended to help you understand the financial performance of the Fund's Class II shares for the past five years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single Fund share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). In addition, this performance information does not include the impact of any charges by your insurance company. If it did, returns would be lower.

The ratios of expenses to average net assets listed in the table below for Class II shares are based on the average net assets of the Fund for each of the periods listed in the table. To the extent that the Fund's average net assets decrease over the Fund's next fiscal year, such expense ratios can be expected to increase, potentially significantly, because certain fixed costs will be spread over a smaller amount of assets.

The information below has been derived from the financial statements audited by Ernst & Young LLP, the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. Ernst & Young LLP's report, along with the Fund's financial statements, are incorporated by reference in the Fund's SAI. The Annual Report to Shareholders (which includes the Fund's financial statements) and SAI are available at no cost from the Company at the toll-free number noted on the back cover to this Prospectus or from your insurance company.

Discovery Portfolio

Selected Per Share Data and Ratios	Class II				
	Year Ended December 31,				
	2018	2017	2016 ⁽¹⁾	2015	2014
Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period	\$ 11.85	\$ 8.55	\$ 9.85	\$ 12.55	\$ 14.25
Income (Loss) from Investment Operations:					
Net Investment Loss ⁽²⁾	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.01)	(0.09)	(0.03)
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)	1.66	3.36	(0.85)	(0.49)	0.27
Total from Investment Operations	1.57	3.30	(0.86)	(0.58)	0.24
Distributions from and/or in Excess of:					
Net Realized Gain	(3.00)	—	(0.44)	(2.12)	(1.94)
Net Asset Value, End of Period	\$ 10.42	\$ 11.85	\$ 8.55	\$ 9.85	\$ 12.55
Total Return⁽³⁾	10.53%	38.60%	(8.84)%	(5.99)%	1.84%
Ratios and Supplemental Data:					
Net Assets, End of Period (Thousands)	\$ 100,030	\$ 89,140	\$ 75,163	\$ 98,499	\$ 129,617
Ratio of Expenses to Average Net Assets ⁽⁷⁾	1.04% ⁽⁴⁾	1.09% ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	1.14% ⁽⁴⁾	1.15% ⁽⁴⁾	1.15% ⁽⁴⁾
Ratio of Net Investment Loss to Average Net Assets ⁽⁷⁾	(0.69)% ⁽⁴⁾	(0.55)% ⁽⁴⁾	(0.10)% ⁽⁴⁾	(0.77)% ⁽⁴⁾	(0.24)% ⁽⁴⁾
Ratio of Rebate from Morgan Stanley Affiliates to Average Net Assets	0.01%	0.00% ⁽⁶⁾	0.01%	0.00% ⁽⁶⁾	0.00% ⁽⁶⁾
Portfolio Turnover Rate	89%	64%	42%	25%	44%
⁽⁷⁾ Supplemental Information on the Ratios to Average Net Assets:					
Ratios Before Expense Limitation:					
Expenses to Average Net Assets	1.40%	1.42%	1.39%	1.39%	1.45%
Net Investment Loss to Average Net Assets	(1.05)%	(0.88)%	(0.35)%	(1.01)%	(0.54)%

- (1) Reflects prior period Custodian out-of-pocket expenses that were reimbursed in September 2016. The amount of the reimbursement was immaterial on a per share basis and did not impact the total return of Class II shares. The Ratio of Expenses to Average Net Assets and the Ratio of Net Investment Loss to Average Net Assets would be unchanged as the reimbursement of Custodian fees was offset against expense waivers/reimbursements with no impact to net expenses or net investment loss.
- (2) Per share amount is based on average shares outstanding.
- (3) Calculated based on the net asset value as of the last business day of the period. Performance does not reflect fees and expenses imposed by your insurance company's separate account. If performance information included the effect of these additional charges, the total return would be lower.
- (4) The Ratios of Expenses and Net Investment Loss reflect the rebate of certain Fund expenses in connection with the investments in Morgan Stanley affiliates during the period. The effect of the rebate on the ratios is disclosed in the above table as "Ratio of Rebate from Morgan Stanley Affiliates to Average Net Assets."
- (5) Effective July 1, 2017, the Adviser has agreed to limit the ratio of expenses to average net assets to the maximum ratio of 1.05% for Class II shares. Prior to July 1, 2017, the maximum ratio was 1.15% for Class II shares.
- (6) Amount is less than 0.005%.

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Where to Find Additional Information

Statement of Additional Information

In addition to this Prospectus, the Fund has an SAI, dated April 30, 2019 (as may be supplemented from time to time), which contains additional, more detailed information about the Company and the Fund. The SAI is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus and, therefore, legally forms a part of this Prospectus.

Shareholder Reports

The Company publishes Annual and Semi-Annual Reports (“Shareholder Reports”) containing financial statements. These reports contain additional information about the Fund’s investments. In the Fund’s Shareholder Reports, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and the investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund’s performance during that period. For additional Company information, including information regarding the investments comprising the Fund, and to make shareholder inquiries, please call 1-800-548-7786 or contact your insurance company.

You may obtain the SAI and Shareholder Reports without charge by contacting the Company at the toll-free number above or your insurance company or on our web site at www.morganstanley.com/im.

Shareholder Reports and other information about the Company are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC’s Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>, and copies of this information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following E-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

To aid you in obtaining this information, the Company’s 1940 Act registration number is 811-7607.