

PROSPECTUS

VIRTUS VARIABLE INSURANCE TRUST



April 30, 2021

Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series

The Prospectus describes the Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series (the "Series"), which is available as an underlying investment through a variable life insurance policy or a variable annuity contract (a "variable contract"). For information about your variable contract, including information about insurance-related expenses, see the prospectus for your variable contract.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense. Please carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the Series before investing. For this and other information about any Virtus Variable Insurance Trust series, call 800-367-5877 or visit virtus.com for a prospectus. Read it carefully before you invest.

As permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, you may no longer receive paper copies of the Series' shareholder reports from your insurance company unless you specifically request paper copies from the insurance company. If your insurance company elects to use this method of delivery, the shareholder reports will be made available on a website, and the insurance company 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. 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 insurance company electronically by following the instructions provided by the insurance company.

You may elect to receive all future shareholder reports in paper free of charge from the insurance company. You can do so by contacting the insurance company. Your election to receive reports in paper likely will apply to all of the funds available in your insurance product, but you should ask your insurance company whether this is the case.

Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series

Table of Contents

Series Summary

Investment Objective	1
Fees and Expenses	1
Principal Investment Strategies.....	1
Principal Risks	2
Performance	3
Management.....	4
Purchase and Sale of Series Shares	4
Tax Information	4
Payments to Insurance Companies and Other Financial Intermediaries.....	4
More About Principal Investment Strategies.....	4
More About Principal Risks	5
Management of the Series.....	9
Additional Risks Associated with Investment Techniques and Series Operations	10
Distribution Plan	13
More About the Trust and the Series.....	13
Investing in the Series	15
Financial Highlights	18

Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series

Series Summary

Investment Objective

The Series has an investment objective of long-term total return.

Fees and Expenses

The following table describes the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series. The table does not include any fees or sales charges imposed under the variable contracts for which the Series is an investment option. If they were included, your costs would be higher.

Shareholder Fees <i>(fees paid directly from your investment)</i>	Class A	Class I
Shareholder Fees	None	None

Annual Series Operating Expenses <i>(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)</i>	Class A	Class I
Management Fees	0.50%	0.50%
Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%	None
Other Expenses	0.18%	0.19%
Total Annual Series Operating Expenses	0.93%	0.69%

Example

This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Series with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Series for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Series' total operating expenses remain the same. The example does not reflect variable contract fees and charges, and if it did, the costs shown would be higher. 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
Class A	\$95	\$296	\$515	\$1,143
Class I	\$70	\$221	\$384	\$859

Portfolio Turnover

The Series 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 Series Operating Expenses or in the Example, affect the Series' performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Series' portfolio turnover rate was 92% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategies

The Series seeks to generate high current income and total return by applying extensive credit research and a time-tested approach to capitalize on opportunities across undervalued sectors of the bond market. The Series seeks diversification among 14 sectors in order to increase return potential and reduce risk.

Under normal circumstances, the Series invests at least 80% of its assets in fixed income securities. The subadviser intends to invest the Series' assets in the following sectors of fixed income securities:

- Securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Government, its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities;
- Collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs"), real estate mortgage investment conduits ("REMICs") and other pass-through securities, including those issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Government, its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities;
- Debt instruments issued by foreign issuers, including foreign governments and their political subdivisions and issuers located in emerging markets;

- Investment grade securities (primarily of U.S. issuers, secondarily of non-U.S. issuers), which are securities with credit ratings within the four highest rating categories of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, including short-term securities; and
- High-yield debt instruments (so-called “junk bonds”), including bank loans (which are generally floating-rate).

The Series may invest in all or some of these sectors.

The Series may use credit default swaps to increase or hedge (decrease) investment exposure to various fixed income sectors and instruments.

Principal Risks

The Series may not achieve its objective(s), and it is not intended to be a complete investment program. The value of the Series' investments that supports your share value may decrease. If between the time you purchase shares and the time you sell shares the value of the Series' investments decreases, you will lose money. Investment values can decrease for a number of reasons. Conditions affecting the overall economy, specific industries or companies in which the Series invests can be worse than expected, and investments may fail to perform as the subadviser expects. As a result, the value of your shares may decrease. Purchase and redemption activities by separate accounts of participating insurance companies may impact the management of the Series and its ability to achieve its investment objective(s).

The principal risks of investing in the Series are:

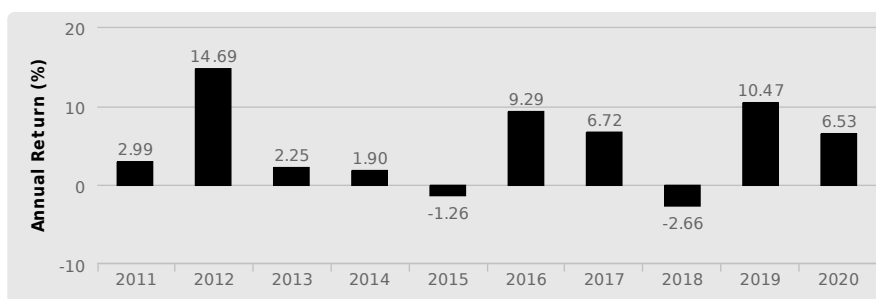
- > **Credit Risk.** If the issuer of a security fails to pay interest or principal in a timely manner, or negative perceptions exist in the market of the issuer's ability to make such payments, the price of the security may decline.
- > **Interest Rate Risk.** The values of debt instruments may rise or fall in response to changes in interest rates, and this risk may be enhanced for securities with longer maturities.
- > **High-Yield Fixed Income Securities (Junk Bonds) Risk.** There is a greater risk of issuer default, less liquidity, and increased price volatility related to high-yield securities than investment grade securities.
- > **Bank Loan Risk.** In addition to the risks typically associated with high-yield fixed income securities, bank loans may be unsecured or not fully collateralized, may be subject to restrictions on resale, may be less liquid and may trade infrequently on the secondary market. Bank loans settle on a delayed basis; thus, sale proceeds may not be available to meet redemptions for a substantial period of time after the sale of the loan.
- > **Foreign Investing Risk.** Investing in foreign securities subjects the Series to additional risks such as increased volatility; currency fluctuations; less liquidity; less publicly available information about the foreign investment; and political, regulatory, economic, and market risk.
- > **Emerging Market Risk.** Emerging markets securities may be more volatile, or more greatly affected by negative conditions, than those of their counterparts in more established foreign markets.
- > **Mortgage-Backed and Asset-Backed Securities Risk.** Changes in interest rates may cause both extension and prepayment risks for mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities. These securities are also subject to risks associated with the non-repayment of underlying collateral, including losses to the Series.
- > **Market Volatility Risk.** The value of the securities in the Series may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual companies and/or general economic conditions. Price changes may be short- or long-term. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issue, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the Series and its investments, including hampering the ability of the Series' portfolio manager(s) to invest the Series assets as intended.
- > **Derivatives Risk.** Derivatives may include, among other things, futures, options, forwards and swap agreements and may be used in order to hedge portfolio risks, create leverage or attempt to increase returns. Investments in derivatives may result in increased volatility and the Series may incur a loss greater than its principal investment.
- > **Income Risk.** Income received from the Series may vary widely over the short- and long-term and/or be less than anticipated if the proceeds from maturing securities in the Series are reinvested in lower-yielding securities.
- > **Long-Term Maturities/Durations Risk.** Debt instruments with longer maturities or durations may experience greater price fluctuations than instruments having shorter maturities or durations.

- > **Prepayment/Call Risk.** Issuers may prepay or call their fixed rate obligations when interest rates fall, forcing the Series to reinvest in obligations with lower interest rates and the Series may not benefit fully from the increase in value that other fixed income securities experience when interest rates decline.
- > **Redemption Risk.** One or more large shareholders or groups of shareholders may redeem their holdings in the Series, resulting in an adverse impact on remaining shareholders in the Series by causing the Series to take actions it would not otherwise have taken.
- > **U.S. Government Securities Risk.** U.S. Government securities may be subject to price fluctuations. An agency may default on an obligation not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Any guarantee on U.S. government securities does not apply to the value of the Series' shares.

Performance

The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Series. The bar chart shows changes in the Series' performance from year to year over a 10-year period. The table shows how the Series' average annual returns compare to those of a broad-based market index. The Series' past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Series will perform in the future. The Series' returns in the chart and table do not reflect the deduction of any separate account or variable contract charges. The returns would have been less than those shown if such charges were deducted.

Calendar Year Annual Total Returns for Class A Shares



Best Quarter: Q2/2020: 9.67% Worst Quarter: Q1/2020: -9.48% Year to date (3/31/21): -0.94%

Average Annual Total Returns (for the periods ended 12/31/20)	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception Class I (4/30/13)
Class A	6.53%	5.97%	4.97%	—
Class I	6.78%	6.24%	—	4.05%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (does not reflect fees or expenses)	7.51%	4.44%	3.84%	3.33%

Class I Shares have been in existence only since April 30, 2013; therefore, limited performance information for Class I Shares is available to include here. However, the returns for Class I Shares for other periods would have been substantially similar to those shown for Class A Shares because Class I Shares and Class A Shares are invested in the same portfolio of securities. Class A Shares pay distribution and services (12b-1) fees and Class I Shares do not; therefore, had the Class I Shares been operational during the periods shown only for Class A Shares, investment performance for Class I Shares would have been higher than for Class A Shares.

The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index measures the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market. The index is calculated on a total return basis. The index is unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

Updated performance information is available at virtus.com or by calling 800-367-5877.

Management

The Adviser and Subadviser

Virtus Investment Advisers, Inc. ("VIA") is the investment adviser to the Series.

Newfleet Asset Management, LLC ("Newfleet"), an affiliate of VIA, is the subadviser to the Series (since June 2011).

Portfolio Manager

- > **David L. Albrycht, CFA**, President and Chief Investment Officer at Newfleet. Mr. Albrycht has served as Portfolio Manager of the Series since 1998.

Purchase and Sale of Series Shares

The Series does not offer its shares to the general public. The Series currently offers shares only to the separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Virtus Variable Insurance Trust (the “Trust”), of which the Series is a separate investment portfolio, has entered into an agreement with the insurance company sponsor of each separate account (participation agreement) setting forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which the insurance company will purchase and redeem shares of the Series. For information concerning the purchase of units of the separate accounts, see the variable contract prospectus.

Tax Information

Since the separate accounts are the only shareholders of the Series, no discussion is included herein as to the federal income tax consequences at the shareholder level. For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to the purchasers of variable contracts, see the variable contract prospectus which describes the particular separate account and variable contract.

Payments to Insurance Companies and Other Financial Intermediaries

Series shares are generally available only through intermediaries, i.e., the separate accounts. The Series (and/or its related companies) may pay the insurance companies (and/or their related companies) for distribution and/or other services; some of the payments may, in turn, go to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries. For example, the Series may make payments for sub-transfer agency services to one or more of the insurance companies. Such payments may create a conflict of interest for an intermediary by influencing the intermediary’s investment recommendations, or be a factor in the insurance company’s decision to include the Series as an underlying investment option in a variable contract. Ask your salesperson or review your variable contract prospectus for more information.

More About Principal Investment Strategies

Under normal circumstances, the Series invests at least 80% of its assets in fixed income securities. As of the date of this Prospectus, the subadviser intends to invest the Series’ assets in the following sectors of fixed income securities:

- Securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Government, its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities;
- Collateralized mortgage obligations (“CMOs”), real estate mortgage investment conduits (“REMICs”), and other pass-through securities, including those issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. Government, its agencies, authorities or instrumentalities;
- Debt instruments issued by foreign issuers, including foreign governments and their political subdivisions and issuers located in emerging markets;
- Investment grade securities (primarily of U.S. issuers, secondarily of non-U.S. issuers), which are securities with credit ratings within the four highest rating categories of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, including short-term securities; and;
- High-yield debt instruments (so-called “junk bonds”), including bank loans (which are generally floating-rate).
- The Series may use credit default swaps to increase or hedge (decrease) investment exposure to various fixed income sectors and instruments.

The Series may invest in all or some of these sectors. If after the time of investment the rating declines, the Series is not obligated to sell the security. The Series’ policy of investing 80% of its assets in fixed income securities may be changed only upon 60 days’ written notice to shareholders.

Investments are selected using a sector rotation approach. The subadviser seeks to adjust the proportion of Series investments in the sectors described above and the selections within sectors to obtain higher relative returns. Sectors

are analyzed by the subadviser for attractive values. Investments within sectors are selected based on general economic and financial conditions, and the issuer's business, management, cash, assets, earnings and stability. Instruments selected for investment are those that the subadviser believes offer the best potential for total return based on risk-reward tradeoff.

The Series manages duration utilizing a duration neutral strategy. Duration measures the interest rate sensitivity of a fixed income instrument by assessing and weighting the present value of the instrument's payment pattern. Generally the longer the maturity the greater the duration and, therefore, the greater effect interest rate changes have on the price of the instrument. Under normal circumstances, the Series' average duration is maintained at a level similar to that of its benchmark, the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. As of December 31, 2020, the modified adjusted duration of the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index was 6.22 years; the modified adjusted duration of the Series was 4.22 years. Typically, for a Series maintaining a modified adjusted duration of 4.22 years, a one percent increase in interest rates would cause a 4.22% decrease in the value of the Series' fixed income assets. Similarly, a one percent decrease in interest rates typically would cause the value of the Series' fixed income assets to increase by 4.22%.

The Series' investment objective is non-fundamental, which means it may be changed without shareholder approval.

Temporary Defensive Strategy: During periods of rising interest rates, unstable pricing and currency exchange, or in response to extreme market fluctuations, the subadviser, at its discretion, may take temporary defensive positions that are inconsistent with its principal investment strategies by investing part or all of the Series' assets in cash or cash equivalents. When this allocation happens, the Series may not achieve its investment objective.

Please see "More About Principal Risks" for information about the risks of investing in the Series. Please refer to "Additional Risks Associated with Investment Techniques and Series Operations" for other investment techniques of the Series.

More About Principal Risks

The Series' investments are subject generally to market risk and the risk of selecting underperforming securities and asset classes, which may adversely affect the Series and lead to loss of principal.

Bank Loans

Investing in loans (including loan assignments, loan participations and other loan instruments) carries certain risks in addition to the risks typically associated with high-yield fixed income securities. Loans may be unsecured or not fully collateralized, may be subject to restrictions on resale and sometimes trade infrequently on the secondary market. In the event a borrower defaults, a Series' access to the collateral may be limited or delayed by bankruptcy or other insolvency laws. There is a risk that the value of the collateral securing the loan may decline after a Series invests and that the collateral may not be sufficient to cover the amount owed to the Series. If the loan is unsecured, there is no specific collateral on which the Series can foreclose. In addition, if a secured loan is foreclosed, a Series may bear the costs and liabilities associated with owning and disposing of the collateral, including the risk that collateral may be difficult to sell.

Transactions in many loans settle on a delayed basis. As a result, sale proceeds related to the sale of loans may not be available to make additional investments or to meet the Series' redemption obligations until potentially a substantial period of time after the sale of the loans. No active trading market may exist for some loans, which may impact the ability of the Series to realize full value in the event of the need to liquidate such assets. Adverse market conditions may impair the liquidity of some actively traded loans. Loans also may be subject to restrictions on resale, which can delay the sale and adversely impact the sale price. Difficulty in selling a loan can result in a loss. Loans made to finance highly leveraged corporate acquisitions may be especially vulnerable to adverse changes in economic or market conditions. Certain loans may not be considered "securities," and purchasers, such as the Series, therefore may not be entitled to rely on the strong anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws. With loan participations, a Series may not be able to control the exercise of any remedies that the lender would have under the loan and likely would not have any rights against the borrower directly, so that delays and expense may be greater than those that would be involved if a Series could enforce its rights directly against the borrower.

Debt Instruments

Debt instruments are subject to various risks, the most prominent of which are credit risk and interest rate risk. These risks can affect an instrument's price volatility to varying degrees, depending upon the nature of the instrument. Risks associated with investing in debt instruments include the following:

- **Credit Risk.** There is a risk that the issuer of an instrument will fail to pay interest or principal in a timely manner, or that negative perceptions exist in the market of the issuer's ability to make such payments will cause the price of the instrument to decline. Debt instruments rated below investment-grade are especially susceptible to this risk.
- **Income Risk.** The income shareholders receive from the Series is based primarily on the dividends and interest the Series earns from its investments, which can vary widely over the short- and/or long-term. If prevailing market interest rates drop, distribution rates of the Series' preferred stock holdings and any bond holdings could drop as well. The Series' income also would likely be affected adversely when prevailing short-term interest rates increase. In certain circumstances, the Series may be treated as receiving income even though no cash is received. The Series may not be able to pay distributions, or may have to reduce distribution levels, if the cash distributions that the Series receives from its investments decline.
- **Interest Rate Risk.** The values of debt instruments usually rise and fall in response to changes in interest rates. Declining interest rates generally increase the value of existing debt instruments, and rising interest rates generally decrease the value of existing debt instruments. Changes in a debt instrument's value usually will not affect the amount of interest income paid to the Series, but will affect the value of the Series' shares. Interest rate risk is generally greater for investments with longer maturities.

Certain instruments pay interest at variable or floating rates. Variable rate instruments reset at specified intervals, while floating rate instruments reset whenever there is a change in a specified index rate. In most cases, these reset provisions reduce the effect of changes in market interest rates on the value of the instrument. However, some instruments do not track the underlying index directly, but reset based on formulas that can produce an effect similar to leveraging; others may also provide for interest payments that vary inversely with market rates. The market prices of these instruments may fluctuate significantly when interest rates change.

Some investments give the issuer the option to call or redeem an investment before its maturity date. If an issuer calls or redeems an investment during a time of declining interest rates, the Series might have to reinvest the proceeds in an investment offering a lower yield, and therefore it might not benefit from any increase in value as a result of declining interest rates.

- **Limited Voting Rights.** Debt instruments typically do not provide any voting rights, except in cases when interest payments have not been made and the issuer is in default.
- **Liquidity Risk.** Certain instruments in which the Series invests may be difficult to sell at the time and price beneficial to the Series, for example due to low trading volumes or legal restrictions. When there is no willing buyer or an instrument cannot be readily sold, the Series may have to sell at a lower price or may be unable to sell the instrument at all. The sale of such instruments may also require the Series to incur expenses in addition to those normally associated with the sale of an instrument.

In addition to this, certain shareholders, including affiliates of a Series' investment adviser and/or subadviser(s), may from time to time own or control a significant percentage of the Series' shares. Redemptions by these shareholders of their shares of the Series may increase the Series' liquidity risk by causing the Series to have to sell instruments at an unfavorable time and/or price.

- **Long-Term Maturities/Duration Risk.** Fixed income instruments with longer maturities or durations may be subject to greater price fluctuations due to interest rate, tax law, and general market changes than instruments with shorter maturities or durations.
- **Prepayment/Call Risk.** There is a risk that issuers will prepay fixed rate obligations when interest rates fall. A Series holding callable securities therefore may be forced to reinvest in obligations with lower interest rates than the original obligations and otherwise may not benefit fully from the increase in value that other fixed income securities experience when rates decline.
- **Redemption Risk.** Debt instruments sometimes contain provisions that allow for redemption in the event of tax or security law changes, in addition to call features at the option of the issuer. In the event of a redemption, the Series may not be able to reinvest the proceeds at comparable rates of return.

Derivatives

Derivative transactions are contracts whose value is derived from the value of an underlying asset, index or rate, including futures, options, non-deliverable forwards, forward foreign currency exchange contracts and swap agreements. The Series may use derivatives to hedge against factors that affect the value of its investments, such as interest rates and foreign currency exchange rates. The Series may also utilize derivatives as part of its overall investment technique to gain or lessen exposure to various securities, markets, volatility, dividend payments and currencies.

Derivatives typically involve greater risks than traditional investments. It is generally more difficult to ascertain the risk of, and to properly value, derivative contracts. Many derivatives, and particularly those that are privately negotiated, are complex and often valued subjectively. Improper valuations can result in increased cash payment requirements to counterparties or a loss of value to the Series. The prices of derivatives may move in unexpected ways, especially in abnormal market conditions. Derivatives are usually less liquid than traditional securities and are subject to counterparty risk (the risk that the other party to the contract will default or otherwise not be able to perform its contractual obligations). In addition, some derivatives transactions may involve potentially unlimited losses.

Derivative contracts entered into for hedging purposes may also subject the Series to losses if the contracts do not correlate with the assets, indexes or rates they were designed to hedge. Gains and losses derived from hedging transactions are, therefore, more dependent upon the subadviser's ability to correctly predict the movement of the underlying asset prices, indexes or rates.

As an investment company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), the Series is required to identify on its books (often referred to as "asset segregation") liquid assets, or engage in other SEC-approved measures, to "cover" open positions with respect to certain kinds of derivative instruments. If the Series invests in such instruments and has insufficient cash to meet such requirements, it may have to sell other investments, including at disadvantageous times.

Governments, agencies and/or other regulatory bodies may adopt or change laws or regulations that could adversely affect the Series' ability to invest in derivatives as the Series' subadviser intends. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), among other things, grants the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the "CFTC") and SEC broad rulemaking authority to implement various provisions of the Dodd-Frank Act including comprehensive regulation of the over-the-counter ("OTC") derivatives market. The implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act could adversely affect the Series by placing limits on derivative transactions, and/or increasing transaction and/or regulatory compliance costs. For example, the CFTC has adopted rules that apply a new aggregation standard for position limit purposes, which may further limit the Series' ability to trade futures contracts and swaps.

There are also special tax rules applicable to certain types of derivatives, which could affect the amount, timing and character of the Series' income or loss and hence of its distributions to shareholders by causing holding period adjustments, converting short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses, and accelerating the Series' income or deferring its losses. The Series' use of derivatives may also increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders or the resources required by the Series or its adviser and/or subadviser(s) to comply with particular regulatory requirements.

Foreign Investing

Investing in securities of non-U.S. companies involves special risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in U.S. companies, and the values of non-U.S. securities may be more volatile than those of U.S. securities. The values of non-U.S. securities are subject to economic and political developments in countries and regions where the issuers operate or are domiciled, or where the securities are traded, such as changes in economic or monetary policies, and to changes in currency exchange rates. Values may also be affected by restrictions on receiving the investment proceeds from a non-U.S. country.

In general, less information is publicly available about non-U.S. companies than about U.S. companies. Non-U.S. companies are generally not subject to the same accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards as are U.S. companies. Certain foreign issuers classified as passive foreign investment companies may be subject to additional taxation risk.

- **Currency Rate Risk.** Because the foreign securities in which the Series invests generally trade in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in currency exchange rates will affect the Series' net asset value, the value of dividends and interest earned, and gains and losses realized on the sale of securities. Because the value of the

Series' shares is calculated in U.S. dollars, it is possible for the Series to lose money by investing in a foreign security if the local currency of a foreign market depreciates against the U.S. dollar, even if the local currency value of the Series' holdings goes up. Generally, a strong U.S. dollar relative to such other currencies will adversely affect the value of the Series' holdings in foreign securities.

- **Emerging Market Risk.** The risks of foreign investments are generally greater in countries whose markets are still developing than they are in more developed markets. Emerging market countries typically have economic and political systems that are less fully developed, and can be expected to be less stable than those of more developed countries. For example, the economies of such countries can be subject to rapid and unpredictable rates of inflation or deflation. Since these markets are often small, they may be more likely to suffer sharp and frequent price changes or long-term price depression because of adverse publicity, investor perceptions or the actions of a few large investors. They may also have policies that restrict investment by foreigners, or that prevent foreign investors from withdrawing their money at will. Certain emerging markets may also face other significant internal or external risks, including the risk of war and civil unrest. For all of these reasons, investments in emerging markets may be considered speculative.

To the extent that the Series invests a significant portion of its assets in a particular emerging market, the Series will be more vulnerable to financial, economic, political and other developments in that country, and conditions that negatively impact that country will have a greater impact on the Series as compared with a Series that does not have its holdings concentrated in a particular country.

High-Yield Fixed Income Securities (Junk Bonds)

Securities rated below the four highest rating categories of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, may be known as "high-yield" securities and commonly referred to as "junk bonds". The highest of the ratings among these nationally recognized statistical rating organizations is used to determine the security's classification. Such securities entail greater price volatility and credit and interest rate risk than investment-grade securities. Analysis of the creditworthiness of high-yield issuers is more complex than for higher-rated securities, making it more difficult for the Series' subadviser to accurately predict risk. There is a greater risk with high-yield fixed income securities that an issuer will not be able to make principal and interest payments when due. If the Series pursues missed payments, there is a risk that Series expenses could increase. In addition, lower-rated securities may not trade as often and may be less liquid than higher-rated securities, especially during periods of economic uncertainty or change. As a result of all of these factors, these bonds are generally considered to be speculative.

Market Volatility

The value of the securities in which the Series invests may go up or down in response to the prospects of individual companies and/or general economic conditions. Price changes may be temporary or may last for extended periods.

Instability in the financial markets has exposed the Series to greater market and liquidity risk and potential difficulty in valuing portfolio instruments that it holds. In response to financial markets that experienced extreme volatility, and in some cases a lack of liquidity, the US Government has taken a number of unprecedented actions, including acquiring distressed assets from financial institutions and acquiring ownership interests in those institutions. The implications of government ownership and disposition of these assets are unclear. Additional legislation or government regulation may also change the way in which the Series itself is regulated, which could limit or preclude the Series' ability to achieve its investment objective. Local, regional or global events such as war, acts of terrorism, the spread of infectious illness or other public health issue, recessions, or other events could have a significant impact on the Series and its investments, hampering the ability of the Series' portfolio manager(s) to invest the Series' assets as intended.

Mortgage-Backed and Asset-Backed Securities

Mortgage-backed securities represent interests in pools of residential mortgage loans purchased from individual lenders by a federal agency or originated and issued by private lenders. Asset-backed securities represent interests in pools of underlying assets such as motor vehicle installment sales or installment loan contracts, leases of various types of real and personal property, and receivables from credit card agreements. These two types of securities share many of the same risks.

The impairment of the value of collateral or other assets underlying a mortgage-backed or asset-backed security, such as that resulting from non-payment of loans, may result in a reduction in the value of such security and losses to the Series.

Early payoffs in the loans underlying such securities may result in the Series receiving less income than originally anticipated. The variability in prepayments will tend to limit price gains when interest rates drop and exaggerate price

declines when interest rates rise. In the event of high prepayments, the Series may be required to invest proceeds at lower interest rates, causing the Series to earn less than if the prepayments had not occurred. Conversely, rising interest rates may cause prepayments to occur at a slower than expected rate, which may effectively change a security which was considered short- or intermediate-term into a long-term security. Long-term securities tend to fluctuate in value more widely in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term securities.

Redemption

The redemption by one or more large variable contract owners of their holdings in the Series could have an adverse impact on the remaining variable contract owners in the Series by, for example, accelerating the realization of capital gains and/or increasing the Series' transaction costs.

U.S. Government Securities

Obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies, authorities and instrumentalities and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States only guarantee principal and interest will be timely paid to holders of the securities. The entities do not guarantee that the value of Series shares will increase, and in fact the market values of such obligations may fluctuate. In addition, not all U.S. Government securities are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States; some are the obligation solely of the entity through which they are issued. There is no guarantee that the U.S. Government would provide financial support to its agencies and instrumentalities if not required to do so by law.

Management of the Series

The Adviser

VIA has served as the investment adviser to the Series since November 2010. VIA, located at One Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103, acts as the investment adviser for over 60 mutual funds and as adviser to institutional clients. As of December 31, 2020, VIA had approximately \$39.9 billion in assets under management. VIA has acted as an investment adviser for over 80 years and is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Virtus Investment Partners, Inc., a publicly traded multi-manager asset management business.

Pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement with the Series and subject to the direction of the Trust's Board of Trustees, VIA is responsible for managing the Series' investment program in conformity with the stated policies of the Series as described in this prospectus. VIA, with the approval of the Trust's Board of Trustees, has selected Newfleet, an affiliate of VIA, to serve as subadviser and perform the day-to-day portfolio management of the Series. Newfleet, subject to the supervision of VIA, is responsible for deciding which securities to purchase and sell for the Series and for placing the Series' transactions.

The Series pays VIA an investment management fee that is accrued daily against the value of the Series' net assets at the following annual rate:

1 st \$250 million	\$250+ million through \$500 million	Over \$500 million
0.50%	0.45%	0.40%

For its last fiscal year, the Series paid advisory fees at the rate of 0.50% of its average net assets.

The Trust has entered into an expense limitation agreement with VIA whereby VIA has agreed to reimburse the Series for expenses necessary or appropriate for the operation of the Series (excluding certain expenses, such as front-end sales charges, taxes, leverage and borrowing expenses (such as commitment, amendment and renewal expenses on credit or redemption facilities), interest, brokerage commissions, expenses incurred in connection with any merger or reorganization, unusual or infrequently occurring expenses (such as litigation), acquired fund fees and expenses, and dividend expenses, if any) to the extent that such expenses exceed 0.94% of the Series' Class A Shares and 0.69% of the Series' Class I Shares average net assets. This expense limitation agreement is in place through April 30, 2022. After April 30, 2022, VIA may discontinue this expense reimbursement arrangement at any time. VIA may recapture operating expenses reimbursed under an expense reimbursement arrangement for a period of three years following the date such waiver or reimbursement occurred, provided that the recapture does not cause the Series to exceed its expense limit in effect at the time of the waiver or reimbursement, or at the time of recapture.

VIA serves as a manager of managers of the Series. In this capacity, VIA: (i) sets the Series' overall investment strategies; (ii) evaluates, selects, and recommends to the Board one or more subadvisers needed to manage all or part

of the assets of the Series; (iii) monitors and evaluates the subadvisers' investment programs and results as well as the performance of the subadvisers relative to the applicable benchmark indexes; and (iv) reviews the Series' compliance with its investment objectives, policies and restrictions.

The Trust and VIA have received shareholder approval to rely on an exemptive order from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") that permits VIA, subject to certain conditions and without the approval of shareholders to: (a) select both unaffiliated subadvisers and certain wholly owned affiliated subadvisers to manage all or a portion of the assets of a Series, and enter into subadvisory agreements with such subadvisers; (b) materially amend subadvisory agreements with such subadvisers; and (c) continue the employment of an existing subadviser on the same subadvisory agreement terms where an agreement has been assigned because of a change in control of the subadviser. In such circumstances, shareholders would receive notice of such action, including, if applicable, instructions regarding how to obtain the information concerning the new subadviser that normally is provided in a proxy statement.

The Subadviser

Newfleet, an affiliate of VIA, is the subadviser to the Series (since 2011) and is located at One Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103. Newfleet acts as subadviser to mutual funds and as adviser to institutions and individuals. As of December 31, 2020, Newfleet had approximately \$10.2 billion in assets under management. Newfleet has been an investment adviser since 1989.

From its investment advisory fee, VIA, not the Series, pays Newfleet for its subadvisory services at the annual rate of 50% of the net advisory fee.

Board of Trustees' Approval of Investment Advisory and Subadvisory Agreements

The Trust's annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 contains a discussion regarding the basis for the Trust's Board of Trustees' approval of the investment advisory and investment subadvisory agreements for the Series.

Portfolio Management

- > **David L. Albrycht, CFA.** Mr. Albrycht is President and Chief Investment Officer at Newfleet. Prior to joining Newfleet in 2011, he was Executive Managing Director (2008 to 2011) and Vice President (2005 to 2008), Fixed Income, of Goodwin Capital Advisers, Inc. ("Goodwin"). Previously, he was associated with VIA, which at the time was an affiliate of Goodwin. He managed fixed income portfolios for Goodwin affiliates since 1991. Mr. Albrycht also manages several fixed income and variable investment options as well as two closed-end funds.

The statement of additional information ("SAI") provides additional information about the portfolio manager's compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio manager and the portfolio manager's ownership of securities in the Series.

Additional Risks Associated with Investment Techniques and Series Operations

Information about the Series' principal investment strategies and risks appears in the Series Summary section and the sections entitled "More About Principal Investment Strategies" and "More About Principal Risks" above.

The information below describes other investment strategies that the Series may use that are not principal strategies and the risks of those strategies, arranged in alphabetical order, as well as other operational risks. Further descriptions of these investment strategies and practices can be found in the SAI. The greater an investment in a particular asset class by the Series, the greater the impact to the Series of the risks related to the class.

Closed-End Funds

Investing in closed-end funds involves substantially the same risks as investing directly in the underlying instruments, but the total return on such investments at the Series level may be reduced by the operating expenses and fees of such other closed-end funds, including advisory fees. There can be no assurance that the investment objective of any fund in which the Series invests will be achieved. Closed-end funds are subject to the risks of investing in the underlying securities. The Series, as a holder of the securities of a closed-end fund, will bear its pro rata portion of the closed-end fund's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses are in addition to the direct expenses of the Series' own operations. To the extent the Series invests a portion of its assets in investment company securities, those assets will

be subject to the risks of the purchased investment company's portfolio securities, and a stockholder in the Series will bear not only his proportionate share of the expenses of the Series, but also, indirectly, the expenses of the purchased investment company. The market price of a closed-end fund fluctuates and may be either higher or lower than the NAV of such closed-end fund.

- **Discount from Net Asset Value.** Shares of closed-end funds frequently trade at a discount from their net asset value. This characteristic is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that net asset value could decrease as a result of investment activities. Whether the Series will realize gains or losses upon the sale of shares of underlying closed-end funds will depend not upon the underlying closed-end funds' net asset values, but entirely upon whether the market price of the shares at the time of sale is above or below the purchase price for the shares.
- **Leverage Risk.** Closed-end funds may employ the use of leverage in their portfolios through the issuance of preferred stock, borrowing from banks or other methods. While this leverage often serves to increase yield, it also subjects a closed-end fund to increased risks. These risks may include the likelihood of increased price and NAV volatility and the possibility that such closed-end fund's common stock income will fall if the dividend rate on the preferred shares or the interest rate on any borrowings rises. The use of leverage is premised upon the expectation that the cost of leverage will be lower than the return on the investments made with the proceeds. However, if the income or capital appreciation from the securities purchased with such proceeds is not sufficient to cover the cost of leverage or if the closed-end fund incurs capital losses, the return to common stockholders, such as the Series, will be less than if leverage had not been used. There can be no assurance that a leveraging strategy will be successful during any period in which it is employed.
- **Proxy Voting.** To comply with provisions of the 1940 Act, on any matter upon which stockholders of a closed-end fund in which the Series has invested are solicited to vote, the Series' investment adviser will vote such shares in the same general proportion as shares held by other stockholders of such closed-end fund or seek instructions from the Series' shareholders with regard to the voting on such matter. Compliance with such provisions regarding its voting of proxies may cause the Series to incur additional costs. In addition, if the Series votes its proxies in the same general proportion as shares held by other stockholders, the Series may be required to vote contrary to that which the adviser believes is in the Series' best interests in light of its investment objective and strategy.

Strategies may be employed by an underlying investment company that, under certain circumstances, has the effect of reducing its share price and the Series' proportionate interest. These include rights offerings in which the Series does not subscribe. However, the Series would subscribe only when the subadviser believes participation is consistent with pursuing the Series' investment objective.

Convertible Securities

Convertible securities are bonds, debentures, notes, preferred stock, rights, warrants or other securities 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 instruments or the dividend paid on preferred stock until the convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. If a convertible security is called for redemption, the respective Series may have to redeem the security, convert it into common stock or sell it to a third party at a price and time that is not beneficial for the Series. 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. Securities convertible into common stocks may have higher yields than common stocks but lower yields than comparable nonconvertible securities.

Cybersecurity

With the increased use of technologies such as the Internet to conduct business, the Series have become potentially more susceptible to operational and information security risks through breaches in cybersecurity. In general, a breach in cybersecurity can result from either a deliberate attack or an unintentional event. Cybersecurity breaches may involve, among other things, infection by computer viruses or other malicious software code or unauthorized access to the digital information systems, networks or devices of the Series or their service providers (including, but not limited to, the Series' investment adviser, transfer agent, custodian, administrators and other financial intermediaries) through "hacking" or other means, in each case for the purpose of misappropriating assets or sensitive information (including, for example, personal shareholder information), corrupting data or causing operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Series. Any such cybersecurity breaches or losses of service may cause the Series to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity, which, in turn, could cause the Series to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs

associated with corrective measures, and/or financial loss. While the Series and their service providers have established business continuity plans and risk management systems designed to prevent or reduce the impact of cybersecurity attacks, there are inherent limitations in such plans and systems due in part to the ever-changing nature of technology and cybersecurity attack tactics, and there is a possibility that certain risks have not been adequately identified or prepared for. Cybersecurity risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Series invest, which may cause the Series' investments in such issuers to lose value.

Equity Securities

Generally, 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, equity securities will respond to events that affect entire financial markets or industries (such as changes in inflation or consumer demand) and to events that affect particular issuers (such as news about the success or failure of a new product). Equity securities also are subject to "stock market risk," meaning that stock prices in general may decline over short or extended periods of time. When the value of the stocks held by the Series goes down, the value of the Series' shares will be affected.

Exchange-Traded Funds ("ETFs")

ETFs invest in a portfolio of securities designed to track a particular market segment or index. The risks associated with investing in ETFs generally reflect the risks of owning shares of the underlying securities the ETF is designed to track, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in its value being more volatile than the underlying portfolio of securities. Assets invested in ETFs incur a layering of expenses, including operating costs and advisory fees that Series shareholders indirectly bear; such expenses may exceed the expenses the Series would incur if it invested directly in the underlying portfolio of securities the ETF is designed to track. Shares of ETFs trade on a securities exchange and may trade at, above, or below their net asset value.

Foreign Currency Transactions

The Series may engage in foreign currency transactions, including foreign currency forward contracts, options, swaps and other similar strategic transactions. These transactions may be for the purposes of hedging or efficient portfolio management, or may be for investment purposes, and they may be exchange traded or traded directly with market counterparties. Such investments may not prove successful or may have the effect of limiting gains from favorable market movements.

The Series may use derivatives to acquire positions in various currencies, which presents the risk that the Series could lose money on its exposure to a particular currency and also lose money on the derivative. The Series also may take positions in currencies that do not correlate to the currency exposure presented by the Series' other investments. As a result, the Series' currency exposure may differ, in some cases significantly, from the currency exposure of its other investments and/or its benchmarks.

LIBOR

The London Interbank Offer Rate ("LIBOR") historically has been and currently is used extensively in the U.S. and globally as a "benchmark" or "reference rate" for various commercial and financial contracts, including corporate and municipal bonds, bank loans, asset-backed and mortgage-related securities, interest rate swaps and other derivatives. For example, debt instruments in which the Series invests may pay interest at floating rates based on LIBOR or may be subject to interest caps or floors based on LIBOR. The Series' derivative investments may also reference LIBOR. In addition, issuers of instruments in which the Series invests may obtain financing at floating rates based on LIBOR, and the Series may use leverage or borrowings based on LIBOR. In July 2017, the head of the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority announced the intention to phase out the use of LIBOR by the end of 2021. However, subsequent announcements by the FCA, the LIBOR administrator and other regulators indicate that it is possible that certain LIBORs may continue beyond 2021 and certain of the most widely used LIBORs may continue until mid-2023. Currently, the U.S. and other countries are working to replace LIBOR with alternative reference rates. There is currently no definitive information regarding the future utilization of LIBOR or of any particular replacement reference rate. Abandonment of or modifications to LIBOR could have adverse impacts on newly issued financial instruments and existing financial instruments that reference LIBOR. The expected discontinuation of LIBOR could have a significant impact on the financial markets and may present a material risk for certain market participants, including investment companies such as the Series. Abandonment of or modifications to LIBOR could lead to significant short- and long-term uncertainty and market instability. The risks associated with this discontinuation and transition may be exacerbated if

the work necessary to effect an orderly transition to an alternative reference rate is not completed in a timely manner. It remains uncertain how such changes would be implemented and the effects such changes would have on the Series, issuers of instruments in which the Series invests, and the financial markets generally.

Money Market Instruments

To meet margin requirements, redemptions or for investment purposes, a Series may hold money market instruments, including full faith and credit obligations of the United States, high quality short-term notes and commercial paper.

Operational

An investment in the Series, like any mutual fund, can involve operational risks arising from factors such as processing errors, human errors, inadequate or failed internal or external processes, failures in systems and technology, changes in personnel and errors caused by third-party service providers. The occurrence of any of these failures, errors or breaches could result in a loss of information, regulatory scrutiny, reputational damage or other events, any of which could have a material adverse effect on the Series. While the Series seeks to minimize such events through controls and oversight, there may still be failures that could cause losses to the Series.

Unrated Fixed Income Securities

The Series' subadviser has the authority to make determinations regarding the quality of unrated fixed income securities for the purposes of assessing whether they meet the Series' investment restrictions. However, analysis of unrated securities is more complex than that of rated securities, making it more difficult for the subadviser to accurately predict risk. Unrated fixed income securities may not be lower in quality than rated securities, but due to their perceived risk they may not have as broad a market as rated securities, making it more difficult to sell unrated securities.

Distribution Plan (Class A Shares only)

The Trust, on behalf of each series of the Trust, including Class A Shares of the Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series, has adopted a plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Distribution Plan"). The Trust has entered into an Underwriting Agreement relating to the Distribution Plan with VP Distributors, LLC (the "Distributor") located at One Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103. The Distributor is an affiliate of the adviser, and serves as principal underwriter for the Trust. The Distribution Plan permits the use of Series assets to help finance the distribution of the shares of the Series.

Under the Distribution Plan, the Trust, on behalf of each Series, is permitted to pay to the Distributor (who may in turn pay other service providers) up to a total of 0.25% of the average daily net assets of Class A of the Series, as payment for services rendered in connection with the distribution of shares. Because these fees are paid out of Series assets on an ongoing basis, over time these costs will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than other types of sales charges.

More About the Trust and the Series

Organization of the Trust

The Trust was organized as a Massachusetts business trust on February 18, 1986. It was subsequently reorganized into a Delaware statutory trust on February 14, 2011. The Trust currently consists of eight series of which the Series is one. The Trust's business and affairs are managed by its Board of Trustees.

Shares of Beneficial Interest

Shares (including fractional shares) of the Series have equal rights with regard to voting, redemptions, dividends, distributions and liquidations with respect to the Series. All voting rights of the separate accounts as shareholders are passed through to the variable contract owners. Shareholders of all series of the Trust currently vote on the election of Trustees and other matters. On matters affecting an individual series such as the Series (such as approval of an advisory or subadvisory agreement or a change in fundamental investment policies), a separate vote of that series is required. On matters affecting an individual class (such as approval of matters relating to a Distribution Plan for a particular class of shares), a separate vote of that class is required. The Trust is not required to hold annual shareholder meetings.

Series shares attributable to any insurance company assets and Series shares for which no timely instructions from variable contract owners are received will be voted by the appropriate insurance company in the same proportion as those shares for which instructions are received.

The assets received by the Trust for the issue or sale of shares of the Series, and all income, earnings, profits and proceeds thereof, subject only to the rights of creditors, are allocated to the Series, and constitute the underlying assets of the Series. The underlying assets of the Series are required to be segregated on the books of account, and are to be charged with the expenses of the Series and with a share of the general expenses of the Trust. Any general expenses of the Trust not readily identifiable as belonging to a particular series shall be allocated by or under the direction of the Trustees in such manner as the Trustees determine to be fair and equitable.

Taxes

The Trust intends for the Series to qualify as a regulated investment company ("RIC") by satisfying the requirements under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), including requirements with respect to diversification of assets, distribution of income, and sources of income. In general, a series that qualifies as a RIC will be relieved of federal income tax on its net investment income and net capital gains distributed to its shareholders. In addition, the Trust intends for the Series to comply with the investment diversification requirements for variable contracts contained in the Code. Moreover, the Trust intends to distribute sufficient net investment income and net capital gains of the Series to avoid imposition of any federal excise tax.

Accordingly, the Trust intends that, at the close of each quarter of the taxable year, (i) not more than 25% of the market value of the Series' total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer and (ii) with respect to 50% of the market value of the Series' total assets, not more than 5% of the market value of the Series' total assets will be invested in the securities of a single issuer and the Series will not own more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer.

Actual and deemed distributions of ordinary income and net capital gains generally are taxable to the Series' shareholders, which in this case are the separate accounts. Because the sole shareholders of the Series will be the separate accounts, no discussion is included in this prospectus as to the federal income tax consequences at the shareholder level. For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to purchasers of the variable contracts, please see the variable contract prospectuses.

Disruptive Trading and Market Timing

As an investment vehicle for variable contracts, which are designed as long-term investments, the Series is not appropriate for "market timing" or other trading strategies that entail rapid or frequent investment and trading. Frequent purchases, redemptions and transfers, transfers into and then out of the Series in a short period of time, and transfers of large amounts at one time may be indicative of market timing and otherwise disruptive trading ("Disruptive Trading"), which can have risks and harmful effects for other investors. These risks and harmful effects include:

- dilution of the interests of long-term investors, if market timers or others transfer into the Series at prices that are below the true value or exchange out of the Series at prices that are higher than the true value;
- an adverse effect on portfolio management, such as causing the Series to maintain a higher level of cash than would otherwise be the case, or causing the Series to liquidate investments prematurely; and
- increased brokerage and administrative expenses.

Funds that invest primarily in international securities may be more susceptible to pricing arbitrage opportunities because of time zone differences between the closing of international and domestic markets. Funds that invest primarily in small and mid-cap securities may be more susceptible to arbitrage opportunities because of the less liquid nature of small and mid-cap securities. In addition, funds that hold significant investments in high yield bonds may also be susceptible to market timing because high yield bonds are often thinly traded so that their market prices may not accurately reflect current market developments. To the extent that the Series invests in these types of securities, it may be more susceptible to the risks of Disruptive Trading.

In order to attempt to protect Trust investors, the Trust's Board of Trustees has adopted market timing policies reasonably designed to discourage Disruptive Trading. The Trust reserves the right to amend these policies at any time without prior notice. Because the record owners of the Series are the insurance companies and not the variable contract owners, the Trust is not ordinarily in a position to monitor for or uncover Disruptive Trading by variable contract owners. Therefore, under the Trust's policies, the Trust delegates to each insurance company the duty to establish and maintain policies and procedures designed to detect, monitor and deter (including, without limitation, by rejecting

specific purchase orders) investors (or their agents) whose purchase and redemption activity follows a Disruptive Trading pattern, and to take such other actions as the insurance company may deem necessary to discourage or reduce Disruptive Trading activities. An insurance company may only modify such policies and procedures if it provides reasonable notice to the Trust and the Trust's Chief Compliance Officer. Please see your variable contract prospectus for information relating to applicable restrictions on purchases or transfers through your variable contract.

The Trust may also take certain actions to stop Disruptive Trading, including imposing redemption fees for the Series and ceasing sales of additional shares of the Series to a separate account through which variable contract owners are engaging in Disruptive Trading. Because the Trust reserves discretion in applying these policies, they may not be applied uniformly. In addition, the Trust, as required under SEC regulations, has entered into an agreement with each insurance company under which the insurance companies have agreed to provide the Trust or its designee with information about variable contract owner transactions in the Series upon request.

Although the Trust will endeavor to ensure that each insurance company can and does identify and deter Disruptive Trading by its variable contract owners, the Trust cannot control their efforts or guarantee their success at deterrence. In addition, the Trust cannot guarantee that monitoring by the insurance companies and the Trust will be 100% successful in detecting all Disruptive Trading activity. Consequently, there is a risk that some investors could engage in Disruptive Trading while others will bear the effects of their Disruptive Trading activities.

Portfolio Holdings

A description of the Trust's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Series' portfolio securities is available in the SAI.

Investing in the Series

Shares of the Series are not available to the public directly. You may invest in the Series by buying a variable accumulation annuity contract or a variable universal life insurance policy from an insurance company and directing the allocation of the net purchase payment(s) to the investment option corresponding to the Series. The appropriate insurance company will, in turn, invest payments in shares of the Series as the investor directs at the net asset value next determined.

The Series offers Class A Shares and Class I Shares. Both share classes may not be available for purchase through your variable contract. See your variable contract prospectus for a description of the available share class(es).

Sales Charge and Surrender Charges

The Series does not assess any sales charge, either when it sells or when it redeems securities. The sales charges that may be assessed under the variable contracts or policies are described in the variable contract prospectuses, as are other charges.

Determination of Net Asset Value

The Series calculates a share price for each class of its shares. The share price (net asset value or "NAV") for each class is based on the net assets of the Series and the number of outstanding shares of that class. In general, each Series calculates a share price for each class by:

- adding the values of all securities and other assets of the Series;
- subtracting liabilities; and
- dividing the result by the total number of outstanding shares of that class.

Assets: Equity securities are valued at the official closing price (typically last sale) on the exchange on which the securities are primarily traded, or, if no closing price is available, at the last bid price. Shares of other investment companies are valued at such companies' NAVs. Debt instruments, including restricted securities, are valued based on evaluated quotations received from independent pricing services or from dealers who make markets in such securities. Other assets, such as accrued interest, accrued dividends and cash are also included in determining the Series' NAV. As required, some securities and assets are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by, or under the direction of, the Board of Trustees.

Liabilities: Accrued liabilities for class-specific expenses (if any), distribution fees, service fees and other liabilities are deducted from the assets of each class. Accrued expenses and liabilities that are not class-specific (such as

management fees) are allocated to each class in proportion to each class's net assets except where an alternative allocation can be more appropriately made.

Net Asset Value ("NAV"): The liabilities allocated to a class are deducted from the proportionate interest of such class in the assets of the applicable Series. The resulting amount for each class is then divided by the number of shares outstanding of that class to produce each class's NAV per share.

The NAV per share of each class of the Series is determined as of the close of regular trading (generally 4:00 PM Eastern Time) on days when the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") is open for trading. The Series will not calculate its NAV per share class on days when the NYSE is closed for trading. If the Series (or underlying fund, as applicable) holds securities that are traded on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or other holidays when the Series does not price its shares, the NAV of the Series' shares may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem the Series' shares.

Fair Valuation

If market quotations are not readily available or available prices are not reliable, the Series determines a "fair value" for an investment according to policies and procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. The types of assets for which such pricing might be required include: (i) securities whose trading has been suspended; (ii) securities where the trading market is unusually thin or trades have been infrequent; (iii) debt instruments that have recently gone into default and for which there is no current market quotation; (iv) a security whose market price is not available from an independent pricing source and for which otherwise reliable quotes are not available; (v) securities of an issuer that has entered into a restructuring; (vi) a security whose price as provided by any pricing source does not, in the opinion of the adviser/subadviser, reflect the security's market value; (vii) foreign securities subject to trading collars for which no or limited trading takes place; (viii) securities where the market quotations are not readily available as a result of "significant" events; and (ix) securities whose principal exchange or trading market is closed for an entire business day on which the Series needs to determine its NAV. This list is not inclusive of all situations that may require a security to be fair valued, nor is it intended to be conclusive in determining whether a specific event requires fair valuation.

The value of any portfolio security held by the Series for which market quotations are not readily available shall be determined in good faith and in a manner that assesses the security's "fair value" on the valuation date (i.e., the amount that the Series might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale), based on a consideration of all available facts and all available information, including, but not limited to, the following: (i) the fundamental analytical data relating to the investment; (ii) the value of other relevant financial instruments, including derivative securities, traded on other markets or among dealers; (iii) an evaluation of the forces which influence the market in which these securities are purchased and sold (e.g., the existence of merger proposals or tender offers that might affect the value of the security); (iv) the type of the security; (v) the size of the holding; (vi) the initial cost of the security; (vii) trading volumes on markets, exchanges or among broker-dealers; (viii) price quotes from dealers and/or pricing services; (ix) values of baskets of securities traded on other markets, exchanges, or among dealers; (x) changes in interest rates; (xi) information obtained from the issuer, analysts, other financial institutions and/or the appropriate stock exchange (for exchange traded securities); (xii) an analysis of the company's financial statements; (xiii) government (domestic or foreign) actions or pronouncements (xiv) recent news about the security or issuer; (xv) whether two or more dealers with whom the adviser/subadviser regularly effects trades are willing to purchase or sell the security at comparable prices; and (xvi) other news events or relevant matters.

Certain non-U.S. securities may be fair valued in cases where closing prices are not readily available or are deemed not reflective of readily available market prices. For example, significant events (such as movement in the U.S. securities market, or other regional and local developments) may occur between the time that non-U.S. markets close (where the security is principally traded) and the time that a Series calculates its NAV (generally, at the close of regular trading on the NYSE (generally 4 p.m. Eastern time) that may impact the value of securities traded in these non-U.S. markets. In such cases, the Series fair value non-U.S. securities using an independent pricing service which considers the correlation of the trading patterns of the non-U.S. security to the intraday trading in the U.S. markets for investments such as ADRs, financial futures, ETFs, and certain indexes, as well as prices for similar securities. Because the frequency of significant events is not predictable, fair valuation of certain non-U.S. common stocks may occur on a frequent basis.

The value of a security, as determined using the Series' fair valuation procedures, may not reflect such security's market value.

Redemptions

The Series will redeem any shares presented for redemption by the insurance companies holding such shares. Your insurance company's policies on when and whether to redeem Series shares are described in your variable accumulation annuity contract prospectus or variable universal life insurance policy. The Series expects to meet redemption requests, both under normal circumstances and during periods of stressed market conditions, by using cash, by selling portfolio assets to generate cash, or by borrowing funds under a line of credit, subject to availability of capacity in such line of credit.

Financial Highlights

The financial highlights table provided below is intended to help you understand the Series' financial performance for the past five years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Series (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). These figures do not include the imposition of separate account fees or expenses. If such fees or expenses were reflected, performance would be lower. This information has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm for the Series. Their report and the Series' financial statements are included in the Series' annual report to shareholders and incorporated by reference in the SAI.

Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series—Class A Shares

	1/1/20 to 12/31/20	1/1/19 to 12/31/19	1/1/18 to 12/31/18	1/1/17 to 12/31/17	1/1/16 to 12/31/16
Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period	\$ 9.28	8.72	9.34	9.14	8.75
Net Investment Income (Loss) ⁽¹⁾	0.33	0.37	0.39	0.41	0.44
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)	0.28	0.54	(0.64)	0.20	0.37
Total from Investment Operations	0.61	0.91	(0.25)	0.61	0.81
Dividends from Net Investment Income	(0.31)	(0.35)	(0.37)	(0.41)	(0.42)
Distributions from Net Realized Gains	—	—	—	—	—
Total Distributions	(0.31)	(0.35)	(0.37)	(0.41)	(0.42)
Payment From Affiliate	—	— ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	—
Change in Net Asset Value	0.30	0.56	(0.62)	0.20	0.39
Net Asset Value, End of Period	\$ 9.58	9.28	8.72	9.34	9.14
Total Return ⁽²⁾	6.64%	10.47 ⁽⁷⁾	(2.66)	6.72	9.29 ⁽⁶⁾
Net Assets, End of Period (in thousands)	\$118,363	116,901	115,379	133,430	128,969
Ratio of Net Operating Expenses to Average Net Assets ⁽³⁾	0.94% ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾	0.94 ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾	0.93	0.93	0.94 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁶⁾
Ratio of Gross Operating Expenses to Average Net Assets (before waivers and reimbursements) ⁽³⁾	0.93%	0.93	0.93	0.96	1.00
Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets	3.54%	3.98	4.23	4.35	4.82 ⁽⁶⁾
Portfolio Turnover Rate	92%	66	64	62	68

Virtus Newfleet Multi-Sector Intermediate Bond Series—Class I Shares

	1/1/20 to 12/31/20	1/1/19 to 12/31/19	1/1/18 to 12/31/18	1/1/17 to 12/31/17	1/1/16 to 12/31/16
Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period	\$ 9.27	8.70	9.32	9.12	8.74
Net Investment Income (Loss) ⁽¹⁾	0.35	0.39	0.41	0.43	0.47
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)	0.28	0.55	(0.63)	0.20	0.35
Total from Investment Operations	0.63	0.94	(0.22)	0.63	0.82
Dividends from Net Investment Income	(0.33)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(0.43)	(0.44)
Distributions from Net Realized Gains	—	—	—	—	—
Total Distributions	(0.33)	(0.37)	(0.40)	(0.43)	(0.44)
Payment From Affiliate	—	— ⁽⁵⁾	—	—	—
Change in Net Asset Value	0.30	0.57	(0.62)	0.20	0.38
Net Asset Value, End of Period	\$ 9.57	9.27	8.70	9.32	9.12
Total Return ⁽²⁾	6.78%	10.89 ⁽⁷⁾	(2.41)	7.00	9.46 ⁽⁶⁾
Net Assets, End of Period (in thousands)	\$ 552	954	706	1,378	242
Ratio of Net Operating Expenses to Average Net Assets ⁽³⁾	0.69% ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾	0.69 ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾	0.68	0.68	0.69 ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁶⁾
Ratio of Gross Operating Expenses to Average Net Assets (before waivers and reimbursements) ⁽³⁾	0.69%	0.68	0.68	0.70	0.75
Ratio of Net Investment Income to Average Net Assets	3.84%	4.22	4.46	4.54	5.08 ⁽⁶⁾
Portfolio Turnover Rate	92%	66	64	62	68

Footnote Legend:

(1) Computed using average shares outstanding.

(2) The total return does not include the expenses associated with the annuity or life insurance policy through which you invest.

- (3) The Series will also indirectly bear their prorated share of expenses of any underlying funds in which it invests. Such expenses are not included in the calculation of this ratio.
- (4) Net expense ratios include proxy expenses.
- (5) Amount is less than \$.005 per share.
- (6) State Street Bank & Trust, custodian for the Series through January 29, 2010, reimbursed the Series for out-of-pocket custody expenses overbilled for the period 1998 through January 29, 2010. Custody fees reimbursed were excluded from the Ratio of Net Expenses to Average Net Assets and Ratio of Net Investment Income (Loss) to Average Net Assets. If included the impact would have been to lower the Ratio of Net Expenses to Average Net Assets and increase the Ratio of Net Investment Income (Loss) to Average Net Assets by 0.04% (Class A) and 0.05% (Class I), respectively. Custody fees reimbursed were included in Total Return. If excluded the impact would have been to lower the Total Return by 0.04%.
- (7) Payment from affiliate had no impact on total performance.
- (8) The share class is currently below its expense cap.
- (9) See Note 4D in the Notes to Financial Statements in the Series' annual report to shareholders for information on recapture of expenses previously reimbursed.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You can find more information about the Series in the following documents:

Annual and Semiannual Reports

Annual and semiannual reports contain more information about the Series' investments. The annual report discusses the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Series' performance during the last fiscal year.

Statement of Additional Information (SAI)

The SAI contains more detailed information about the Series. It is incorporated by reference and is legally part of the prospectus.

To obtain free copies of these documents, you can download copies at virtus.com or you can request copies by calling us toll-free at 800-367-5877. You can also call this number to request other information about the Series or to make shareholder inquiries.

Information about the Series (including the SAI) can be reviewed and copied at the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. For information about the operation of the Public Reference Room, call 202-551-8090. This information is also available on the SEC's Internet site at www.sec.gov. You may also obtain copies upon payment of a duplicating fee by writing the Public Reference Section of the SEC, Washington, DC 20549-6009 or by electronic request at publicinfo@sec.gov.