

Van Eck VIP Trust - Initial Class

Emerging Markets Fund
Global Hard Assets Fund
Unconstrained Emerging Markets Bond Fund

Van Eck VIP Trust - Class S

Global Gold Fund

May 1, 2019 Prospectus

Serves as an underlying investment vehicle for variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies.

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

Jefferson National Securities Corporation is a member of the FINRA and the principal underwriter of the variable annuities issued by Jefferson National.



PROSPECTUS
MAY 1, 2019

VanEck VIP Trust

VanEck VIP Emerging Markets Fund
(Initial Class Shares)

These securities have not been approved or disapproved either by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any State Securities Commission. Neither the SEC nor any State Commission has passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus.

Any claim to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Emerging Markets Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in equity securities in emerging markets around the world.

FUND FEES AND EXPENSES

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The table does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the table.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

| | Initial Class |
|---|----------------------|
| Management Fees | 1.00% |
| Other Expenses | 0.21% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses | 1.21% |

Expense Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the example.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then either redeem all of your shares at the end of these periods or continue to hold them. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same, and applies fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements, if any, for the periods indicated above under "Annual Fund Operating Expenses". Although your actual expenses may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

| | Share Status | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Initial Class | Sold or Held | \$123 | \$384 | \$665 | \$1,466 |

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 that the Fund pays higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in 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 34% of the average value of its portfolio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Under normal conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in securities of companies that are organized in, maintain at least 50% of their assets in, or derive at least 50% of their revenues from, emerging market countries. Van Eck Associates Corporation (the "Adviser") has broad discretion to identify countries that it considers to qualify as emerging markets. The Adviser selects emerging market countries that the Fund will invest in based on the Adviser's evaluation of economic fundamentals, legal structure, political developments and other specific factors the Adviser believes to be relevant.

Utilizing qualitative and quantitative measures, the Fund's portfolio manager seeks to invest in reasonably-priced companies that have strong structural growth potential. The portfolio manager seeks attractive investment opportunities in all areas of emerging markets, and utilizes a flexible investment approach across all market capitalizations.

The Fund's holdings may include issues denominated in currencies of emerging market countries, investment companies (like country funds) that invest in emerging market countries, and American Depositary Receipts, and similar types of investments, representing emerging market securities.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”). The Fund may also invest in money market funds, but these investments are not subject to this limitation. The Fund may invest in ETFs to participate in, or gain exposure to, certain market sectors, or when direct investments in certain countries are not permitted or available.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund’s share price and return will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund’s portfolio securities. Accordingly, an investment in the Fund involves the risk of losing money.

Chinese Issuers. Investing in securities of Chinese companies involves certain risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in securities of U.S. issuers, including, among others, (i) more frequent (and potentially widespread) trading suspensions and government interventions with respect to Chinese issuers, resulting in lack of liquidity and in price volatility; (ii) currency revaluations and other currency exchange rate fluctuations or blockage; (iii) the nature and extent of intervention by the Chinese government in the Chinese securities markets, whether such intervention will continue and the impact of such intervention or its discontinuation; (iv) the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets; (v) the risk that the Chinese government may decide not to continue to support economic reform programs; (vi) limitations on the use of brokers; (vii) higher rates of inflation; (viii) greater political, economic and social uncertainty; (ix) market volatility caused by any potential regional or territorial conflicts or natural disasters and (x) the risk of increased trade tariffs, embargoes and other trade limitations. Export growth continues to be a major driver of China’s rapid economic growth. As a result, a reduction in spending on Chinese products and services, the institution of additional tariffs or other trade barriers, including as a result of heightened trade tensions between China and the United States, or a downturn in any of the economies of China’s key trading partners may have an adverse impact on the Chinese economy.

Risk of Investing in the Communication Services Sector. The Fund will be sensitive to, and its performance may depend to a greater extent on, the overall condition of the communication services sector. Companies in the communication services sector may be affected by industry competition, substantial capital requirements, government regulations and obsolescence of communications products and services due to technological advancement.

Direct Investments. Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

Emerging Market Securities. Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under “Foreign Securities” and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade.

Foreign Currency Transactions. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself.

Foreign Securities. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, or political, economic or social instability. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies.

Investments in Other Investment Companies. The Fund’s investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company’s fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund’s own fees and expenses.

Investments through Stock Connect. The Fund’s investments in Chinese A-shares through Stock Connect will be subject to investment quotas and trading restrictions which may pose risks to the Fund. In addition, uncertainty in the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”) tax rules may result in unexpected tax liabilities for the Fund.

Management. Investment decisions made by the Adviser in seeking to achieve the Fund’s investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund’s shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Operational. The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

Sectors. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the financial services, information technology, and consumer discretionary sectors.

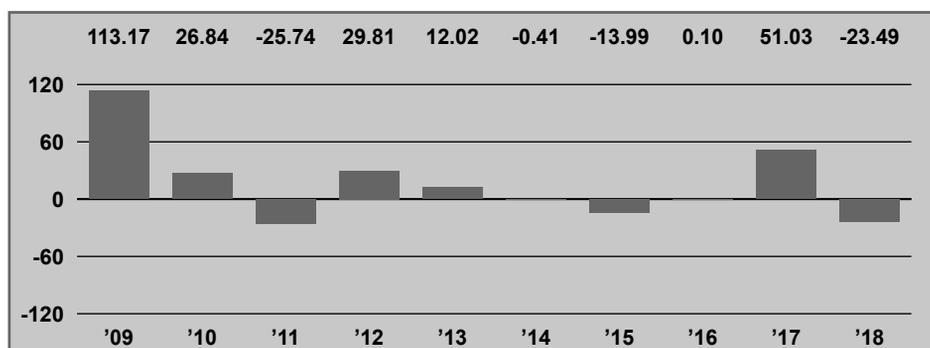
Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger more established companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

PERFORMANCE

The following chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year to year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns compare with those of a broad measure of market performance. For instance, the MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Markets Index is an all market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. The MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Markets Index is an all market capitalization index that is designed to measure equity market performance of emerging markets. The MSCI Emerging Markets Index consists of the following 24 emerging market country indices: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Qatar, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy are not reflected; if these amounts were reflected, returns would be lower than those shown. Additionally, large purchases and/or redemptions of shares of a class, relative to the amount of assets represented by the class, may cause the annual returns for each class to differ. Updated performance information for the Fund is available on the VanEck website at vaneck.com.

INITIAL CLASS: Annual Total Returns (%) as of 12/31



Best Quarter: +53.10% 2Q '09

Worst Quarter: -25.76% 3Q '11

Average Annual Total Returns as of 12/31/18

| | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|--|---------|---------|----------|
| Initial Class Shares (12/21/95) | -23.49% | -0.18% | 11.21% |
| MSCI Emerging Markets Investable Markets Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes except withholding taxes) | -15.04% | 1.56% | 8.24% |

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Investment Adviser. Van Eck Associates Corporation

Portfolio Managers.

David Semple has been Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 1998. Angus Shillington has been Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 2014. Mr. Shillington has worked at the Adviser as a Senior Analyst since 2009.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

The Fund is available for purchase only through variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies offered by the separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Shares of the Fund may not be purchased or sold directly by individual owners of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies. If you are a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy holder, please refer to the prospectus that describes your annuity contract or life insurance policy for information about minimum investment requirements and how to purchase and redeem shares of the Fund.

TAX INFORMATION

The Fund normally distributes its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, the participating insurance companies investing in the Fund through separate accounts. These distributions may not be taxable to you as a holder of a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy; please see “How the Fund is managed—Taxes” and consult the prospectus or other information provided to you by your participating insurance company regarding the federal income taxation of your contract or policy.

PAYMENTS TO BROKER-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

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

This section states the Fund's investment objective and describes certain strategies and policies that the Fund may utilize in pursuit of its investment objective. This section also provides additional information about the principal risks associated with investing in the Fund.

1. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Emerging Markets Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in equity securities in emerging markets around the world.

The Fund's investment objective is fundamental and may only be changed with shareholder approval.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

Consumer Discretionary Sector Risk. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in companies in the consumer discretionary sector. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the consumer discretionary sector. Companies in the consumer discretionary sector are subject to fluctuations in supply and demand. These companies may also be adversely affected by changes in consumer spending as a result of world events, political and economic conditions, commodity price volatility, changes in exchange rates, imposition of import controls, increased competition, depletion of resources and labor relations.

Direct Investments Risk. Direct investments are investments made directly with an enterprise through a shareholder or similar agreement—not through publicly traded shares or interests. The Fund will not invest more than 10% of its total assets in direct investments. Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Although these securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices on these sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund. Issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to public disclosure and other investor protection requirements applicable to publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

Emerging Market Securities Risk. Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under "Foreign Securities" and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade. Political risks may include unstable governments, nationalization, restrictions on foreign ownership, laws that prevent investors from getting their money out of a country and legal systems that do not protect property rights as well as the laws of the U.S. These restrictions and/or controls may at times limit or prevent foreign investment in securities of issuers located or operating in emerging market countries. Market risks may include economies that concentrate in only a few industries, securities issued that are held by only a few investors, limited trading capacity in local exchanges and the possibility that markets or issues may be manipulated by foreign nationals who have inside information. These factors, among others, make investing in issuers located or operating in emerging market countries significantly riskier than investing in issuers located or operating in more developed countries, and any one of them could cause a decline in the value of the Fund's shares.

Financial Services Sector Risk. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in companies in the financial services sectors. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the financial services sector. Companies in the financial services sector may be subject to extensive government regulation that affects the scope of their activities, the prices they can charge and the amount of capital they must maintain. The profitability of companies in the financial services sector may be adversely affected by increases in interest rates, by loan losses, which usually increase in economic downturns, and by credit rating downgrades. In addition, the financial services sector is undergoing numerous changes, including continuing consolidations, development of new products and structures and changes to its regulatory framework. Furthermore, recent developments in the credit markets may cause companies operating in the financial services sector to incur large losses, experience declines in the value of their assets and even cease operations.

Foreign Currency Transactions Risk. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself. The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions either to facilitate

settlement transactions or for purposes of hedging exposure to underlying currencies. To manage currency exposure, the Fund may enter into forward currency contracts to “lock in” the U.S. dollar price of the security. A forward currency contract involves an agreement to purchase or sell a specified currency at a specified future price set at the time of the contract.

Foreign Securities Risk. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, including the takeover of property without adequate compensation or imposition of prohibitive taxation, or political, economic or social instability. The Fund invests in securities of issuers located in countries whose economies are heavily dependent upon trading with key partners. Any reduction in this trading may have an adverse impact on the Fund’s investments. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies.

Foreign companies may become subject to sanctions imposed by the United States, another country or an international organization, which could result in the immediate freeze of the foreign companies’ assets or securities. The imposition of such sanctions could impair the market value of the securities of such foreign companies and limit the Fund’s ability to buy, sell, receive or deliver the securities. The Fund may invest indirectly in foreign securities through depositary receipts, such as American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), which involve risks similar to those associated with direct investments in such securities.

Healthcare Sector Risk. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in companies in the healthcare sector. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the healthcare sector. Companies in the healthcare sector may be affected by extensive government regulation, restrictions on government reimbursement for medical expenses, rising costs of medical products and services, pricing pressure, an increased emphasis on outpatient services, limited number of products, industry innovation, changes in technologies and other market developments. Many healthcare companies are heavily dependent on patent protection and are subject to extensive litigation based on product liability and similar claims.

Information Technology Sector Risk. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in companies in the information technology sector. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the information technology sector. Information technology companies face intense competition, both domestically and internationally, which may have an adverse effect on profit margins. Information technology companies may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or personnel. The products of information technology companies may face product obsolescence due to rapid technological developments and frequent new product introduction, unpredictable changes in growth rates and competition for the services of qualified personnel. Companies in the information technology sector are heavily dependent on patent protection and the expiration of patents may adversely affect the profitability of these companies.

Risk of Investing in the Communication Services Sector. The Fund will be sensitive to, and its performance may depend to a greater extent on, the overall condition of the communication services sector. Companies in the communication services sector may be affected by industry competition, substantial capital requirements, government regulations and obsolescence of communications products and services due to technological advancement.

Risks of Investing in Chinese Issuers. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in securities of Chinese issuers, including Hong Kong and Taiwan. Investing in securities of Chinese companies involves certain risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in securities of U.S. issuers, including, among others, (i) more frequent (and potentially widespread) trading suspensions and government interventions with respect to Chinese issuers, resulting in lack of liquidity and in price volatility; (ii) currency revaluations and other currency exchange rate fluctuations or blockage; (iii) the nature and extent of intervention by the Chinese government in the Chinese securities markets, whether such intervention will continue and the impact of such intervention or its discontinuation; (iv) the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets; (v) the risk that the Chinese government may decide not to continue to support economic reform programs; (vi) limitations on the use of brokers; (vii) higher rates of inflation; (viii) greater political, economic and social uncertainty; (ix) market volatility caused by any potential regional or territorial conflicts or natural disasters and (x) the risk of increased trade tariffs, embargoes and other trade limitations. In addition, the economy of China differs, often unfavorably, from the U.S. economy in such respects as structure, general development, government involvement, wealth distribution, rate of inflation, growth rate, interest rates, allocation of resources and capital reinvestment, among others. The Chinese central government has historically exercised substantial

control over virtually every sector of the Chinese economy through administrative regulation and/or state ownership and actions of the Chinese central and local government authorities continue to have a substantial effect on economic conditions in China. In addition, the Chinese government has from time to time taken actions that influence the prices at which certain goods may be sold, encourage companies to invest or concentrate in particular industries, induce mergers between companies in certain industries and induce private companies to publicly offer their securities to increase or continue the rate of economic growth, control the rate of inflation or otherwise regulate economic expansion. It may do so in the future as well, potentially having a significant adverse effect on economic conditions in China. Export growth continues to be a major driver of China's rapid economic growth. As a result, a reduction in spending on Chinese products and services, the institution of tariffs or other trade barriers, or a downturn in any of the economies of China's key trading partners may have an adverse impact on the Chinese economy. The current political climate has intensified concerns about a potential trade war between China and the United States, as each country has recently imposed tariffs on the other country's products. These actions may trigger a significant reduction in international trade, the oversupply of certain manufactured goods, substantial price reductions of goods and possible failure of individual companies and/or large segments of China's export industry, which could have a negative impact on the Fund's performance. Events such as these and their consequences are difficult to predict and it is unclear whether further tariffs may be imposed or other escalating actions may be taken in the future.

Risks of Investing in Indian Issuers. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in securities of Indian issuers. Investing in securities of Indian issuers involves risks not typically associated with investments in securities of issuers in more developed countries that may negatively affect the value of your investment in the Fund. Such heightened risks include, among others, greater government control over the economy, political and legal uncertainty, currency fluctuations or blockage of foreign currency exchanges and the risk of nationalization or expropriation of assets. Issuers in India are subject to less stringent requirements regarding accounting, auditing and financial reporting than are issuers in more developed markets, and therefore, all material information may not be available or reliable. In addition, religious and border disputes persist in India. India has experienced civil unrest and hostilities with neighboring countries, including Pakistan, and the Indian government has confronted separatist movements in several Indian states. India has also experienced acts of terrorism that have targeted foreigners, which have had a negative impact on tourism, an important sector of the Indian economy. The Indian securities markets are smaller than securities markets in more developed economies and are subject to greater price volatility. Indian stock exchanges have also experienced problems such as temporary exchange closures, broker defaults, settlement delays and strikes by brokers that have affected the market price and liquidity of the securities of Indian companies. In addition, the governing bodies of the Indian stock exchanges have from time to time restricted securities from trading, limited price movements and restricted margin requirements. Further, from time to time, disputes have occurred between listed companies and the Indian stock exchanges and other regulatory bodies that, in some cases, have had a negative effect on market sentiment.

Risks of Investing in Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies (excluding money market funds), including open end and closed end funds and ETFs, subject to the limitations under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Fund's investments in money market funds are not subject to this limitation.

The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses. Shares of closed-end funds and ETFs may trade at prices that reflect a premium above or a discount below the investment company's net asset value, which may be substantial in the case of closed-end funds. If investment company securities are purchased at a premium to net asset value, the premium may not exist when those securities are sold and the Fund could incur a loss.

Risks of Investing Through Stock Connect. The Fund may invest in Chinese A-shares listed and traded on the Shanghai or Shenzhen Stock Exchanges through Stock Connect, or on such other stock exchanges in China which participate in Stock Connect from time to time.

Trading through Stock Connect is subject to a number of restrictions that may affect the Fund's investments and returns. For example, trading through Stock Connect is subject to daily quotas that limit the maximum daily net purchases on any particular day, which may restrict or preclude the Fund's ability to invest in Stock Connect A-shares. In addition, investments made through Stock Connect are subject to trading, clearance and settlement procedures that are relatively untested in the People's Republic of China ("PRC"), which could pose risks to the Fund. Furthermore, securities purchased via Stock Connect will be held via a book entry omnibus account in the name of HKSCC, Hong Kong's clearing entity, at the China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited ("CSDCC"). The Fund's ownership interest in Stock Connect securities will not be reflected directly in book entry with CSDCC and will instead only be reflected on the books of its Hong Kong sub-custodian. The Fund may therefore depend on HKSCC's ability or willingness as record-holder of

Stock Connect securities to enforce the Fund's shareholder rights. PRC law did not historically recognize the concept of beneficial ownership; while PRC regulations and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange have issued clarifications and guidance supporting the concept of beneficial ownership via Stock Connect, the interpretation of beneficial ownership in the PRC by regulators and courts may continue to evolve. Moreover, Stock Connect A-shares generally may not be sold, purchased or otherwise transferred other than through Stock Connect in accordance with applicable rules.

A primary feature of Stock Connect is the application of the home market's laws and rules applicable to investors in A-shares. Therefore, the Fund's investments in Stock Connect A-shares are generally subject to PRC securities regulations and listing rules, among other restrictions. The Fund will not benefit from access to Hong Kong investor compensation funds, which are set up to protect against defaults of trades, when investing through Stock Connect. Stock Connect is only available on days when markets in both the PRC and Hong Kong are open, which may limit the Fund's ability to trade when it would be otherwise attractive to do so. Finally, uncertainties in PRC tax rules governing taxation of income and gains from investments in Stock Connect A-shares could result in unexpected tax liabilities for the Fund. The withholding tax treatment of dividends and capital gains payable to overseas investors currently is unsettled.

The Stock Connect program is a relatively new program and may be subject to further interpretation and guidance. There can be no assurance as to the program's continued existence or whether future developments regarding the program may restrict or adversely affect the Fund's investments or returns. In addition, the application and interpretation of the laws and regulations of Hong Kong and the PRC, and the rules, policies or guidelines published or applied by relevant regulators and exchanges in respect of the Stock Connect program are uncertain, and they may have a detrimental effect on the Fund's investments and returns.

Management Risk. Investment decisions made by the Adviser in seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund's shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market Risk. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. Security prices may decline over short or even extended periods not only because of company-specific developments but also due to an economic downturn, a change in interest or currency rates or a change in investor sentiment. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Operational Risk. An investment in the Fund involves "operational risk"—the risk arising from the Fund's operations. The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies Risk. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies are often subject to less analyst coverage and may be in early and less predictable periods of their corporate existences. In addition, these companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger, more established companies. These companies tend to have smaller revenues, narrower product lines, less management depth and experience, smaller shares of their product or service markets, fewer financial resources and less competitive strength than larger companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

3. ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

DERIVATIVES

The Fund may use derivative instruments, such as swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, to gain or hedge exposure. The value of a derivative instrument is derived, at least in part, from the value of one or more indicators, such as a security, asset, index or reference rate. The use of derivatives presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying security, commodity, asset, index or reference rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. The values of derivatives may move in unexpected ways, especially in unusual market conditions, and may result in increased volatility, among other consequences. The use of derivatives may increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders, because changes in government regulation of derivatives could affect the character, timing and amount of the Fund's taxable income or gains. Additionally, the Fund's use of derivatives may be limited by the requirements for taxation of the Fund as a regulated investment company. Other risks arise from the Fund's potential inability to terminate or sell derivative positions. A liquid secondary market may not

always exist for the Fund's derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over-the-counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to the risk that the other party will not meet its obligations. The use of derivatives also involves the risk of mispricing or improper valuation and that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying security, asset, index or reference rate.

INVESTMENTS IN OTHER EQUITY AND FIXED INCOME SECURITIES

The investments of the Fund may include, but not be limited to, common stocks, preferred stocks (either convertible or non-convertible), rights, warrants, direct equity interests in trusts, partnerships, joint ventures and other unincorporated entities or enterprises, convertible debt instruments and special classes of shares available only to foreigners in markets that restrict ownership of certain shares or classes to their own nationals or residents.

INVESTING DEFENSIVELY

The Fund may take temporary defensive positions that are inconsistent with the Fund's principal investment strategies in anticipation of or in an attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions. The Fund may not achieve its investment objective while it is investing defensively.

SECURITIES LENDING

The Fund may lend its securities as permitted under the 1940 Act, including by participating in securities lending programs managed by broker-dealers or other institutions. Securities lending allows the Fund to retain ownership of the securities loaned and, at the same time, earn additional income. The borrowings must be collateralized in full with cash, U.S. government securities or high-quality letters of credit.

The Fund could experience delays and costs in recovering the securities loaned or in gaining access to the securities lending collateral. If the Fund is not able to recover the securities loaned, the Fund may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. The value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased. Cash received as collateral and which is invested is subject to market appreciation and depreciation.

4. OTHER INFORMATION AND POLICIES

BENEFICIARIES OF CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

VanEck VIP Trust (the "Trust") enters into contractual arrangements with various parties, including, among others, the Fund's investment adviser, administrator and distributor, who provide services to the Fund. Shareholders of the Fund are not parties to, or intended (or "third-party") beneficiaries of, any of those contractual arrangements, and those contractual arrangements are not intended to create in any individual shareholder or group of shareholders any right to enforce such contractual arrangements against the service providers or to seek any remedy under such contractual arrangements against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the Trust.

This prospectus provides information concerning the Trust and the Fund that you should consider in determining whether to purchase shares of the Fund. None of this prospectus, the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") or any document filed as an exhibit to the Trust's registration statement, is intended to, nor does it, give rise to an agreement or contract between the Trust or the Fund and any investor, or give rise to any contract or other rights in any individual shareholder, group of shareholders or other person other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

CHANGING THE FUND'S 80% POLICY

The Fund's policy of investing "at least 80% of its net assets" (which includes net assets plus any borrowings for investment purposes) may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") without a shareholder vote, as long as shareholders are given 60 days notice of the change.

CYBER SECURITY

The Fund and its service providers are susceptible to cyber security risks that include, among other things, theft, unauthorized monitoring, release, misuse, loss, destruction or corruption of confidential and highly restricted data; denial of service attacks; unauthorized access to relevant systems; compromises to networks or devices that the Fund and its service providers use to service the Fund's operations; and operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. Cyber attacks against or security breakdowns of the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders, potentially resulting in, among other

things, financial losses; the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions; the inability to calculate the Fund's net asset value; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund may incur additional costs for cyber security risk management and remediation purposes. In addition, cyber security risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which may cause the Fund's investments in such issuers to lose value. There can be no assurance that the Fund or its service providers will not suffer losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches in the future.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Generally, it is the Fund's and Adviser's policy that no current or potential investor, including any Fund shareholder, shall be provided information about the Fund's portfolio on a preferential basis in advance of the provision of that information to other investors. A complete description of the Fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities is available in the Fund's SAI.

Portfolio holdings information for the Fund is available to all investors on the VanEck website at vaneck.com. Information regarding the Fund's top holdings and country and sector weightings, updated as of each month-end, is also located on this website. Generally, this information is posted to the website within 10 business days of the end of the applicable month. This information generally remains available on the website until new information is posted. The Fund reserves the right to exclude any portion of these portfolio holdings from publication when deemed in the best interest of the Fund, and to discontinue the posting of portfolio holdings information at any time, without prior notice.

PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS

The percentage limitations relating to the composition of the Fund's portfolio apply at the time the Fund acquires an investment. A subsequent increase or decrease in percentage resulting from a change in the value of portfolio securities or the total or net assets of the Fund will not be considered a violation of the restriction.

1. MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Van Eck Associates Corporation (the "Adviser"), 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, is the Adviser to the Fund. The Adviser has been an investment adviser since 1955 and also acts as adviser or sub-adviser to other mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, other pooled investment vehicles and separate accounts.

Jan F. van Eck and members of his family own 100% of the voting stock of the Adviser. As of December 31, 2018, the Adviser's assets under management were approximately \$44.3 billion.

THE ADVISER, THE FUND, AND INSURANCE COMPANY SEPARATE ACCOUNTS

The Fund sells shares to various insurance company variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts as a funding vehicle for those accounts. The Fund does not foresee any disadvantages to shareholders from offering the Fund to various insurance companies. However, the Board will monitor any potential conflicts of interest. If conflicts arise, the Board may require an insurance company to withdraw its investments in one Fund, and place them in another. This might force the Fund to sell securities at a disadvantageous price. The Board may refuse to sell shares of the Fund to any separate account. It may also suspend or terminate the offering of shares of the Fund if required to do so by law or regulatory authority, or if such an action is in the best interests of Fund shareholders. The Adviser and its affiliates act as investment manager of several hedge funds and other investment companies and/or accounts (the "Other Clients"), which trade in the same securities as the Fund. These Other Clients may have investment objectives and/or investment strategies similar to or completely opposite of those of the Fund. From time to time such Other Clients may enter contemporaneous trades with those of the Fund, which implement strategies that are similar to or directly opposite those of the Fund. The Adviser will maintain procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Fund is not unduly disadvantaged by such trades, yet still permit the Other Clients to pursue their own investment objectives and strategies.

FEES PAID TO THE ADVISER

The Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at an annual rate of 1.00% of the Fund's average daily net assets. This includes the fee paid to the Adviser for accounting and administrative services.

The Adviser has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, trading expenses, dividends and interest payments on securities sold short, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.30% for Initial Class shares of the Fund's average daily net assets per year until May 1, 2020. During such time, the expense limitation is expected to continue until the Board acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation.

For the Fund's most recent fiscal year, the advisory fee paid to the Adviser was as follows:

| VanEck VIP Trust | As a % of average daily net assets |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| VanEck VIP Emerging Markets Fund | 1.00% |

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Advisory Agreement is available in the Fund's semi-annual report to shareholders for the period ended June 30, 2018.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

VANECK VIP EMERGING MARKETS FUND

David A. Semple, Portfolio Manager of the Fund, is primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the Fund.

David A. Semple. Mr. Semple is Portfolio Manager of the Fund. He has been with the Adviser since 1998 and is currently the portfolio manager of various funds advised by the Adviser. Mr. Semple is responsible for asset allocation and stock selection in global emerging markets.

Angus Shillington. Mr. Shillington is Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund. He joined the Adviser as a Senior Analyst in 2009 and currently serves on the investment team for various funds advised by the Adviser. Prior to joining the Adviser, Mr. Shillington was the Head of International Equity at ABN Amro from 2006 to 2008 and Managing Director at BNP Paribas from 2001 to 2006.

The SAI provides additional information about the above Portfolio Managers, their compensation, other accounts they manage, and their securities ownership in the Fund.

THE TRUST

For more information on the VanEck VIP Trust (the “Trust”), the Trustees and the Officers of the Trust, see “General Information,” “Description of the Trust” and “Trustees and Officers” in the SAI.

THE DISTRIBUTOR

Van Eck Securities Corporation, 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (the “Distributor”), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Adviser, has entered into a Distribution Agreement with the Trust for distributing shares of the Fund.

The Distributor generally sells and markets shares of the Fund through intermediaries, including insurance companies or their affiliates. The intermediaries may be compensated by the Fund for providing various services.

In addition, the Distributor or the Adviser may pay certain intermediaries, out of its own resources and not as an expense of the Fund, additional cash or non-cash compensation as an incentive to intermediaries to promote and sell shares of the Fund and other mutual funds distributed by the Distributor. These payments are commonly known as “revenue sharing”. The benefits that the Distributor or the Adviser may receive when each of them makes these payments include, among other things, placing the Fund on the intermediary’s sales system and/or preferred or recommended fund list, offering the Fund through the intermediary’s advisory or other specialized programs, and/or access (in some cases on a preferential basis over other competitors) to individual members of the intermediary’s sales force. Such payments may also be used to compensate intermediaries for a variety of administrative and shareholders services relating to investments by their customers in the Fund.

The fees paid by the Distributor or the Adviser to intermediaries may be calculated based on the gross sales price of shares sold by an intermediary, the net asset value of shares held by the customers of the intermediary, or otherwise. These fees may, but are not normally expected to, exceed in the aggregate 0.50% of the average net assets of the Fund attributable to a particular intermediary on an annual basis.

The Distributor or the Adviser may also provide intermediaries with additional cash and non-cash compensation, which may include financial assistance to intermediaries in connection with conferences, sales or training programs for their employees, seminars for the public and advertising campaigns, technical and systems support, attendance at sales meetings and reimbursement of ticket charges. In some instances, these incentives may be made available only to intermediaries whose representatives have sold or may sell a significant number of shares.

Intermediaries may receive different payments, based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, reputation in the industry, sales and asset retention rates, target markets, and customer relationships and quality of service. No one factor is determinative of the type or amount of additional compensation to be provided. Financial intermediaries that sell Fund’s shares may also act as a broker or dealer in connection with execution of transactions for the Fund’s portfolio. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted procedures to ensure that the sales of the Fund’s shares by an intermediary will not affect the selection of brokers for execution of portfolio transactions.

Not all intermediaries are paid the same to sell mutual funds. Differences in compensation to intermediaries may create a financial interest for an intermediary to sell shares of a particular mutual fund, or the mutual funds of a particular family of mutual funds. Before purchasing shares of the Fund, you should ask your intermediary or its representative about the compensation in connection with the purchase of such shares, including any revenue sharing payments it receives from the Distributor.

THE CUSTODIAN

State Street Bank & Trust Company
One Lincoln Street
Boston, MA 02111

THE TRANSFER AGENT

DST Systems, Inc.
210 West 10th Street, 8th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Ernst & Young LLP
Five Times Square
New York, NY 10036

COUNSEL

Stradley Ronon Stevens and Young, LLP
2005 Market Street, Suite 2600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

2. TAXES

The Fund intends to qualify as a “regulated investment company” under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). As such, the Fund generally will not be subject to federal income tax to the extent that it distributes its net income and net capital gains. However, the applicable tax rules for qualification as a regulated investment company are extremely complex and it is possible the Fund might not so qualify. To the extent the Fund does not so qualify, it will be subject to tax at the applicable corporate income tax rate for the taxable year in question. Additionally, even if the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company, it may be subject to corporate tax on certain income.

The Code requires funds used by insurance company variable annuity and life insurance contracts to comply with special diversification requirements for such contracts to qualify for tax deferral privileges. The Fund intends to invest so as to comply with these Code requirements.

For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to holders of the underlying variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, see the accompanying prospectus for the applicable contract.

3. HOW THE FUND SHARES ARE PRICED

The Fund buys or sells its shares at its net asset value, or NAV, per share next determined after receipt of a purchase or redemption plus any applicable sales charge. The Fund calculates its NAV per share class every day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open, as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, which is normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

You may enter a buy or sell order when the NYSE is closed for weekends or holidays. If that happens, your price will be the NAV calculated as of the close of the next regular trading session of the NYSE.

The Fund may invest in certain securities which are listed on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or other days when the Fund does not price its shares. As a result, the NAV of the Fund’s shares may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem shares.

The Fund’s investments are generally valued based on market quotations which may be based on quotes obtained from a quotation reporting system, established market makers, broker dealers or by an independent pricing service. Short-term debt investments having a maturity of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates the fair value of the security. Assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources. When market quotations are not readily available for a portfolio security or other asset, or, in the opinion of the Adviser, are deemed unreliable, the Fund will use the security’s or asset’s “fair value” as determined in good faith in accordance with the Fund’s Fair Value Pricing Policies and Procedures, which have been approved by the Board. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security or other asset is the amount which the Fund might reasonably expect to receive for the security or asset upon its current sale. The Fund’s Pricing Committee, whose members are selected by the senior management of the Adviser and reported to the Board, is responsible for recommending fair value procedures to the Board and for administering the process used to arrive at fair value prices.

Factors that may cause the Fund’s Pricing Committee to fair value a security include, but are not limited to: (1) market quotations are not readily available because a portfolio security is not traded in a public market, trading in the security has been suspended, or the principal market in which the security trades is closed, (2) trading in a portfolio security is limited or suspended and not resumed prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV, (3) the market for the relevant security is thin, or the price for the security is “stale” because its price has not changed for 5 consecutive business days, (4) the Adviser determines that a market quotation is not reliable, for example, because price movements are highly volatile and cannot be verified by a reliable alternative pricing source, or (5) a significant event affecting the value of a portfolio security is determined to have occurred between the time of the market quotation provided for a portfolio security and the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV.

In determining the fair value of securities, the Pricing Committee will consider, among other factors, the fundamental analytical data relating to the security, the nature and duration of any restrictions on the disposition of the security, and the forces influencing the market in which the security is traded.

Foreign equity securities in which the Fund invests may be traded in markets that close before the time that the Fund calculates its NAV. Foreign equity securities are normally priced based upon the market quotation of such securities as of the close of their respective principal markets, as adjusted to reflect the Adviser’s determination of the impact of events,

such as a significant movement in the U.S. markets occurring subsequent to the close of such markets but prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV. In such cases, the Pricing Committee may apply a fair valuation formula to those foreign equity securities based on the Committee's determination of the effect of the U.S. significant event with respect to each local market.

Certain of the Fund's portfolio securities are valued by an independent pricing service approved by the Board. The independent pricing service may utilize an automated system incorporating a model based on multiple parameters, including a security's local closing price (in the case of foreign securities), relevant general and sector indices, currency fluctuations, and trading in depositary receipts and futures, if applicable, and/or research evaluations by its staff, in determining what it believes is the fair valuation of the portfolio securities valued by such independent pricing service.

There can be no assurance that the Fund could purchase or sell a portfolio security or other asset at the price used to calculate the Fund's NAV. Because of the inherent uncertainty in fair valuations, and the various factors considered in determining value pursuant to the Fund's fair value procedures, there can be material differences between a fair value price at which a portfolio security or other asset is being carried and the price at which it is purchased or sold.

Furthermore, changes in the fair valuation of portfolio securities or other assets may be less frequent, and of greater magnitude, than changes in the price of portfolio securities or other assets valued by an independent pricing service, or based on market quotations.

4. SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

FREQUENT TRADING POLICY

The Board has adopted policies and procedures reasonably designed to deter frequent trading in shares of the Fund, commonly referred to as "market timing," because such activities may be disruptive to the management of the Fund's portfolio and may increase Fund expenses and negatively impact the Fund's performance. As such, the Fund may reject a purchase or exchange transaction or restrict an insurance company's contract holder from investing in the Fund for any reason if the Adviser, in its sole discretion, believes that such contract holder is engaging in market timing activities that may be harmful to the Fund. The Fund discourages and does not accommodate frequent trading of shares by contract holders.

The Fund invests portions of its assets in securities of foreign issuers, and consequently may be subject to an increased risk of frequent trading activities because frequent traders may attempt to take advantage of time zone differences between the foreign markets in which the Fund's portfolio securities trade and the time as of which the Fund's net asset value is calculated ("time-zone arbitrage"). The Fund's investments in other types of securities may also be susceptible to frequent 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. The Fund has adopted fair valuation policies and procedures intended to reduce the Fund's exposure to potential price arbitrage. However, there is no guarantee that the Fund's net asset value will immediately reflect changes in market conditions.

Shares of the Fund are sold exclusively through institutional omnibus account arrangements registered to insurance companies and used by them as investment options for variable contracts issued by insurance companies. Such omnibus accounts allow for the aggregation of holdings of multiple contract holders and do not identify the underlying contract holders or their activity on an individual basis. Certain insurance companies have adopted policies and procedures to deter frequent short-term trading by their contract holders. The Fund may rely on an insurance company's policies and procedures, in addition to the Fund's techniques, to monitor for and detect abusive trading practices. The Fund reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to allow insurance companies to apply their own policies and procedures which may be more or less restrictive than those of the Fund. Contract holders are advised to contact their insurance company for further information as it relates to their specific contracts.

In addition to the foregoing, the Fund requires all insurance companies to agree to cooperate in identifying and restricting market timers in accordance with the Fund's policies and will periodically request contract holder trading activity based on certain criteria established by the Fund. The Fund may make inquiries regarding contract holder purchases, redemptions, and exchanges that meet certain criteria established by the Fund. There is no assurance that the Fund will request such information with sufficient frequency to detect or deter excessive trading or that review of such information will be sufficient to detect or deter excessive trading effectively. Furthermore, an insurance company may be limited by the terms of an underlying insurance contract regarding frequent trading 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 deter market timing activity in the Fund.

If the Fund identifies market timing activity, the insurance company will be contacted and asked to take steps to prevent further market timing activity (e.g., sending warning letters, placing trade restrictions on the contract holder's account in

question, or closing the account). If the insurance company refuses or is unable to take such remedial action, a determination will be made whether additional steps should be taken, including, if appropriate, terminating the relationship with such insurance company.

Although the Fund will use reasonable efforts to prevent market timing activities in the Fund's shares, there can be no assurances that these efforts will be successful. As some insurance companies' contract holders may use various strategies to disguise their trading practices, the Fund's ability to detect frequent trading activities by insurance companies' contract holders may be limited by the ability and/or willingness of the insurance companies to monitor for these activities. For further information about the Fund, please call or write your insurance company, or call 800-826-2333, or write to the Fund at the address on the back cover page.

IV. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table that follows is intended to help you understand the Fund's Initial Class shares financial performance 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). The information has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements are included in the Fund's annual report, which is available upon request. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For a share outstanding throughout each year:

| | Initial Class Shares | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net asset value, beginning of year | \$ 15.63 | \$ 10.40 | \$ 10.50 | \$ 12.95 | \$ 14.90 |
| Income from investment operations: | | | | | |
| Net investment income | 0.07(b) | 0.04(b) | 0.08 | 0.09 | 0.10 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (3.73) | 5.24 | (0.08) | (1.80) | (0.23) |
| Total from investment operations | (3.66) | 5.28 | (0.00)(c) | (1.71) | (0.13) |
| Less dividends and distributions from: | | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.04) | (0.05) | (0.05) | (0.07) | (0.08) |
| Net realized capital gains | — | — | (0.05) | (0.67) | (1.74) |
| Total dividends and distributions | (0.04) | (0.05) | (0.10) | (0.74) | (1.82) |
| Net asset value, end of year | \$ 11.93 | \$ 15.63 | \$ 10.40 | \$ 10.50 | \$ 12.95 |
| Total return (a) | (23.49)% | 51.03% | 0.10% | (13.99)% | (0.41)% |

Ratios/Supplemental Data

| | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Net assets, end of year (000's) | \$134,440 | \$187,872 | \$121,723 | \$128,025 | \$153,436 |
| Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets... | 1.21% | 1.19% | 1.18% | 1.14% | 1.17% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets | 1.21% | 1.19% | 1.18% | 1.14% | 1.17% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets excluding interest expense | 1.21% | 1.19% | 1.19%(d) | 1.13% | 1.17% |
| Ratio of net investment income to average net assets | 0.48% | 0.27% | 0.70% | 0.71% | 0.69% |
| Portfolio turnover rate | 34% | 42% | 62% | 65% | 85% |

- (a) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of year, reinvestment of any dividends and distributions at net asset value on the dividend/distribution payment date and a redemption at the net asset value on the last day of the year. The return does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund dividends/distributions or the redemption of Fund shares. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.
- (b) Calculated based upon average shares outstanding
- (c) Amount represents less than \$0.005 per share
- (d) Excludes reimbursement from prior year custodial charge of 0.02%.

For more detailed information, see the Statement of Additional Information (SAI), which is legally a part of and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The SAI includes information regarding, among other things: the Fund and its investment policies and risks, management of the Fund, investment advisory and other services, the Fund's Board of Trustees, and tax matters related to the Fund.

Additional information about the investments is available in the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Fund's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance during its last fiscal year.

- Call VanEck at 800.826.2333, or visit the VanEck website at vaneck.com to request, free of charge, the annual or semi-annual reports, the SAI or other information about the Fund.
- Reports and other information about the Fund are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of this information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

Shares of the Fund are offered only to separate accounts of various insurance companies to fund the benefits of variable life policies and variable annuity policies. This prospectus sets forth concise information about VanEck VIP Trust and Fund that you should know before investing. It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus for the Contract which accompanies this prospectus and should be retained for future reference. The Contract involves certain expenses not described in this prospectus and also may involve certain restrictions or limitations on the allocation of purchase payments or Contract values to the Fund. In particular, the Fund may not be available in connection with a particular Contract or in a particular state. See the applicable Contract prospectus for information regarding expenses of the Contract and any applicable restrictions or limitations with respect to the Fund.

VanEck®

VanEck VIP Trust
666 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

vaneck.com

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 811-05083

VIEMPRO



PROSPECTUS
MAY 1, 2019

VanEck VIP Trust

VanEck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund
(Initial Class Shares)

These securities have not been approved or disapproved either by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any State Securities Commission. Neither the SEC nor any State Commission has passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus.

Any claim to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in hard asset securities. Income is a secondary consideration.

FUND FEES AND EXPENSES

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The table does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the table.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

| | Initial Class |
|---|----------------------|
| Management Fees | 1.00% |
| Other Expenses | 0.10% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses | 1.10% |

Expense Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the example.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then either redeem all of your shares at the end of these periods or continue to hold them. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same, and applies fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements, if any, for the periods indicated above under "Annual Fund Operating Expenses". Although your actual expenses may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

| | Share Status | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Initial Class | Sold or Held | \$112 | \$350 | \$606 | \$1,340 |

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 that the Fund pays higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in 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 15% of the average value of its portfolio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Under normal conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in securities of hard assets companies and instruments that derive their value from hard assets. Hard assets include precious metals (including gold), base and industrial metals, energy, natural resources and other commodities. A hard assets company is a company that derives, directly or indirectly, at least 50% of its revenues from exploration, development, production, distribution or facilitation of processes relating to hard assets. The Fund concentrates its investments in the securities of hard assets companies and instruments that derive their value from hard assets.

The Fund may invest without limitation in any one hard assets sector and is not required to invest any portion of its assets in any one hard assets sector. The Fund may invest in securities of companies located anywhere in the world, including the U.S. Under ordinary circumstances, the Fund will invest in securities of issuers from a number of different countries, and may invest any amount of its assets in emerging markets. The Fund may invest in securities of companies of any capitalization range. Utilizing qualitative and quantitative measures, the Fund's investment management team selects equity securities of companies that it believes represent value opportunities and/or that have growth potential. Candidates for the Fund's portfolio are evaluated based on their relative desirability using a wide range of criteria and are regularly reviewed to ensure that they continue to offer absolute and relative desirability.

The Fund may use derivative instruments, such as structured notes, warrants, currency forwards, futures contracts, options and swap agreements, to gain or hedge exposure to hard assets, hard assets companies and other assets. The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions to attempt to moderate the effect of currency fluctuations. The Fund may write covered call options on portfolio securities to the extent that the value of all securities with respect to which covered calls are written does not exceed 10% of the Fund's net asset value. The Fund may also invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies, including exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). The Fund may also invest in money market funds, but these investments are not subject to this limitation. The Fund may invest in ETFs to participate in, or gain exposure to, certain market sectors, or when direct investments in certain countries are not permitted or available.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund's share price and return will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's portfolio securities. Accordingly, an investment in the Fund involves the risk of losing money.

Canadian Issuers. The Canadian economy is very dependent on the demand for, and supply and price of, natural resources. The Canadian market is relatively concentrated in issuers involved in the production and distribution of natural resources. There is a risk that any changes in natural resources sectors could have an adverse impact on the Canadian economy. The Canadian economy is dependent on and may be significantly affected by the U.S. economy, given that the United States is Canada's largest trading partner and foreign investor. Reduction in spending on Canadian products and services or changes in the U.S. economy may adversely impact the Canadian economy.

Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives. Exposure to the commodities markets, such as precious metals, industrial metals, gas and other energy products and natural resources, may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors including changes in overall market movements, political and economic events and policies, war, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and changes in interest rates or inflation rates. Because the value of a commodity-linked derivative instrument and structured note typically are based upon the price movements of physical commodities, the value of these securities will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodities or related index of investment.

Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives Tax Risk. The tax treatment of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be adversely affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority. If, as a result of any such adverse action, the income of the Fund from certain commodity-linked derivatives were treated as non-qualifying income, the Fund may fail to qualify as a regulated investment company and/or be subject to federal income tax at the Fund level. The uncertainty surrounding the treatment of certain derivative instruments under the qualification tests for a regulated investment company may limit the Fund's use of such derivative instruments.

Derivatives. The use of derivatives, such as swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying currency, security, asset, index or reference rate. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. Also, a liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund's derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over-the-counter instruments may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to counterparty risk.

Direct Investments. Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

Emerging Market Securities. Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under "Foreign Securities" and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade.

Foreign Currency Transactions. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself.

Foreign Securities. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or

less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, or political, economic or social instability. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies.

Hard Assets Sectors. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the hard assets sectors (such as the energy and metals sectors). Precious metals and natural resources securities are at times volatile and there may be sharp fluctuations in prices, even during periods of rising prices.

Investments in Other Investment Companies. The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses.

Management. Investment decisions made by Van Eck Associates Corporation (the "Adviser") in seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund's shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Operational. The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

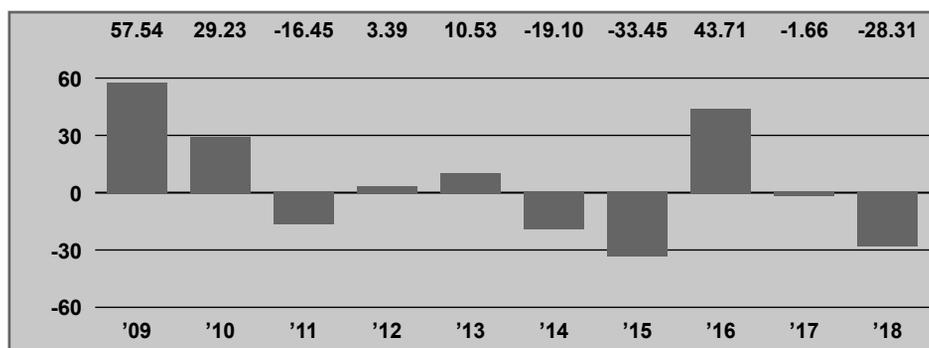
Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger more established companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

PERFORMANCE

The following chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year to year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns compare with those of a broad measure of market performance and one or more other performance measures. For instance, the S&P[®] North American Natural Resources Sector Index represents U.S. traded securities that are classified under the GICS[®] energy and materials sector excluding the chemicals industry and steel sub-industry. The MSCI AC World Daily TR Gross USD Index represents large- and mid-cap companies across 23 developed and 24 emerging market countries. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy are not reflected; if these amounts were reflected, returns would be lower than those shown. Additionally, large purchases and/or redemptions of shares of a class, relative to the amount of assets represented by the class, may cause the annual returns for each class to differ. Updated performance information for the Fund is available on the VanEck website at vaneck.com.

INITIAL CLASS: Annual Total Returns (%) as of 12/31



Best Quarter: +23.14% 4Q '10

Worst Quarter: -27.66% 3Q '15

Average Annual Total Returns as of 12/31/18

| | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Initial Class Shares (9/1/89) | -28.31% | -11.41% | 0.59% |
| S&P® North American Natural Resources Sector Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes) | -21.07% | -6.50% | 2.99% |
| MSCI AC World Daily TR Gross USD Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes) | -8.93% | 4.82% | 10.05% |

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Investment Adviser. Van Eck Associates Corporation

Portfolio Managers.

Shawn Reynolds has been Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 2010. Charles T. Cameron has been Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 2016 and a member of the investment team since 1995. Mr. Cameron has also been an investment team member on various funds managed by the Adviser since 1995.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

The Fund is available for purchase only through variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies offered by the separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Shares of the Fund may not be purchased or sold directly by individual owners of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies. If you are a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy holder, please refer to the prospectus that describes your annuity contract or life insurance policy for information about minimum investment requirements and how to purchase and redeem shares of the Fund.

TAX INFORMATION

The Fund normally distributes its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, the participating insurance companies investing in the Fund through separate accounts. These distributions may not be taxable to you as a holder of a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy; please see "How the Fund is managed—Taxes" and consult the prospectus or other information provided to you by your participating insurance company regarding the federal income taxation of your contract or policy.

PAYMENTS TO BROKER-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

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

This section states the Fund's investment objective and describes certain strategies and policies that the Fund may utilize in pursuit of its investment objective. This section also provides additional information about the principal risks associated with investing in the Fund.

1. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing primarily in hard asset securities. Income is a secondary consideration.

The Fund's investment objective is fundamental and may only be changed with shareholder approval.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives Risk. Commodities include precious metals (such as gold, silver, platinum and palladium in the form of bullion and coins), industrial metals, gas and other energy products and natural resources. The value of a commodity-linked derivative investment generally is based upon the price movements of a physical commodity (such as energy, mineral, or agricultural products), a commodity futures contract or commodity index, or other economic variable based upon changes in the value of commodities or the commodities markets. The Fund may seek exposure to the commodity markets through investments in leveraged or unleveraged commodity-linked or index-linked notes, which are derivative debt instruments with principal and/or coupon payments linked to the value of commodities, commodity futures contracts or the performance of commodity indices. These notes are sometimes referred to as "structured notes" because the terms of these notes may be structured by the issuer and the purchaser of the note.

Exposure to the commodities markets may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors including changes in overall market movements, political and economic events and policies, war, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and changes in interest rates or inflation rates. Prices of various commodities may also be affected by factors such as drought, floods, weather, embargoes, tariffs and other regulatory developments. The prices of commodities can also fluctuate widely due to supply and demand disruptions in major producing or consuming regions. Certain commodities may be produced in a limited number of countries and may be controlled by a small number of producers. As a result, political, economic and supply related events in such countries could have a disproportionate impact on the prices of such commodities.

Commodity-Linked "Structured" Securities. Because the value of a commodity-linked derivative instrument typically is based upon the price movements of a physical commodity, the value of the commodity-linked derivative instrument may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry. The value of these securities will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodity or related index of investment.

Structured Notes. Structured notes expose the Fund economically to movements in commodity prices. The performance of a structured note is determined by the price movement of the commodity underlying the note. A highly liquid secondary market may not exist for structured notes, and there can be no assurance that one will develop. These notes are often leveraged, increasing the volatility of each note's market value relative to changes in the underlying commodity, commodity futures contract or commodity index.

Tax Risk. The tax treatment of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be adversely affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority. If, as a result of any such adverse action, the income of the Fund from certain commodity-linked derivatives was treated as non-qualifying income, the Fund might fail to qualify as a regulated investment company and/or be subject to federal income tax at the Fund level. As a regulated investment company, the Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from sources treated as qualifying income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), including income from any financial instrument or position that constitutes a security under section 2(a)(36) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). In September 2016 the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") announced that it will no longer issue private letter rulings on questions relating to the treatment of a corporation as a regulated investment company that require a determination of whether a financial instrument or position is a security under section 2(a)(36) of the 1940 Act. The IRS also revoked rulings issued to some funds regarding the treatment of commodity-linked notes held directly by such funds. The uncertainty surrounding the treatment of certain derivative instruments under the qualification tests for a regulated investment company may limit the Fund's use of such derivative instruments. The Fund also may incur transaction and other costs to comply with any new or additional guidance from the IRS.

Derivatives Risk. The term “derivatives” covers a broad range of financial instruments, including swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, whose values are derived, at least in part, from the value of one or more indicators, such as a security, asset, index or reference rate.

The use of derivatives presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying security, commodity, asset, index or reference rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. The values of derivatives may move in unexpected ways, especially in unusual market conditions, and may result in increased volatility, among other consequences. The use of derivatives may also increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders because changes in government regulation of derivatives could affect the character, timing and amount of the Fund’s taxable income or gains. Additionally, the Fund’s use of derivatives may be limited by the requirements for taxation of the Fund as a regulated investment company. Other risks arise from the Fund’s potential inability to terminate or sell derivative positions. A liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund’s derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over-the-counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to counterparty risk. The use of derivatives also involves the risk of mispricing or improper valuation and that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying security, asset, index or reference rate.

Direct Investments Risk. Direct investments are investments made directly with an enterprise through a shareholder or similar agreement, not through publicly traded shares or interests. The Fund will not invest more than 10% of its total assets in direct investments. Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Although these securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices on these sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund. Issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to public disclosure and other investor protection requirements applicable to publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

Emerging Market Securities Risk. Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under “Foreign Securities” and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade. Political risks may include unstable governments, nationalization, restrictions on foreign ownership, laws that prevent investors from getting their money out of a country and legal systems that do not protect property rights as well as the laws of the U.S. These restrictions and/or controls may at times limit or prevent foreign investment in securities of issuers located or operating in emerging market countries. Market risks may include economies that concentrate in only a few industries, securities issued that are held by only a few investors, limited trading capacity in local exchanges and the possibility that markets or issues may be manipulated by foreign nationals who have inside information. These factors, among others, make investing in issuers located or operating in emerging market countries significantly riskier than investing in issuers located or operating in more developed countries, and any one of them could cause a decline in the value of the Fund’s shares.

Foreign Currency Transactions Risk. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself. The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions either to facilitate settlement transactions or for purposes of hedging exposure to underlying currencies. To manage currency exposure, the Fund may enter into forward currency contracts to “lock in” the U.S. dollar price of the security. A forward currency contract involves an agreement to purchase or sell a specified currency at a specified future price set at the time of the contract.

Foreign Securities Risk. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, including the takeover of property without adequate compensation or imposition of prohibitive taxation, or political, economic or social instability. The Fund invests in securities of issuers located in countries whose economies are heavily dependent upon trading with key partners. Any reduction in this trading may have an adverse impact on the Fund’s investments. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies.

Foreign companies may become subject to sanctions imposed by the United States, another country or an international organization, which could result in the immediate freeze of the foreign companies' assets or securities. The imposition of such sanctions could impair the market value of the securities of such foreign companies and limit the Fund's ability to buy, sell, receive or deliver the securities. The Fund may invest indirectly in foreign securities through depositary receipts, such as American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), which involve risks similar to those associated with direct investments in such securities.

Hard Assets Sectors Risk. The Fund concentrates its investments in the securities of hard assets companies and instruments that derive their value from hard assets. Hard assets include precious metals (including gold), base and industrial metals, energy, natural resources and other commodities.

The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation (including environmental regulation), impacting the hard assets sectors. Specifically, the energy sector can be affected by changes in the prices of and supplies of oil and other energy fuels, energy conservation, the success of exploration projects, and tax and other government regulations. The metals sector can be affected by sharp price volatility over short periods caused by global economic, financial and political factors, resource availability, government regulation, economic cycles, changes in inflation, interest rates, currency fluctuations, metal sales by governments, central banks or international agencies, investment speculation and fluctuations in industrial and commercial supply and demand. Precious metals and natural resources securities are at times volatile and there may be sharp fluctuations in prices, even during periods of rising prices. Additionally, companies engaged in the production and distribution of hard assets may be adversely affected by changes in world events, political and economic conditions, energy conservation, environmental policies, commodity price volatility, changes in exchange rates, imposition of import controls, increased competition, depletion of resources and labor relations.

Risks of Investing in Canadian Issuers. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in securities of Canadian issuers. The Canadian economy is very dependent on the demand for, and supply and price of, natural resources. The Canadian market is relatively concentrated in issuers involved in the production and distribution of natural resources. There is a risk that any changes in natural resources sectors could have an adverse impact on the Canadian economy. The Canadian economy is dependent on and may be significantly affected by the U.S. economy, given that the United States is Canada's largest trading partner and foreign investor. Reduction in spending on Canadian products and services or changes in the U.S. economy may adversely impact the Canadian economy. Since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA") in 1994, total two-way merchandise trade between the United States and Canada has more than doubled. To further this relationship, all three NAFTA countries entered into The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America in March 2005, which addressed economic and security related issues. However, political developments in the United States, including the renegotiation of NAFTA may have implications for the trade arrangements between the United States and Canada, which could negatively affect the value of the securities held by the Funds. These agreements may further increase Canada's dependency on the U.S. economy. Past periodic demands by the Province of Quebec for sovereignty have significantly affected equity valuations and foreign currency movements in the Canadian market and such demands may continue to have this effect in the future. In addition, certain sectors of Canada's economy may be subject to foreign ownership limitations. This may negatively impact the Fund's ability to invest in Canadian issuers.

Risks of Investing in Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies (excluding money market funds), including open end and closed end funds and ETFs, subject to the limitations under the 1940 Act. The Fund's investments in money market funds are not subject to this limitation.

The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses. Shares of closed-end funds and ETFs may trade at prices that reflect a premium above or a discount below the investment company's net asset value, which may be substantial in the case of closed-end funds. If investment company securities are purchased at a premium to net asset value, the premium may not exist when those securities are sold and the Fund could incur a loss.

Management Risk. Investment decisions made by the Adviser in seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund's shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market Risk. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. Security prices may decline over short or even extended periods not only because of company-specific developments but also due to an economic downturn, a change in interest or currency rates or a change in investor sentiment. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Operational Risk. An investment in the Fund involves “operational risk”—the risk arising from the Fund’s operations.

The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund’s service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies Risk. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies are often subject to less analyst coverage and may be in early and less predictable periods of their corporate existences. In addition, these companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger more established companies. These companies tend to have smaller revenues, narrower product lines, less management depth and experience, smaller shares of their product or service markets, fewer financial resources and less competitive strength than larger companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

3. ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

INVESTMENTS IN OTHER EQUITY AND FIXED INCOME SECURITIES

The investments of the Fund may include, but not be limited to, common stocks, preferred stocks (either convertible or non-convertible), rights, warrants, direct equity interests in trusts, partnerships, joint ventures and other unincorporated entities or enterprises, convertible debt instruments and special classes of shares available only to foreigners in markets that restrict ownership of certain shares or classes to their own nationals or residents.

INVESTING DEFENSIVELY

The Fund may take temporary defensive positions that are inconsistent with the Fund’s principal investment strategies in anticipation of or in an attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions. The Fund may not achieve its investment objective while it is investing defensively.

SECURITIES LENDING

The Fund may lend its securities as permitted under the 1940 Act, including by participating in securities lending programs managed by broker-dealers or other institutions. Securities lending allows the Fund to retain ownership of the securities loaned and, at the same time, earn additional income. The borrowings must be collateralized in full with cash, U.S. government securities or high-quality letters of credit.

The Fund could experience delays and costs in recovering the securities loaned or in gaining access to the securities lending collateral. If the Fund is not able to recover the securities loaned, the Fund may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. The value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased. Cash received as collateral and which is invested is subject to market appreciation and depreciation.

4. OTHER INFORMATION AND POLICIES

BENEFICIARIES OF CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

VanEck VIP Trust (the “Trust”) enters into contractual arrangements with various parties, including, among others, the Fund’s investment adviser, administrator and distributor, who provide services to the Fund. Shareholders of the Fund are not parties to, or intended (or “third-party”) beneficiaries of, any of those contractual arrangements, and those contractual arrangements are not intended to create in any individual shareholder or group of shareholders any right to enforce such contractual arrangements against the service providers or to seek any remedy under such contractual arrangements against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the Trust.

This prospectus provides information concerning the Trust and the Fund that you should consider in determining whether to purchase shares of the Fund. None of this prospectus, the Statement of Additional Information “SAI” or any document filed as an exhibit to the Trust’s registration statement, is intended to, nor does it, give rise to an agreement or contract between the Trust or the Fund and any investor, or give rise to any contract or other rights in any individual shareholder,

group of shareholders or other person other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

CHANGING THE FUND'S 80% POLICY

The Fund's policy of investing "at least 80% of its net assets" (which includes net assets plus any borrowings for investment purposes) may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") without a shareholder vote, as long as shareholders are given 60 days notice of the change.

CYBER SECURITY

The Fund and its service providers are susceptible to cyber security risks that include, among other things, theft, unauthorized monitoring, release, misuse, loss, destruction or corruption of confidential and highly restricted data; denial of service attacks; unauthorized access to relevant systems; compromises to networks or devices that the Fund and its service providers use to service the Fund's operations; and operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. Cyber attacks against or security breakdowns of the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders, potentially resulting in, among other things, financial losses; the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions; the inability to calculate the Fund's net asset value; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund may incur additional costs for cyber security risk management and remediation purposes. In addition, cyber security risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which may cause the Fund's investments in such issuers to lose value. There can be no assurance that the Fund or its service providers will not suffer losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches in the future.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Generally, it is the Fund's and Adviser's policy that no current or potential investor, including any Fund shareholder, shall be provided information about the Fund's portfolio on a preferential basis in advance of the provision of that information to other investors. A complete description of the Fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities is available in the Fund's SAI.

Portfolio holdings information for the Fund is available to all investors on the VanEck website at vaneck.com. Information regarding the Fund's top holdings and country and sector weightings, updated as of each month-end, is also located on this website. Generally, this information is posted to the website within 10 business days of the end of the applicable month. This information generally remains available on the website until new information is posted. The Fund reserves the right to exclude any portion of these portfolio holdings from publication when deemed in the best interest of the Fund, and to discontinue the posting of portfolio holdings information at any time, without prior notice.

PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS

The percentage limitations relating to the composition of the Fund's portfolio apply at the time the Fund acquires an investment. A subsequent increase or decrease in percentage resulting from a change in the value of portfolio securities or the total or net assets of the Fund will not be considered a violation of the restriction.

III. HOW THE FUND IS MANAGED

1. MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Van Eck Associates Corporation (the “Adviser”), 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, is the Adviser to the Fund. The Adviser has been an investment adviser since 1955 and also acts as adviser or sub-adviser to other mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, other pooled investment vehicles and separate accounts.

Jan F. van Eck and members of his family own 100% of the voting stock of the Adviser. As of December 31, 2018, the Adviser’s assets under management were approximately \$44.3 billion.

THE ADVISER, THE FUND, AND INSURANCE COMPANY SEPARATE ACCOUNTS

The Fund sells shares to various insurance company variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts as a funding vehicle for those accounts. The Fund does not foresee any disadvantages to shareholders from offering the Fund to various insurance companies. However, the Board will monitor any potential conflicts of interest. If conflicts arise, the Board may require an insurance company to withdraw its investments in one Fund, and place them in another. This might force the Fund to sell securities at a disadvantageous price. The Board may refuse to sell shares of the Fund to any separate account. It may also suspend or terminate the offering of shares of the Fund if required to do so by law or regulatory authority, or if such an action is in the best interests of Fund shareholders. The Adviser and its affiliates act as investment manager of several hedge funds and other investment companies and/or accounts (the “Other Clients”), which trade in the same securities as the Fund. These Other Clients may have investment objectives and/or investment strategies similar to or completely opposite of those of the Fund. From time to time such Other Clients may enter contemporaneous trades with those of the Fund, which implement strategies that are similar to or directly opposite those of the Fund. The Adviser will maintain procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Fund is not unduly disadvantaged by such trades, yet still permit the Other Clients to pursue their own investment objectives and strategies.

FEES PAID TO THE ADVISER

The Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at the annual rate of 1.00% of the first \$500 million of the Fund’s average daily net assets, 0.90% of the next \$250 million of the Fund’s average daily net assets and 0.70% of the Fund’s average daily net assets in excess of \$750 million. This includes the fee paid to the Adviser for accounting and administrative services.

The Adviser has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, trading expenses, dividends and interest payments on securities sold short, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% for Initial Class shares of the Fund’s average daily net assets per year until May 1, 2020. During such time, the expense limitation is expected to continue until the Board acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation.

For the Fund’s most recent fiscal year, the advisory fee paid to the Adviser was as follows:

| VanEck VIP Trust | As a % of average daily net assets |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| VanEck VIP Global Hard Assets Fund | 1.00% |

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board’s approval of the Advisory Agreement is available in the Fund’s semi-annual report to shareholders for the period ended June 30, 2018.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

VANECK VIP GLOBAL HARD ASSETS FUND

Shawn Reynolds, Portfolio Manager of the Fund, is primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the Fund.

Shawn Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds is Portfolio Manager of the Fund and is primarily responsible for company research and portfolio construction. He has been with the Adviser since 2005 and has over 30 years of experience in the international and financial markets. Prior to joining the Adviser, Mr. Reynolds was an analyst covering U.S. oil and gas exploration and production companies at Petrie Parkman & Co. He has also served as an analyst with Credit Suisse First Boston, Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers.

Charles T. Cameron. Mr. Cameron is Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund and is primarily responsible for macroeconomic strategy and trading oversight. He has been with the Adviser since 1995 and has over 35 years of experience in the international and financial markets. Prior to joining the Adviser, Mr. Cameron was a trader in both the Eurobond and emerging market debt for Standard Chartered.

The SAI provides additional information about the above Portfolio Managers, their compensation, other accounts they manage, and their securities ownership in the Fund.

THE TRUST

For more information on the VanEck VIP Trust (the “Trust”), the Trustees and the Officers of the Trust, see “General Information”, “Description of the Trust” and “Trustees and Officers” in the SAI.

THE DISTRIBUTOR

Van Eck Securities Corporation, 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (the “Distributor”), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Adviser, has entered into a Distribution Agreement with the Trust for distributing shares of the Fund.

The Distributor generally sells and markets shares of the Fund through intermediaries, including insurance companies or their affiliates. The intermediaries may be compensated by the Fund for providing various services.

In addition, the Distributor or the Adviser may pay certain intermediaries, out of its own resources and not as an expense of the Fund, additional cash or non-cash compensation as an incentive to intermediaries to promote and sell shares of the Fund and other mutual funds distributed by the Distributor. These payments are commonly known as “revenue sharing”. The benefits that the Distributor or the Adviser may receive when each of them makes these payments include, among other things, placing the Fund on the intermediary’s sales system and/or preferred or recommended fund list, offering the Fund through the intermediary’s advisory or other specialized programs, and/or access (in some cases on a preferential basis over other competitors) to individual members of the intermediary’s sales force. Such payments may also be used to compensate intermediaries for a variety of administrative and shareholders services relating to investments by their customers in the Fund.

The fees paid by the Distributor or the Adviser to intermediaries may be calculated based on the gross sales price of shares sold by an intermediary, the net asset value of shares held by the customers of the intermediary, or otherwise. These fees may, but are not normally expected to, exceed in the aggregate 0.50% of the average net assets of the Fund attributable to a particular intermediary on an annual basis.

The Distributor or the Adviser may also provide intermediaries with additional cash and non-cash compensation, which may include financial assistance to intermediaries in connection with conferences, sales or training programs for their employees, seminars for the public and advertising campaigns, technical and systems support, attendance at sales meetings and reimbursement of ticket charges. In some instances, these incentives may be made available only to intermediaries whose representatives have sold or may sell a significant number of shares.

Intermediaries may receive different payments, based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, reputation in the industry, sales and asset retention rates, target markets, and customer relationships and quality of service. No one factor is determinative of the type or amount of additional compensation to be provided. Financial intermediaries that sell Fund’s shares may also act as a broker or dealer in connection with execution of transactions for the Fund’s portfolio. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted procedures to ensure that the sales of the Fund’s shares by an intermediary will not affect the selection of brokers for execution of portfolio transactions.

Not all intermediaries are paid the same to sell mutual funds. Differences in compensation to intermediaries may create a financial interest for an intermediary to sell shares of a particular mutual fund, or the mutual funds of a particular family of mutual funds. Before purchasing shares of the Fund, you should ask your intermediary or its representative about the compensation in connection with the purchase of such shares, including any revenue sharing payments it receives from the Distributor.

THE CUSTODIAN

State Street Bank & Trust Company
One Lincoln Street
Boston, MA 02111

THE TRANSFER AGENT

DST Systems, Inc.
210 West 10th Street, 8th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Ernst & Young LLP
Five Times Square
New York, NY 10036

COUNSEL

Stradley Ronon Stevens and Young, LLP
2005 Market Street, Suite 2600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

2. TAXES

The Fund intends to qualify as a “regulated investment company” under the Code. As such, the Fund generally will not be subject to federal income tax to the extent that it distributes its net income and net capital gains. However, the applicable tax rules for qualification as a regulated investment company are extremely complex and it is possible the Fund might not so qualify. To the extent the Fund does not so qualify, it will be subject to tax at the applicable corporate income tax rate for the taxable year in question. Additionally, even if the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company, it may be subject to corporate tax on certain income.

The Code requires funds used by insurance company variable annuity and life insurance contracts to comply with special diversification requirements for such contracts to qualify for tax deferral privileges. The Fund intends to invest so as to comply with these Code requirements.

For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to holders of the underlying variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, see the accompanying prospectus for the applicable contract.

3. HOW THE FUND SHARES ARE PRICED

The Fund buys or sells its shares at its net asset value, or NAV, per share next determined after receipt of a purchase or redemption plus any applicable sales charge. The Fund calculates its NAV per share class every day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open, as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, which is normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

You may enter a buy or sell order when the NYSE is closed for weekends or holidays. If that happens, your price will be the NAV calculated as of the close of the next regular trading session of the NYSE.

The Fund may invest in certain securities which are listed on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or other days when the Fund does not price its shares. As a result, the NAV of the Fund’s shares may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem shares.

The Fund’s investments are generally valued based on market quotations which may be based on quotes obtained from a quotation reporting system, established market makers, broker dealers or by an independent pricing service. Short-term debt investments having a maturity of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates the fair value of the security. Assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources. When market quotations are not readily available for a portfolio security or other asset, or, in the opinion of the Adviser, are deemed unreliable, the Fund will use the security’s or asset’s “fair value” as determined in good faith in accordance with the Fund’s Fair Value Pricing Policies and Procedures, which have been approved by the Board. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security or other asset is the amount which the Fund might reasonably expect to receive for the security or asset upon its current sale. The Fund’s Pricing Committee, whose members are selected by the senior management of the Adviser and reported to the Board, is responsible for recommending fair value procedures to the Board and for administering the process used to arrive at fair value prices.

Factors that may cause the Fund’s Pricing Committee to fair value a security include, but are not limited to: (1) market quotations are not readily available because a portfolio security is not traded in a public market, trading in the security has been suspended, or the principal market in which the security trades is closed, (2) trading in a portfolio security is limited or suspended and not resumed prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV, (3) the market for the relevant security is thin, or the price for the security is “stale” because its price has not changed for 5 consecutive business days, (4) the Adviser determines that a market quotation is not reliable, for example, because price movements are highly volatile and cannot be verified by a reliable alternative pricing source, or (5) a significant event affecting the value of a portfolio security is determined to have occurred between the time of the market quotation provided for a portfolio security and the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV.

In determining the fair value of securities, the Pricing Committee will consider, among other factors, the fundamental analytical data relating to the security, the nature and duration of any restrictions on the disposition of the security, and the forces influencing the market in which the security is traded.

Foreign equity securities in which the Fund invests may be traded in markets that close before the time that the Fund calculates its NAV. Foreign equity securities are normally priced based upon the market quotation of such securities as of the close of their respective principal markets, as adjusted to reflect the Adviser's determination of the impact of events, such as a significant movement in the U.S. markets occurring subsequent to the close of such markets but prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV. In such cases, the Pricing Committee may apply a fair valuation formula to those foreign equity securities based on the Committee's determination of the effect of the U.S. significant event with respect to each local market.

Certain of the Fund's portfolio securities are valued by an independent pricing service approved by the Board. The independent pricing service may utilize an automated system incorporating a model based on multiple parameters, including a security's local closing price (in the case of foreign securities), relevant general and sector indices, currency fluctuations, and trading in depositary receipts and futures, if applicable, and/or research evaluations by its staff, in determining what it believes is the fair valuation of the portfolio securities valued by such independent pricing service.

There can be no assurance that the Fund could purchase or sell a portfolio security or other asset at the price used to calculate the Fund's NAV. Because of the inherent uncertainty in fair valuations, and the various factors considered in determining value pursuant to the Fund's fair value procedures, there can be material differences between a fair value price at which a portfolio security or other asset is being carried and the price at which it is purchased or sold. Furthermore, changes in the fair valuation of portfolio securities or other assets may be less frequent, and of greater magnitude, than changes in the price of portfolio securities or other assets valued by an independent pricing service, or based on market quotations.

4. SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

FREQUENT TRADING POLICY

The Board has adopted policies and procedures reasonably designed to deter frequent trading in shares of the Fund, commonly referred to as "market timing," because such activities may be disruptive to the management of the Fund's portfolio and may increase Fund expenses and negatively impact the Fund's performance. As such, the Fund may reject a purchase or exchange transaction or restrict an insurance company's contract holder from investing in the Fund for any reason if the Adviser, in its sole discretion, believes that such contract holder is engaging in market timing activities that may be harmful to the Fund. The Fund discourages and does not accommodate frequent trading of shares by contract holders.

The Fund invests portions of its assets in securities of foreign issuers, and consequently may be subject to an increased risk of frequent trading activities because frequent traders may attempt to take advantage of time zone differences between the foreign markets in which the Fund's portfolio securities trade and the time as of which the Fund's net asset value is calculated ("time-zone arbitrage"). The Fund's investments in other types of securities may also be susceptible to frequent 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. The Fund has adopted fair valuation policies and procedures intended to reduce the Fund's exposure to potential price arbitrage. However, there is no guarantee that the Fund's net asset value will immediately reflect changes in market conditions.

Shares of the Fund are sold exclusively through institutional omnibus account arrangements registered to insurance companies and used by them as investment options for variable contracts issued by insurance companies. Such omnibus accounts allow for the aggregation of holdings of multiple contract holders and do not identify the underlying contract holders or their activity on an individual basis. Certain insurance companies have adopted policies and procedures to deter frequent short-term trading by their contract holders. The Fund may rely on an insurance company's policies and procedures, in addition to the Fund's techniques, to monitor for and detect abusive trading practices. The Fund reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to allow insurance companies to apply their own policies and procedures which may be more or less restrictive than those of the Fund. Contract holders are advised to contact their insurance company for further information as it relates to their specific contracts.

In addition to the foregoing, the Fund requires all insurance companies to agree to cooperate in identifying and restricting market timers in accordance with the Fund's policies and will periodically request contract holder trading activity based on certain criteria established by the Fund. The Fund may make inquiries regarding contract holder purchases, redemptions,

HOW THE FUND IS MANAGED (continued)

and exchanges that meet certain criteria established by the Fund. There is no assurance that the Fund will request such information with sufficient frequency to detect or deter excessive trading or that review of such information will be sufficient to detect or deter excessive trading effectively. Furthermore, an insurance company may be limited by the terms of an underlying insurance contract regarding frequent trading 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 deter market timing activity in the Fund.

If the Fund identifies market timing activity, the insurance company will be contacted and asked to take steps to prevent further market timing activity (e.g., sending warning letters, placing trade restrictions on the contract holder's account in question, or closing the account). If the insurance company refuses or is unable to take such remedial action, a determination will be made whether additional steps should be taken, including, if appropriate, terminating the relationship with such insurance company.

Although the Fund will use reasonable efforts to prevent market timing activities in the Fund's shares, there can be no assurances that these efforts will be successful. As some insurance companies' contract holders may use various strategies to disguise their trading practices, the Fund's ability to detect frequent trading activities by insurance companies' contract holders may be limited by the ability and/or willingness of the insurance companies to monitor for these activities.

For further information about the Fund, please call or write your insurance company, or call 800-826-2333, or write to the Fund at the address on the back cover page.

The financial highlights table that follows is intended to help you understand the Fund's Initial Class shares financial performance 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). The information has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements are included in the Fund's annual report, which is available upon request. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For a share outstanding throughout each year:

| | Initial Class Shares | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net asset value, beginning of year | \$ 23.74 | \$ 24.14 | \$ 16.88 | \$ 25.37 | \$ 31.39 |
| Income from investment operations: | | | | | |
| Net investment income (loss) | 0.02(b) | (0.05)(b) | (0.05) | 0.10 | 0.06 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments.. | (6.74) | (0.35) | 7.39 | (8.58) | (6.05) |
| Total from investment operations | (6.72) | (0.40) | 7.34 | (8.48) | (5.99) |
| Less dividends from: | | | | | |
| Net investment income | — | — | (0.08) | (0.01) | (0.03) |
| Net asset value, end of year | \$ 17.02 | \$ 23.74 | \$ 24.14 | \$ 16.88 | \$ 25.37 |
| Total return (a) | (28.31)% | (1.66)% | 43.71% | (33.45)% | (19.10)% |
| Ratios/Supplemental Data | | | | | |
| Net assets, end of year (000's) | \$132,081 | \$200,403 | \$224,612 | \$176,087 | \$275,099 |
| Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets | 1.10% | 1.09% | 1.06% | 1.05% | 1.06% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets | 1.10% | 1.09% | 1.06% | 1.05% | 1.06% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets excluding interest expense | 1.10% | 1.09% | 1.06% | 1.05% | 1.06% |
| Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets. | 0.10% | (0.21)% | (0.24)% | 0.43% | 0.19% |
| Portfolio turnover rate | 15% | 15% | 45% | 21% | 31% |

- (a) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of year, reinvestment of any dividends and distributions at net asset value on the dividend/distribution payment date and a redemption at the net asset value on the last day of the year. The return does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund dividends/ distributions or the redemption of Fund shares. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.
- (b) Calculated based upon average shares outstanding

For more detailed information, see the Statement of Additional Information (SAI), which is legally a part of and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The SAI includes information regarding, among other things: the Fund and its investment policies and risks, management of the Fund, investment advisory and other services, the Fund's Board of Trustees, and tax matters related to the Fund.

Additional information about the investments is available in the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Fund's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance during its last fiscal year.

- Call VanEck at 800.826.2333, or visit the VanEck website at vaneck.com to request, free of charge, the annual or semi-annual reports, the SAI or other information about the Fund.
- Reports and other information about the Fund are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of this information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

Shares of the Fund are offered only to separate accounts of various insurance companies to fund the benefits of variable life policies and variable annuity policies. This prospectus sets forth concise information about the VanEck VIP Trust and Fund that you should know before investing. It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus for the Contract which accompanies this prospectus and should be retained for future reference. The Contract involves certain expenses not described in this prospectus and also may involve certain restrictions or limitations on the allocation of purchase payments or Contract values to the Fund. In particular, the Fund may not be available in connection with a particular Contract or in a particular state. See the applicable Contract prospectus for information regarding expenses of the Contract and any applicable restrictions or limitations with respect to the Fund.

VanEck®

VanEck VIP Trust
666 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

vaneck.com

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 811-05083

VIPGHAPRO



PROSPECTUS
MAY 1, 2019

VanEck VIP Trust

VanEck VIP Unconstrained Emerging Markets Bond Fund
(Initial Class Shares)

These securities have not been approved or disapproved either by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any State Securities Commission. Neither the SEC nor any State Commission has passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus.

Any claim to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Unconstrained Emerging Markets Bond Fund seeks high total return—income plus capital appreciation—by investing globally, primarily in a variety of debt securities.

FUND FEES AND EXPENSES

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The table does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the table.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

| | Initial Class |
|---|----------------------|
| Management Fees | 1.00% |
| Other Expenses | 0.67% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses | 1.67% |
| Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements ⁽¹⁾ | -0.57% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements | 1.10% |

⁽¹⁾ Van Eck Associates Corporation (the “Adviser”) has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, trading expenses, dividends and interest payments on securities sold short, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.10% for Initial Class shares of the Fund’s average daily net assets per year until May 1, 2020. During such time, the expense limitation is expected to continue until the Board of Trustees acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation.

Expense Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the example.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then either redeem all of your shares at the end of these periods or continue to hold them. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund’s operating expenses remain the same, and applies fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements, if any, for the periods indicated above under “Annual Fund Operating Expenses”. Although your actual expenses may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

| | Share Status | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Initial Class | Sold or Held | \$112 | \$471 | \$854 | \$1,929 |

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 that the Fund pays higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in 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 286% of the average value of its portfolio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Under normal conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in emerging market debt securities. An instrument will qualify as an emerging market debt security if it is either (i) issued by an emerging market government, quasi-government or corporate entity (regardless of the currency in which it is denominated) or (ii) denominated in the currency of an emerging market country (regardless of the location of the issuer). The Fund may also invest in non-emerging market debt securities. There is no limit on the amount the Fund may invest in one country or in securities denominated in one currency. The Fund may also invest in debt securities rated below investment grade (“junk bonds”). The Fund is

considered to be “non-diversified” which means that it may invest a larger portion of its assets in a single issuer. The Fund may engage in active and frequent trading of portfolio securities.

The Fund invests in debt issued in emerging market and developed market currencies by governments and government-owned, controlled, or related entities (and their agencies and subdivisions), and by corporations. The Fund may invest in corporate bonds, debentures, notes, commercial paper, time deposits, and certificates of deposit, as well as debt obligations, which may have a call on a common stock or commodity by means of a conversion privilege or attached warrants.

The Fund may also invest in emerging market or developed market currencies. The Fund may use derivative instruments denominated in any currency to enhance return, hedge (or protect) the value of its assets against adverse movements in commodity prices, currency exchange rates, interest rates and movements in the securities markets, manage certain investment risks and/or as a substitute for the purchase or sale of securities, currencies or commodities. The Fund may also use derivative instruments to implement “cross-hedging” strategies, which involve the use of one currency to hedge against the decline in the value of another currency, or to hedge the value of a currency that is embedded in the value of another currency (for example, the value of the Euro that may be embedded in the Polish zloty). The Fund expects to use forward currency contracts; futures on securities, indices, currencies, commodities, swaps and other investments; options; and interest rate swaps, cross-currency swaps, total return swaps and credit default swaps. The Fund may also invest in credit-linked notes. The notional value of a cash-settled forward currency contract or other derivative instrument on an emerging market currency (or a currency that is embedded in an emerging market currency) or security (including any security that is a reference security for a credit default swap) will be treated as an emerging market debt security for purposes of complying with the Fund’s policy of investing at least 80% of its net assets in emerging market debt securities.

The Adviser has broad discretion to identify countries that it considers to qualify as emerging markets. The Adviser selects emerging market countries and currencies that the Fund will invest in based on the Adviser’s evaluation of economic fundamentals, legal structure, political developments and other specific factors the Adviser believes to be relevant. The Fund’s investment strategy normalizes countries’ economic fundamentals and compares them to the valuations of the relevant asset prices, particularly the relevant currency’s valuation, the relevant currency’s interest rate, and the relevant hard-currency security’s credit spread. The Fund may invest in instruments whose return is based on the return of an emerging market security such as a derivative instrument, rather than investing directly in emerging market securities.

The Fund’s holdings may include issues denominated in currencies of emerging countries, investment companies (like country funds) that invest in emerging countries, and American Depositary Receipts, and similar types of investments, representing emerging market securities. The Fund may purchase securities of any maturity or duration. Duration is a measure of the expected life of a fixed income security that is used to determine the sensitivity of a security’s price to changes in interest rates. The longer a security’s duration, the more sensitive it will be to changes in interest rates. Similarly, a fund with a longer average portfolio duration will be more sensitive to changes in interest rates than a fund with a shorter average portfolio duration. By way of example, the price of a bond fund with an average duration of five years would be expected to fall approximately 5% if interest rates rose by one percentage point.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies (each an “Underlying Fund”), including exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”). The Fund may also invest in money market funds, but these investments are not subject to this limitation. The Fund may invest in ETFs to participate in, or gain exposure to, certain market sectors, or when direct investments in certain countries are not permitted or available. The Fund also may invest in restricted securities, including Rule 144A securities.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund’s share price and return will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund’s portfolio securities. Accordingly, an investment in the Fund involves the risk of losing money.

Below Investment Grade Securities. Below investment grade securities (sometimes referred to as “junk bonds”) are more speculative than higher-rated securities. These securities have a much greater risk of default and may be more volatile than higher-rated securities of similar maturity. These securities may be less liquid and more difficult to value than higher-rated securities.

Credit. Credit risk is the risk that the issuer or guarantor of a debt security or the counterparty to an over-the-counter contract (including many derivatives) will be unable or unwilling to make timely principal, interest or settlement payments or otherwise honor its obligations. The Fund invests in debt securities that are subject to varying degrees of risk that the issuers of the securities will have their credit ratings downgraded or will default, potentially reducing the value of the securities.

Currency Management Strategies. Currency management strategies, including the use of forward currency contracts and other derivatives, may substantially change the Fund's exposure to currencies and currency exchange rates and could result in losses to the Fund if currencies do not perform as the Adviser anticipates.

Debt Securities. Debt securities are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a debt security will be unable to make interest payments or repay principal when it becomes due. Interest rate risk refers to fluctuations in the value of a debt security resulting from changes in the general level of interest rates. Debt securities with longer durations have higher risk and volatility.

Derivatives. The use of derivatives, such as swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying currency, security, asset, index or reference rate. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. Also, a liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund's derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over-the-counter instruments may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to counterparty risk.

Emerging Market Securities. Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under "Foreign Securities" and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade.

Foreign Currency Transactions. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself.

Foreign Securities. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, or political, economic or social instability. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies.

Hedging. Losses or gains generated by a derivative or other instrument or practice used by the Fund for hedging purposes (including for hedging interest rate risk and credit risk) should be substantially offset by gains or losses on the hedged investment. However, the Fund is exposed to the risk that changes in the value of a hedging instrument will not match those of the investment being hedged.

Investments in Other Investment Companies. The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses.

Latin American Issuers. Investments in securities of Latin American issuers involve special considerations not typically associated with investments in securities of issuers located in the United States. The economies of certain Latin American countries have, at times, experienced high interest rates, economic volatility, inflation, currency devaluations and high unemployment rates. In addition, commodities (such as oil, gas and minerals) represent a significant percentage of the region's exports and many economies in this region are particularly sensitive to fluctuations in commodity prices. Adverse economic events in one country may have a significant adverse effect on other countries of this region. Most Latin American countries have experienced, at one time or another, severe and persistent levels of inflation, including, in some cases, hyperinflation. This has, in turn, led to high interest rates, extreme measures by governments to keep inflation in check, and a generally debilitating effect on economic growth.

Management. Investment decisions made by the Adviser in seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund's shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Non-Diversification. A non-diversified fund's greater investment in a single issuer makes the fund more susceptible to financial, economic or market events impacting such issuer. A decline in the value of or default by a single security in the non-diversified fund's portfolio may have a greater negative effect than a similar decline or default by a single security in a diversified portfolio.

Operational. The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund’s service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

Portfolio Turnover. The Fund may engage in active and frequent trading of portfolio securities and thus may experience a high portfolio turnover rate. This may result in significant taxable capital gains as a result of the frequent trading of the Fund’s portfolio securities and the Fund will incur transaction costs in connection with buying and selling the securities, which may lower the Fund’s return.

Restricted Securities Risk. The Fund may hold securities that are restricted as to resale under the U.S. Federal securities laws, such as securities in certain privately held companies. Such securities may be highly illiquid and their values may experience significant volatility. Restricted securities may be difficult to value.

Sectors. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of sectors. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the energy and sovereign bond sectors.

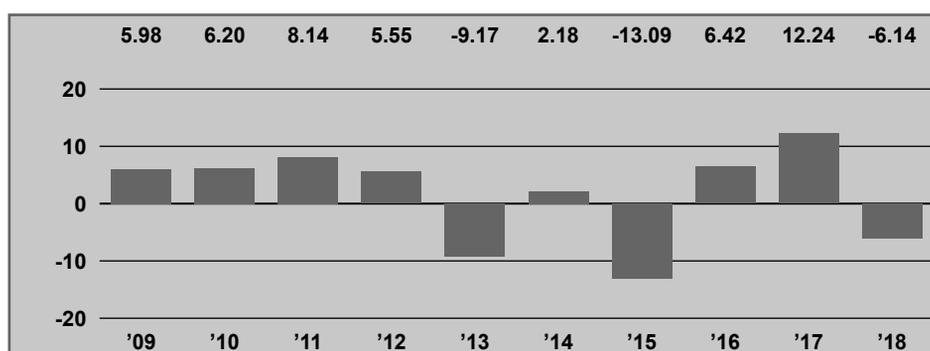
Sovereign Bonds. Investments in sovereign bonds involve special risks not present in corporate bonds. The governmental authority that controls the repayment of the bonds may be unable or unwilling to make interest payments and/or repay the principal on its bonds or to otherwise honor its obligations. If an issuer of sovereign bonds defaults on payments of principal and/or interest, the Fund may have limited recourse against the issuer.

PERFORMANCE

The following chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund’s performance from year to year and by showing how the Fund’s average annual total returns compare with those of a broad measure of market performance and one or more other performance measures. For instance, the 50% J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified Index/50% J.P. Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index, shown in the table, is a blended, unmanaged index created by the Adviser. The Fund’s past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future. Furthermore, the Fund implemented changes to its principal investment strategies on May 1, 2013. If the Fund had invested its assets in accordance with its current principal investment strategies since inception, the performance of the Fund would have been different than that shown below.

Fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy are not reflected; if these amounts were reflected, returns would be lower than those shown. Additionally, large purchases and/or redemptions of shares of a class, relative to the amount of assets represented by the class, may cause the annual returns for each class to differ. Updated performance information for the Fund is available on the VanEck website at vaneck.com.

INITIAL CLASS: Annual Total Returns (%) as of 12/31



Best Quarter: +8.36% 3Q '10

Worst Quarter: -11.12% 2Q '13

| Average Annual Total Returns as of 12/31/18 | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|--|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Initial Class Shares (9/1/89) | -6.14% | -0.08% | 1.51% |
| 50% J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified Index/50% J.P. Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes) | -5.15% | 1.95% | 6.71% |
| J.P. Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes) | -6.21% | -0.96% | 3.45% |
| J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes) | -4.26% | 4.80% | 8.20% |

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Investment Adviser. Van Eck Associates Corporation

Portfolio Managers.

Eric Fine has been Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 2012. David Austerweil has been Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 2014.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

The Fund is available for purchase only through variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies offered by the separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Shares of the Fund may not be purchased or sold directly by individual owners of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies. If you are a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy holder, please refer to the prospectus that describes your annuity contract or life insurance policy for information about minimum investment requirements and how to purchase and redeem shares of the Fund.

TAX INFORMATION

The Fund normally distributes its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, the participating insurance companies investing in the Fund through separate accounts. These distributions may not be taxable to you as a holder of a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy; please see “How the Fund is managed—Taxes” and consult the prospectus or other information provided to you by your participating insurance company regarding the federal income taxation of your contract or policy.

PAYMENTS TO BROKER-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

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

II. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE, STRATEGIES, POLICIES, RISKS AND OTHER INFORMATION

This section states the Fund's investment objective and describes certain strategies and policies that the Fund may utilize in pursuit of its investment objective. This section also provides additional information about the principal risks associated with investing in the Fund.

1. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Unconstrained Emerging Markets Bond Fund seeks high total return—income plus capital appreciation—by investing globally, primarily in a variety of debt securities.

The Fund's investment objective is fundamental and may only be changed with shareholder approval.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

Below Investment Grade Securities Risk. Below investment grade securities (sometimes referred to as “junk bonds”) are more speculative than higher-rated securities. These securities have a much greater risk of default (or in the case of bonds currently in default, of not returning principal) and may be more volatile than higher-rated securities of similar maturity. The value of these securities can be affected by overall economic conditions, interest rates, and the creditworthiness of the individual issuers. Additionally, these securities may be less liquid and more difficult to value than higher-rated securities.

Credit Risk. Credit risk is the risk that the issuer or guarantor of a debt security or the counterparty to an over-the-counter contract (including many derivatives) will be unable or unwilling to make timely principal, interest or settlement payments or otherwise honor its obligations. The Fund invests in debt securities that are subject to varying degrees of risk that the issuers of the securities will have their credit ratings downgraded or will default, potentially reducing the value of the securities.

Currency Management Strategies Risk. The strategy that is generally used in an attempt to reduce the risk and impact of adverse currency movements to protect the value of, or seek to mitigate the currency exposure associated with, an investment (including, for example, mitigating the exposure to the Euro that may be embedded in the Polish zloty).

Currency management strategies, including the use of forward currency contracts and cross-hedging, 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. In addition, currency management strategies, to the extent that such strategies reduce the Fund's exposure to currency risks, may also reduce the Fund's ability to benefit from favorable changes in currency exchange rates. There is no assurance that the Adviser's use of currency management strategies will benefit the Fund or that they will be, or can be, used at appropriate times. Furthermore, there may not be a perfect correlation between the amount of exposure to a particular currency and the amount of securities in the portfolio denominated in that currency or exposed to that currency. Currency markets are generally less regulated than securities markets. Derivatives transactions, especially forward currency contracts, currency related futures contracts and swap agreements, may involve significant amounts of currency management strategies risk. A fund, like the Fund, that may utilize these types of instruments to a significant extent will be especially subject to currency management strategies risk.

Debt Securities Risk. Debt securities may include bonds and other forms of debentures or obligations. When an issuer sells debt securities, it sells them for a certain price, and for a certain term. Over the term of the security, the issuer promises to pay the buyer a certain rate of interest, then to repay the principal at maturity. Debt securities are also bought and sold in the “secondary market”—that is, they are traded by people other than their original issuers.

Debt securities are subject to credit risk and interest rate risk. Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a debt security will be unable to make interest payments or repay principal when it becomes due. Various factors could affect the issuer's ability to make timely interest or principal payments, including changes in the issuer's financial condition or in general economic conditions. Interest rate risk refers to fluctuations in the value of a debt security resulting from changes in the general level of interest rates. When the general level of interest rates rise, the value of debt securities will tend to fall, and if interest rates fall, the values of debt securities will tend to rise. Debt securities with longer durations have higher risk and volatility. Changes in government policies, such as raising the federal funds rate and/or further tapering “quantitative easing” measures, may increase interest rates which are currently at or near historic lows. These policy changes, along with changing market conditions, may lead to periods of heightened volatility in the debt securities market, reduced liquidity for certain Fund investments and an increase in Fund redemptions. Interest rate changes and their impact on the Fund and its share price can be sudden and unpredictable. Changes in the value of a debt security usually will not affect the amount of income the Fund receives from it but may affect the value of the Fund's shares.

Derivatives Risk. The term “derivatives” covers a broad range of financial instruments, including swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, whose values are derived, at least in part, from the value of one or more indicators, such as a security, asset, index or reference rate.

The use of derivatives presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying currency, security, asset, index or reference rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. The values of derivatives may move in unexpected ways, especially in unusual market conditions, and may result in increased volatility, among other consequences. The use of derivatives may also increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders, because changes in government regulation of derivatives could affect the character, timing and amount of the Fund’s taxable income or gains. Additionally, the Fund’s use of derivatives may be limited by the requirements for taxation of the Fund as a regulated investment company. Other risks arise from the Fund’s potential inability to terminate or sell derivative positions. A liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund’s derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over-the-counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to counterparty risk. The use of derivatives also involves the risk of mispricing or improper valuation and that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying security, asset, index or reference rate.

Emerging Market Securities Risk. Securities (i) issued by an emerging market government, quasi-government or corporate entity (regardless of the currency in which it is denominated) or (ii) denominated in the currency of an emerging market country (regardless of the location of the issuer).

Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under “Foreign Securities” and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade. Political risks may include unstable governments, nationalization, restrictions on foreign ownership, laws that prevent investors from getting their money out of a country and legal systems that do not protect property rights as well as the laws of the U.S. These restrictions and/or controls may at times limit or prevent foreign investment in securities of issuers located or operating in emerging market countries. Market risks may include economies that concentrate in only a few industries, securities issued that are held by only a few investors, limited trading capacity in local exchanges and the possibility that markets or issues may be manipulated by foreign nationals who have inside information. These factors, among others, make investing in issuers located or operating in emerging market countries significantly riskier than investing in issuers located or operating in more developed countries, and any one of them could cause a decline in the value of the Fund’s shares.

Foreign Currency Risk. Investments in global markets or securities that are denominated in foreign currencies give rise to foreign currency exposure. The U.S. dollar value of these investments will vary depending on changes in exchange rates and the performance of the underlying assets.

The Fund’s shares are priced (purchased and redeemed) in U.S. dollars and the distributions paid by the Fund are paid in U.S. dollars. However, a substantial portion of the Fund’s assets may be denominated in foreign (non-U.S.) currencies and income received by the Fund from many of its investments may be paid in foreign currencies. Foreign currencies may decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar and adversely affect the value of the Fund’s investments in foreign currencies, securities denominated in foreign currencies, derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies, and the Fund’s income available for distribution. The value of foreign currencies, securities denominated in foreign currencies or derivatives that provide exposure to foreign currencies may be adversely affected by currency exchange rates, currency exchange control regulations, foreign withholding taxes, restrictions or prohibitions on the repatriation of foreign currencies, changes in supply and demand in the currency exchange markets, actual or perceived changes in interest rates, intervention (or the failure to intervene) by U.S. or foreign governments, central banks, or supranational agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, and currency controls or other political and economic developments in the U.S. or abroad. The local emerging market currencies in which the Fund may be invested from time to time may experience substantially greater volatility against the U.S. dollar than the major convertible currencies of developed countries.

The Adviser, may, but is not required to, attempt to mitigate (or “hedge”) the risks associated with currency exposure or fluctuations by entering into forward, futures, options, swap or other contracts to purchase or sell the currency of denomination of any investment held by the Fund or which poses a risk to the Fund and any other currencies held by the Fund. Such contracts may not be available on favorable terms or in all of the currencies in which the Fund may invest from time to time.

In the case of hedging positions, currency risk includes the risk that the currency to which the Fund has obtained exposure declines in value relative to the foreign currency being hedged. In such event, the Fund may realize a loss on the hedging instrument at the same time the Fund is realizing a loss on the currency being hedged. There is no assurance that any such hedging strategies will be available or will be used by the Fund or, if used, that they will be successful.

The Fund may use derivatives to acquire positions in currencies whose value the Adviser expects to correlate with the value of currencies the Fund owns, currencies the Adviser wants the Fund to own, or currencies the Fund is exposed to indirectly or directly through its investments. If the exchange rates of the currencies involved do not move as expected, the Fund could lose money on its holdings of a particular currency and also lose money on the derivative. The Fund may also take overweighted or underweighted currency positions and/or alter the currency exposure of the securities in which it has invested. As a result, its currency exposure may differ (in some cases significantly) from the currency exposure of its security investments.

Foreign Securities Risk. Securities issued by a foreign government, quasi-government or corporate entity, traded in foreign currencies or issued by companies with most of their business interests in foreign countries.

Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, including the takeover of property without adequate compensation or imposition of prohibitive taxation, or political, economic or social instability. The Fund invests in securities of issuers located in countries whose economies are heavily dependent upon trading with key partners. Any reduction in this trading may have an adverse impact on the Fund's investments. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies. Foreign companies may become subject to sanctions imposed by the United States, another country or an international organization, which could result in the immediate freeze of the foreign companies' assets or securities. The imposition of such sanctions could impair the market value of the securities of such foreign companies and limit the Fund's ability to buy, sell, receive or deliver the securities. The Fund may invest indirectly in foreign securities through depositary receipts, such as American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), which involve risks similar to those associated with direct investments in such securities.

Hedging Risk. Hedging is a strategy in which a derivative or other instrument or practice is used to offset the risks associated with other Fund holdings or the risk associated with the Fund temporarily not being fully invested because of significant cash in-flows.

Losses generated by a derivative or other instrument or practice used by the Fund for hedging purposes (including for hedging interest rate risk and credit risk) should be substantially offset by gains on the hedged investment. However, although hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains. In addition, the Fund is exposed to the risk that changes in the value of a hedging instrument will not match those of the investment being hedged. The Adviser may not be able to predict correctly the direction of securities prices, interest rates and other economic factors, which could cause the Fund's hedges to lose value. There can be no assurance that the Fund's hedging transactions will be effective.

Risks of Investing in Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies (excluding money market funds), including open end and closed end funds and ETFs, subject to the limitations under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Fund's investments in money market funds are not subject to this limitation.

The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses. Shares of closed-end funds and ETFs may trade at prices that reflect a premium above or a discount below the investment company's net asset value, which may be substantial in the case of closed-end funds. If investment company securities are purchased at a premium to net asset value, the premium may not exist when those securities are sold and the Fund could incur a loss.

Risks of Investing in Latin American Issuers. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in securities of Latin American issuers. Investments in securities of Latin American issuers involve special considerations not typically associated with investments in securities of issuers located in the United States. The economies of certain Latin American countries have, at times, experienced high interest rates, economic volatility, inflation, currency devaluations and high unemployment rates. In addition, commodities (such as oil, gas and minerals) represent a significant percentage of the region's exports and many economies in this region are particularly sensitive to fluctuations in

commodity prices. Adverse economic events in one country may have a significant adverse effect on other countries of this region. Most Latin American countries have experienced, at one time or another, severe and persistent levels of inflation, including, in some cases, hyperinflation. This has, in turn, led to high interest rates, extreme measures by governments to keep inflation in check, and a generally debilitating effect on economic growth. Although inflation in many Latin American countries has lessened, there is no guarantee it will remain at lower levels. The political history of certain Latin American countries has been characterized by political uncertainty, intervention by the military in civilian and economic spheres, and political corruption. Such events could reverse favorable trends toward market and economic reform, privatization, and removal of trade barriers, and could result in significant disruption in securities markets in the region. The economies of Latin American countries are generally considered emerging markets and can be significantly affected by currency devaluations. Certain Latin American countries may also have managed currencies which are maintained at artificial levels relative to the U.S. dollar rather than at levels determined by the market. This type of system can lead to sudden and large adjustments in the currency which, in turn, can have a disruptive and negative effect on foreign investors. Certain Latin American countries also restrict the free conversion of their currency into foreign currencies, including the U.S. dollar. There is no significant foreign exchange market for many Latin American currencies and it would, as a result, be difficult for the Fund to engage in foreign currency transactions designed to protect the value of the Fund's interests in securities denominated in such currencies. Finally, a number of Latin American countries are among the largest debtors of developing countries. There have been moratoria on, and a rescheduling of, repayment with respect to these debts. Such events can restrict the flexibility of these debtor nations in the international markets and result in the imposition of onerous conditions on their economies.

Management Risk. Investment decisions made by the Adviser in seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund's shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market Risk. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. Security prices may decline over short or even extended periods not only because of company-specific developments but also due to an economic downturn, a change in interest or currency rates or a change in investor sentiment. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Non-Diversification Risk. A non-diversified fund may invest a larger portion of its assets in a single issuer than a "diversified" fund. A "diversified" fund is required by the 1940 Act, generally, with respect to the value of 75% of its total assets, to invest not more than 5% of such assets in the securities of a single issuer, and not to hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer.

A non-diversified fund's greater investment in a single issuer makes the fund more susceptible to financial, economic or market events impacting such issuer. A decline in the value of or default by a single security in the non-diversified fund's portfolio may have a greater negative effect than a similar decline or default by a single security in a diversified portfolio.

Operational Risk. An investment in the Fund involves "operational risk"—the risk arising from the Fund's operations. The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

Portfolio Turnover Risk. The Fund may engage in active and frequent trading of portfolio securities and thus may experience a high portfolio turnover rate. A high portfolio turnover rate may result in significant taxable capital gains as a result of the frequent trading of the Fund's portfolio securities and the Fund will incur transaction costs in connection with buying and selling the securities, which may lower the Fund's return.

Restricted Securities Risk. Regulation S and Rule 144A securities are restricted securities. Restricted securities are securities that are not registered under the Securities Act. They may be less liquid and more difficult to value than other investments because such securities may not be readily marketable. The Fund may not be able to sell a restricted security promptly or at a reasonable time or price. Although there may be a substantial institutional market for these securities, it is not possible to predict exactly how the market for such securities will develop or whether it will continue to exist. A restricted security that was liquid at the time of purchase may subsequently become illiquid and its value may decline as a result. Restricted securities that are deemed illiquid will count towards the Fund's limitation on illiquid securities. In addition, transaction costs may be higher for restricted securities than for more liquid securities. The Fund may have to bear the expense of registering restricted securities for resale and the risk of substantial delays in effecting the registration.

Sovereign Bonds Risk. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in bonds issued by governmental authorities. Investments in sovereign bonds involve special risks not present in corporate bonds. The governmental authority that controls the repayment of the bonds may be unable or unwilling to make interest payments

and/or repay the principal on its bonds or to otherwise honor its obligations. If an issuer of sovereign bonds defaults on payments of principal and/or interest, the Fund may have limited recourse against the issuer. During periods of economic uncertainty, the market prices of sovereign bonds, and the Fund's net asset value, may be more volatile than prices of corporate bonds, which may result in losses. In the past, certain governments of emerging market countries have declared themselves unable to meet their financial obligations on a timely basis, which has resulted in losses for holders of sovereign bonds.

3. ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

INVESTING DEFENSIVELY

The Fund may take temporary defensive positions that are inconsistent with the Fund's principal investment strategies in anticipation of or in an attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions. The Fund may not achieve its investment objective while it is investing defensively.

SECURITIES LENDING

The Fund may lend its securities as permitted under the 1940 Act, including by participating in securities lending programs managed by broker-dealers or other institutions. Securities lending allows the Fund to retain ownership of the securities loaned and, at the same time, earn additional income. The borrowings must be collateralized in full with cash, U.S. government securities or high-quality letters of credit.

The Fund could experience delays and costs in recovering the securities loaned or in gaining access to the securities lending collateral. If the Fund is not able to recover the securities loaned, the Fund may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. The value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased. Cash received as collateral and which is invested is subject to market appreciation and depreciation.

INVESTING IN CHINESE BONDS

The Fund may invest in Renminbi ("RMB")-denominated bonds issued in the People's Republic of China ("PRC") by Chinese credit, government and quasi-governmental issuers ("RMB Bonds"). RMB Bonds are available on the China interbank bond market ("CIBM") to eligible foreign investors through the CIBM Direct Access Program and through the "Mutual Bond Market Access between Mainland China and Hong Kong" ("Bond Connect") program. The Fund's investments in bonds through either program will be subject to a number of additional risks and restrictions that may affect the Fund's investments and returns.

The Bond Connect program and the CIBM Direct Access Program are relatively new. Laws, rules, regulations, policies, notices, circulars or guidelines relating to the programs as published or applied by the relevant authorities of the PRC are untested and are subject to change from time to time. There can be no assurance that the Bond Connect program and/or the CIBM Direct Access Program will not be restricted, suspended or abolished.

Under the prevailing PRC regulations, eligible foreign investors who wish to participate in the Bond Connect program may do so through an offshore custody agent, registration agent or other third parties (as the case may be), who would be responsible for making the relevant filings and account opening with the relevant authorities. The Fund is therefore subject to the risk of default or errors on the part of such agents.

Under the prevailing PRC regulations, eligible foreign institutional investors who wish to invest directly in CIBM through the CIBM Direct Access Program may do so through an onshore settlement agent, who would be responsible for making the relevant filings and account opening with the relevant authorities. The Fund is therefore subject to the risk of default or errors on the part of such agent.

Trading through the Bond Connect program is performed through newly developed trading platforms and operational systems. There is no assurance that such systems will function properly (in particular, under extreme market conditions) or will continue to be adapted to changes and developments in the market. In addition, where the Fund invests in the CIBM through the Bond Connect program, it may be subject to risks of delays inherent in the order placing and/or settlement.

Investing in RMB Bonds involves additional risks, including, but not limited to, the fact that the economy of China differs, often unfavorably, from the U.S. economy, as it relates to, among other things, currency revaluation, structure, general development, government involvement, wealth distribution, rate of inflation, growth rate, allocation of resources and capital reinvestment.

The RMB is currently not a freely convertible currency. The Chinese government places strict regulation on the RMB and sets the value of the RMB to levels dependent on the value of the U.S. dollar. The Chinese government's imposition of restrictions on the repatriation of RMB out of mainland China may limit the depth of the offshore RMB market and reduce the liquidity of the Fund's investments.

4. OTHER INFORMATION AND POLICIES

BENEFICIARIES OF CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

VanEck VIP Trust (the "Trust") enters into contractual arrangements with various parties, including, among others, the Fund's investment adviser, administrator and distributor, who provide services to the Fund. Shareholders of the Fund are not parties to, or intended (or "third-party") beneficiaries of, any of those contractual arrangements, and those contractual arrangements are not intended to create in any individual shareholder or group of shareholders any right to enforce such contractual arrangements against the service providers or to seek any remedy under such contractual arrangements against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the Trust.

This prospectus provides information concerning the Trust and the Fund that you should consider in determining whether to purchase shares of the Fund. None of this prospectus, the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") or any document filed as an exhibit to the Trust's registration statement, is intended to, nor does it, give rise to an agreement or contract between the Trust or the Fund and any investor, or give rise to any contract or other rights in any individual shareholder, group of shareholders or other person other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

CHANGING THE FUND'S 80% POLICY

The Fund's policy of investing "at least 80% of its net assets" (which includes net assets plus any borrowings for investment purposes) may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") without a shareholder vote, as long as shareholders are given 60 days' notice of the change.

CYBER SECURITY

The Fund and its service providers are susceptible to cyber security risks that include, among other things, theft, unauthorized monitoring, release, misuse, loss, destruction or corruption of confidential and highly restricted data; denial of service attacks; unauthorized access to relevant systems; compromises to networks or devices that the Fund and its service providers use to service the Fund's operations; and operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. Cyber attacks against or security breakdowns of the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders, potentially resulting in, among other things, financial losses; the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions; the inability to calculate the Fund's net asset value; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund may incur additional costs for cyber security risk management and remediation purposes. In addition, cyber security risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which may cause the Fund's investments in such issuers to lose value. There can be no assurance that the Fund or its service providers will not suffer losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches in the future.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Generally, it is the Fund's and Adviser's policy that no current or potential investor, including any Fund shareholder, shall be provided information about the Fund's portfolio on a preferential basis in advance of the provision of that information to other investors. A complete description of the Fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities is available in the Fund's SAI.

Portfolio holdings information for the Fund is available to all investors on the VanEck website at vaneck.com. Information regarding the Fund's top holdings and country and sector weightings, updated as of each month-end, is also located on this website. Generally, this information is posted to the website within 10 business days of the end of the applicable month. This information generally remains available on the website until new information is posted. The Fund reserves the right to exclude any portion of these portfolio holdings from publication when deemed in the best interest of the Fund, and to discontinue the posting of portfolio holdings information at any time, without prior notice.

PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS

The percentage limitations relating to the composition of the Fund's portfolio apply at the time the Fund acquires an investment. A subsequent increase or decrease in percentage resulting from a change in the value of portfolio securities or the total or net assets of the Fund will not be considered a violation of the restriction.

1. MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Van Eck Associates Corporation (the “Adviser”), 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, is the Adviser to the Fund. The Adviser has been an investment adviser since 1955 and also acts as adviser or sub-adviser to other mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, other pooled investment vehicles and separate accounts.

Jan F. van Eck and members of his family own 100% of the voting stock of the Adviser. As of December 31, 2018, the Adviser’s assets under management were approximately \$44.3 billion.

THE ADVISER, THE FUND, AND INSURANCE COMPANY SEPARATE ACCOUNTS

The Fund sells shares to various insurance company variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts as a funding vehicle for those accounts. The Fund does not foresee any disadvantages to shareholders from offering the Fund to various insurance companies. However, the Board will monitor any potential conflicts of interest. If conflicts arise, the Board may require an insurance company to withdraw its investments in one Fund, and place them in another. This might force the Fund to sell securities at a disadvantageous price. The Board may refuse to sell shares of the Fund to any separate account. It may also suspend or terminate the offering of shares of the Fund if required to do so by law or regulatory authority, or if such an action is in the best interests of Fund shareholders. The Adviser and its affiliates act as investment manager of several hedge funds and other investment companies and/or accounts (the “Other Clients”), which trade in the same securities as the Fund. These Other Clients may have investment objectives and/or investment strategies similar to or completely opposite of those of the Fund. From time to time such Other Clients may enter contemporaneous trades with those of the Fund, which implement strategies that are similar to or directly opposite those of the Fund. The Adviser will maintain procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Fund is not unduly disadvantaged by such trades, yet still permit the Other Clients to pursue their own investment objectives and strategies.

FEES PAID TO THE ADVISER

The Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at the annual rate of 1.00% of the first \$500 million of the Fund’s average daily net assets, 0.90% on the next \$250 million of the Fund’s average daily net assets and 0.70% of the Fund’s average daily net assets in excess of \$750 million. This includes the fee paid to the Adviser for accounting and administrative services. The Adviser has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, trading expenses, dividends and interest payments on securities sold short, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.10% for Initial Class shares of the Fund’s average daily net assets per year until May 1, 2020. During such time, the expense limitation is expected to continue until the Board acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation.

For the Fund’s most recent fiscal year, the advisory fee paid to the Adviser was as follows:

| VanEck VIP Trust | As a % of average daily net assets |
|---|------------------------------------|
| VanEck VIP Unconstrained Emerging Markets Bond Fund | 1.00% |

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board’s approval of the investment advisory agreement of the Fund is available in the Fund’s semi-annual report to shareholders for the period ended June 30, 2018.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

VANECK VIP UNCONSTRAINED EMERGING MARKETS BOND FUND

Eric Fine, Portfolio Manager of the Fund, is primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the Fund.

Eric Fine. Mr. Fine is Portfolio Manager of the Fund. He has been with the Adviser since 2009. Prior to joining the Adviser, Mr. Fine conducted business in emerging markets for over 20 years, including 14 years at Morgan Stanley where he ran the Global Emerging Markets Research Group and founded and managed the Emerging Markets Proprietary Trading Group. Mr. Fine also started and led Morgan Stanley’s Europe/Middle East/Africa Strategy and Economics Research Group and helped start the firm’s emerging markets business in London.

David Austerweil. Mr. Austerweil is Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund. He has been with the Adviser since 2012 and has over 10 years’ experience in the financial markets. Prior to joining the Adviser, Mr. Austerweil served as vice president at ING Financial Services working on the emerging market credit trading and structuring desk.

The SAI provides additional information about the above Portfolio Managers, their compensation, other accounts they manage, and their securities ownership in the Fund.

THE TRUST

For more information on the VanEck VIP Trust (the "Trust"), the Trustees and the Officers of the Trust, see "General Information," "Description of the Trust" and "Trustees and Officers" in the SAI.

THE DISTRIBUTOR

Van Eck Securities Corporation, 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (the "Distributor"), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Adviser, has entered into a Distribution Agreement with the Trust for distributing shares of the Fund.

The Distributor generally sells and markets shares of the Fund through intermediaries, including insurance companies or their affiliates. The intermediaries may be compensated by the Fund for providing various services.

In addition, the Distributor or the Adviser may pay certain intermediaries, out of its own resources and not as an expense of the Fund, additional cash or non-cash compensation as an incentive to intermediaries to promote and sell shares of the Fund and other mutual funds distributed by the Distributor. These payments are commonly known as "revenue sharing". The benefits that the Distributor or the Adviser may receive when each of them makes these payments include, among other things, placing the Fund on the intermediary's sales system and/or preferred or recommended fund list, offering the Fund through the intermediary's advisory or other specialized programs, and/or access (in some cases on a preferential basis over other competitors) to individual members of the intermediary's sales force. Such payments may also be used to compensate intermediaries for a variety of administrative and shareholders services relating to investments by their customers in the Fund.

The fees paid by the Distributor or the Adviser to intermediaries may be calculated based on the gross sales price of shares sold by an intermediary, the net asset value of shares held by the customers of the intermediary, or otherwise. These fees may, but are not normally expected to, exceed in the aggregate 0.50% of the average net assets of the Fund attributable to a particular intermediary on an annual basis.

The Distributor or the Adviser may also provide intermediaries with additional cash and non-cash compensation, which may include financial assistance to intermediaries in connection with conferences, sales or training programs for their employees, seminars for the public and advertising campaigns, technical and systems support, attendance at sales meetings and reimbursement of ticket charges. In some instances, these incentives may be made available only to intermediaries whose representatives have sold or may sell a significant number of shares.

Intermediaries may receive different payments, based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, reputation in the industry, sales and asset retention rates, target markets, and customer relationships and quality of service. No one factor is determinative of the type or amount of additional compensation to be provided. Financial intermediaries that sell Fund's shares may also act as a broker or dealer in connection with execution of transactions for the Fund's portfolio. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted procedures to ensure that the sales of the Fund's shares by an intermediary will not affect the selection of brokers for execution of portfolio transactions.

Not all intermediaries are paid the same to sell mutual funds. Differences in compensation to intermediaries may create a financial interest for an intermediary to sell shares of a particular mutual fund, or the mutual funds of a particular family of mutual funds. Before purchasing shares of the Fund, you should ask your intermediary or its representative about the compensation in connection with the purchase of such shares, including any revenue sharing payments it receives from the Distributor.

THE CUSTODIAN

State Street Bank & Trust Company
One Lincoln Street
Boston, MA 02111

THE TRANSFER AGENT

DST Systems, Inc.
210 West 10th Street, 8th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Ernst & Young LLP
Five Times Square
New York, NY 10036

COUNSEL

Stradley Ronon Stevens and Young, LLP
2005 Market Street, Suite 2600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

2. TAXES

The Fund intends to qualify as a “regulated investment company” under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”). As such, the Fund generally will not be subject to federal income tax to the extent that it distributes its net income and net capital gains. However, the applicable tax rules for qualification as a regulated investment company are extremely complex and it is possible the Fund might not so qualify. To the extent the Fund does not so qualify, it will be subject to tax at the applicable corporate income tax rate for the taxable year in question. Additionally, even if the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company, it may be subject to corporate tax on certain income.

The Code requires funds used by insurance company variable annuity and life insurance contracts to comply with special diversification requirements for such contracts to qualify for tax deferral privileges. The Fund intends to invest so as to comply with these Code requirements.

For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to holders of the underlying variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, see the accompanying prospectus for the applicable contract.

3. HOW THE FUND SHARES ARE PRICED

The Fund buys or sells its shares at its net asset value, or NAV, per share next determined after receipt of a purchase or redemption plus any applicable sales charge. The Fund calculates its NAV per share class every day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open, as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, which is normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

You may enter a buy or sell order when the NYSE is closed for weekends or holidays. If that happens, your price will be the NAV calculated as of the close of the next regular trading session of the NYSE.

The Fund may invest in certain securities which are listed on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or other days when the Fund does not price its shares. As a result, the NAV of the Fund’s shares may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem shares.

The Fund’s investments are generally valued based on market quotations which may be based on quotes obtained from a quotation reporting system, established market makers, broker dealers or by an independent pricing service. Short-term debt investments having a maturity of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates the fair value of the security. Assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources. When market quotations are not readily available for a portfolio security or other asset, or, in the opinion of the Adviser, are deemed unreliable, the Fund will use the security’s or asset’s “fair value” as determined in good faith in accordance with the Fund’s Fair Value Pricing Policies and Procedures, which have been approved by the Board. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security or other asset is the amount which the Fund might reasonably expect to receive for the security or asset upon its current sale. The Fund’s Pricing Committee, whose members are selected by the senior management of the Adviser and reported to the Board, is responsible for recommending fair value procedures to the Board and for administering the process used to arrive at fair value prices.

Factors that may cause the Fund’s Pricing Committee to fair value a security include, but are not limited to: (1) market quotations are not readily available because a portfolio security is not traded in a public market, trading in the security has been suspended, or the principal market in which the security trades is closed, (2) trading in a portfolio security is limited or suspended and not resumed prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV, (3) the market for the relevant security is thin, or the price for the security is “stale” because its price has not changed for 5 consecutive business days, (4) the Adviser determines that a market quotation is not reliable, for example, because price movements are highly volatile and cannot be verified by a reliable alternative pricing source, or (5) a significant event affecting the value of a portfolio security is determined to have occurred between the time of the market quotation provided for a portfolio security and the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV.

In determining the fair value of securities, the Pricing Committee will consider, among other factors, the fundamental analytical data relating to the security, the nature and duration of any restrictions on the disposition of the security, and the forces influencing the market in which the security is traded.

Foreign equity securities in which the Fund invests may be traded in markets that close before the time that the Fund calculates its NAV. Foreign equity securities are normally priced based upon the market quotation of such securities as of the close of their respective principal markets, as adjusted to reflect the Adviser’s determination of the impact of events,

such as a significant movement in the U.S. markets occurring subsequent to the close of such markets but prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV. In such cases, the Pricing Committee may apply a fair valuation formula to those foreign equity securities based on the Committee's determination of the effect of the U.S. significant event with respect to each local market.

Certain of the Fund's portfolio securities are valued by an independent pricing service approved by the Board. The independent pricing service may utilize an automated system incorporating a model based on multiple parameters, including a security's local closing price (in the case of foreign securities), relevant general and sector indices, currency fluctuations, and trading in depositary receipts and futures, if applicable, and/or research evaluations by its staff, in determining what it believes is the fair valuation of the portfolio securities valued by such independent pricing service.

There can be no assurance that the Fund could purchase or sell a portfolio security or other asset at the price used to calculate the Fund's NAV. Because of the inherent uncertainty in fair valuations, and the various factors considered in determining value pursuant to the Fund's fair value procedures, there can be material differences between a fair value price at which a portfolio security or other asset is being carried and the price at which it is purchased or sold.

Furthermore, changes in the fair valuation of portfolio securities or other assets may be less frequent, and of greater magnitude, than changes in the price of portfolio securities or other assets valued by an independent pricing service, or based on market quotations.

4. SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

FREQUENT TRADING POLICY

The Board has adopted policies and procedures reasonably designed to deter frequent trading in shares of the Fund, commonly referred to as "market timing," because such activities may be disruptive to the management of the Fund's portfolio and may increase Fund expenses and negatively impact the Fund's performance. As such, the Fund may reject a purchase or exchange transaction or restrict an insurance company's contract holder from investing in the Fund for any reason if the Adviser, in its sole discretion, believes that such contract holder is engaging in market timing activities that may be harmful to the Fund. The Fund discourages and does not accommodate frequent trading of shares by contract holders.

The Fund invests portions of its assets in securities of foreign issuers, and consequently may be subject to an increased risk of frequent trading activities because frequent traders may attempt to take advantage of time zone differences between the foreign markets in which the Fund's portfolio securities trade and the time as of which the Fund's net asset value is calculated ("time-zone arbitrage"). The Fund's investments in other types of securities may also be susceptible to frequent 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. The Fund has adopted fair valuation policies and procedures intended to reduce the Fund's exposure to potential price arbitrage. However, there is no guarantee that the Fund's net asset value will immediately reflect changes in market conditions.

Shares of the Fund are sold exclusively through institutional omnibus account arrangements registered to insurance companies and used by them as investment options for variable contracts issued by insurance companies. Such omnibus accounts allow for the aggregation of holdings of multiple contract holders and do not identify the underlying contract holders or their activity on an individual basis. Certain insurance companies have adopted policies and procedures to deter frequent short-term trading by their contract holders. The Fund may rely on an insurance company's policies and procedures, in addition to the Fund's techniques, to monitor for and detect abusive trading practices. The Fund reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to allow insurance companies to apply their own policies and procedures which may be more or less restrictive than those of the Fund. Contract holders are advised to contact their insurance company for further information as it relates to their specific contracts.

In addition to the foregoing, the Fund requires all insurance companies to agree to cooperate in identifying and restricting market timers in accordance with the Fund's policies and will periodically request contract holder trading activity based on certain criteria established by the Fund. The Fund may make inquiries regarding contract holder purchases, redemptions, and exchanges that meet certain criteria established by the Fund. There is no assurance that the Fund will request such information with sufficient frequency to detect or deter excessive trading or that review of such information will be sufficient to detect or deter excessive trading effectively. Furthermore, an insurance company may be limited by the terms of an underlying insurance contract regarding frequent trading 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 deter market timing activity in the Fund.

If the Fund identifies market timing activity, the insurance company will be contacted and asked to take steps to prevent further market timing activity (e.g., sending warning letters, placing trade restrictions on the contract holder's account in

question, or closing the account). If the insurance company refuses or is unable to take such remedial action, a determination will be made whether additional steps should be taken, including, if appropriate, terminating the relationship with such insurance company.

Although the Fund will use reasonable efforts to prevent market timing activities in the Fund's shares, there can be no assurances that these efforts will be successful. As some insurance companies' contract holders may use various strategies to disguise their trading practices, the Fund's ability to detect frequent trading activities by insurance companies' contract holders may be limited by the ability and/or willingness of the insurance companies to monitor for these activities. For further information about the Fund, please call or write your insurance company, or call 800-826-2333, or write to the Fund at the address on the back cover page.

IV. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table that follows is intended to help you understand the Fund's Initial Class shares financial performance 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). The information has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements are included in the Fund's annual report, which is available upon request. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For a share outstanding throughout each year:

| | Initial Class Shares | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net asset value, beginning of year | \$ 8.90 | \$ 8.12 | \$ 7.63 | \$ 9.33 | \$ 10.60 |
| Income from investment operations: | | | | | |
| Net investment income | 0.47(b) | 0.60(b) | 0.36 | 0.56 | 0.67 |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments.... | (0.97) | 0.37 | 0.13 | (1.70) | (0.49) |
| Total from investment operations | (0.50) | 0.97 | 0.49 | (1.14) | 0.18 |
| Less dividends and distributions from: | | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.64) | (0.19) | — | (0.56) | (0.56) |
| Net realized capital gains | — | — | — | — | (0.89) |
| Total dividends and distributions..... | (0.64) | (0.19) | — | (0.56) | (1.45) |
| Net asset value, end of year | \$ 7.76 | \$ 8.90 | \$ 8.12 | \$ 7.63 | \$ 9.33 |
| Total return (a) | (6.14)% | 12.24% | 6.42% | (13.09)% | 2.18% |
| Ratios/Supplemental Data | | | | | |
| Net assets, end of year (000's) | \$21,606 | \$27,046 | \$26,977 | \$29,483 | \$37,026 |
| Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets | 1.67% | 1.57% | 1.34% | 1.34% | 1.20% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets..... | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.10% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets excluding interest expense | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.10% | 1.10% |
| Ratio of net investment income to average net assets..... | 5.80% | 7.04% | 4.06% | 6.38% | 6.34% |
| Portfolio turnover rate..... | 286% | 586% | 595% | 572% | 441% |

(a) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of year, reinvestment of any dividends and distributions at net asset value on the dividend/distribution payment date and a redemption at the net asset value on the last day of the year. The return does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund dividends/distributions or the redemption of Fund shares. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.

(b) Calculated based upon average shares outstanding

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For more detailed information, see the Statement of Additional Information (SAI), which is legally a part of and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The SAI includes information regarding, among other things: the Fund and its investment policies and risks, management of the Fund, investment advisory and other services, the Fund's Board of Trustees, and tax matters related to the Fund.

Additional information about the investments is available in the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Fund's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance during its last fiscal year.

- Call VanEck at 800.826.2333, or visit the VanEck website at vaneck.com to request, free of charge, the annual or semi-annual reports, the SAI, or other information about the Fund.
- Reports and other information about the Fund are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of this information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

Shares of the Fund are offered only to separate accounts of various insurance companies to fund the benefits of variable life policies and variable annuity policies. This prospectus sets forth concise information about the VanEck VIP Trust and Fund that you should know before investing. It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus for the Contract which accompanies this prospectus and should be retained for future reference. The Contract involves certain expenses not described in this prospectus and also may involve certain restrictions or limitations on the allocation of purchase payments or Contract values to the Fund. In particular, the Fund may not be available in connection with a particular Contract or in a particular state. See the applicable Contract prospectus for information regarding expenses of the Contract and any applicable restrictions or limitations with respect to the Fund.

VanEck®

VanEck VIP Trust
666 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

vaneck.com

REGISTRATION NUMBER 811-05083

VIPUEMBRO



PROSPECTUS
MAY 1, 2019

VanEck VIP Trust

VanEck VIP Global Gold Fund
(Class S Shares)

These securities have not been approved or disapproved either by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) or by any State Securities Commission. Neither the SEC nor any State Commission has passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus.

Any claim to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Global Gold Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing in common stocks of gold-mining companies. The Fund may take current income into consideration when choosing investments.

FUND FEES AND EXPENSES

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The table does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the table.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

| | Class S |
|---|----------------|
| Management Fees | 0.75% |
| Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees | 0.25% |
| Other Expenses | 1.18% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses | 2.18% |
| Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements ¹ | -0.73% |
| Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waivers and/or Expense Reimbursements | 1.45% |

¹ Van Eck Associates Corporation (the "Adviser") has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, trading expenses, dividends and interest payments on securities sold short, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.45% for Class S shares of the Fund's average daily net assets per year until May 1, 2020. During such time, the expense limitation is expected to continue until the Board of Trustees acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation.

Expense Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy. Because these fees and expenses are not included, the fees and expenses that you will incur will be higher than the fees and expenses set forth in the example.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then either redeem all of your shares at the end of these periods or continue to hold them. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same, and applies fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements, if any, for the periods indicated above under "Annual Fund Operating Expenses". Although your actual expenses may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

| | Share Status | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|---------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Class S | Sold or Held | \$148 | \$612 | \$1,103 | \$2,456 |

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate that the Fund pays higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in 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 45% of the average value of its portfolio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Under normal conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in securities of companies principally engaged in gold-related activities, instruments that derive their value from gold, gold coins, and bullion. A company principally engaged in gold-related activities is one that derives at least 50% of its revenues from gold-related activities, including the exploration, mining or processing of or dealing in gold. The Fund concentrates its investments in the gold-mining industry and therefore invests 25% or more of its total assets in such industry. The Fund is considered to be "non-diversified" which means that it may invest a larger portion of its assets in a single issuer.

The Fund invests in securities of companies with economic ties to countries throughout the world, including the U.S. Under ordinary circumstances, the Fund will invest in securities of issuers from a number of different countries, which may include emerging market countries. The Fund may invest in non-U.S. dollar denominated securities, which are subject to fluctuations in currency exchange rates, and securities of companies of any capitalization range. The Fund primarily invests in companies that the portfolio manager believes represent value opportunities and/or that have growth potential within their market niche, through their ability to increase production capacity at reasonable cost or make gold discoveries around the world. The portfolio manager utilizes both a macro-economic examination of gold market themes and a fundamental analysis of prospective companies in the search for value and growth opportunities.

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its net assets, as of the date of the investment, in gold and silver coins, gold, silver, platinum and palladium bullion and exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") that invest primarily in such coins and bullion and derivatives on the foregoing. The Fund's investments in coins and bullion will not earn income, and the sole source of return to the Fund from these investments will be from gains or losses realized on the sale of such investments.

The Fund may gain exposure to gold bullion and other metals by investing up to 25% of the Fund's total assets in a wholly owned subsidiary of the Fund (the "Subsidiary"). The Subsidiary primarily invests in gold bullion, gold futures and other instruments that provide direct or indirect exposure to gold, including ETFs, and also may invest in silver, platinum and palladium bullion and futures. The Subsidiary (unlike the Fund) may invest without limitation in these investments. The Fund will "look-through" the Subsidiary to the Subsidiary's underlying investments for determining compliance with the Fund's investment policies. For tax reasons, it may be advantageous for the Fund to create and maintain its exposure to the commodity markets, in whole or in part, by investing in the Subsidiary. The portfolio of the Subsidiary is managed by the Adviser for the exclusive benefit of the Fund.

The Fund may use derivative instruments, such as structured notes, futures, options, warrants, currency forwards and swap agreements, to gain or hedge exposure. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies, including ETFs. The Fund may also invest in money market funds, but these investments are not subject to this limitation. The Fund may invest in ETFs to participate in, or gain exposure to, certain market sectors, or when direct investments in certain countries are not permitted or available.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective. The Fund's share price and return will fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's portfolio securities. Accordingly, an investment in the Fund involves the risk of losing money.

Canadian Issuers. The Canadian economy is very dependent on the demand for, and supply and price of, natural resources. The Canadian market is relatively concentrated in issuers involved in the production and distribution of natural resources. There is a risk that any changes in natural resources sectors could have an adverse impact on the Canadian economy. The Canadian economy is dependent on and may be significantly affected by the U.S. economy, given that the United States is Canada's largest trading partner and foreign investor. Reduction in spending on Canadian products and services or changes in the U.S. economy may adversely impact the Canadian economy.

Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives. Exposure to the commodities markets, such as precious metals, industrial metals, gas and other energy products and natural resources, may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors including changes in overall market movements, political and economic events and policies, war, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and changes in interest rates or inflation rates. Because the value of a commodity-linked derivative instrument and structured note typically are based upon the price movements of physical commodities, the value of these securities will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodities or related index of investment.

Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives Tax Risk. The tax treatment of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be adversely affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority. If, as a result of any such adverse action, the income of the Fund from certain commodity-linked derivatives were treated as non-qualifying income, the Fund may fail to qualify as a regulated investment company and/or be subject to federal income tax at the Fund level. The uncertainty surrounding the treatment of certain derivative instruments under the qualification tests for a regulated investment company may limit the Fund's use of such derivative instruments.

Concentration in Gold-Mining Industry. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of industries. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the gold industry. Fluctuations in the price of gold often dramatically affect the profitability of companies in the gold industry.

Derivatives. The use of derivatives, such as swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying currency, security, asset, index or reference rate. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. Also, a liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund's derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over-the-counter instruments may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to counterparty risk.

Direct Investments. Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

Emerging Market Securities. Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under "Foreign Securities" and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade.

Foreign Currency Transactions. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself.

Foreign Securities. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, or political, economic or social instability. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies.

Investments in Other Investment Companies. The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses.

Management. Investment decisions made by the Adviser in seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund's shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Non-Diversification. A non-diversified fund's greater investment in a single issuer makes the fund more susceptible to financial, economic or market events impacting such issuer. A decline in the value of or default by a single security in the non-diversified fund's portfolio may have a greater negative effect than a similar decline or default by a single security in a diversified portfolio.

Operational. The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

Regulatory. Changes in the laws or regulations of the United States or the Cayman Islands, including any changes to applicable tax laws and regulations, could impair the ability of the Fund to achieve its investment objective and could increase the operating expenses of the Fund or the Subsidiary. For example, in 2012, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") adopted amendments to its rules that affect the ability of certain investment advisers to registered investment companies and other entities to rely on previously available exclusions or exemptions from registration under the Commodity Exchange Act of 1936, as amended ("CEA") and regulations thereunder. In addition, the CFTC or the SEC could at any time alter the regulatory requirements governing the use of commodity futures, options on commodity futures, structured notes or swap transactions by investment companies, which could result in the inability of the Fund to achieve its investment objective through its current strategies.

Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger, more established companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

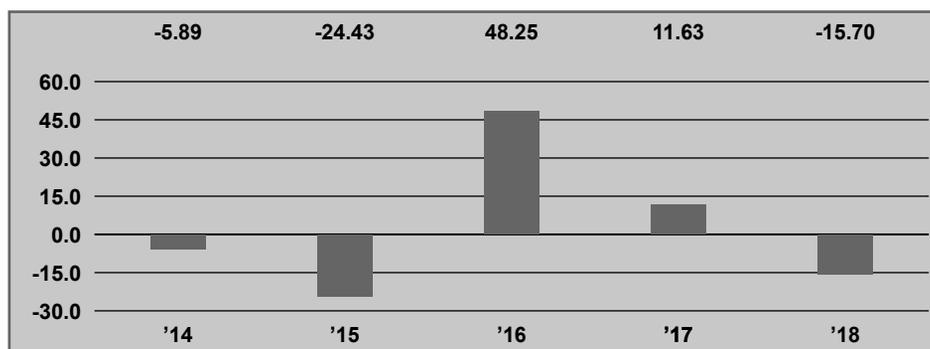
Subsidiary. By investing in the Subsidiary, the Fund is indirectly exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary's investments. The Subsidiary is not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), and, unless otherwise noted in this prospectus, is not subject to all the investor protections of the 1940 Act.

PERFORMANCE

The following chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year to year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns compare with those of a broad measure of market performance and one or more other performance measures. For instance, the NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index is a modified market capitalization-weighted index comprised of publicly traded companies primarily involved in the mining of gold and silver in locations around the world. The MSCI AC World Daily TR Gross USD Index represents large- and mid-cap companies across 23 developed and 24 emerging market countries. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

Fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or variable life insurance policy are not reflected; if these amounts were reflected, returns would be lower than those shown. Additionally, large purchases and/or redemptions of shares of a class, relative to the amount of assets represented by the class, may cause the annual returns for each class to differ. Updated performance information for the Fund is available on the VanEck website at vaneck.com.

CLASS S: Annual Total Returns (%) as of 12/31



Best Quarter: +42.57 2Q '16
Worst Quarter: -22.72 4Q '16

| Average Annual Total Returns as of 12/31/18 | 1 Year | 5 Years | Life of Class |
|---|---------|---------|---------------|
| Class S Shares (4/26/13) | -15.70% | -0.16% | -4.60% |
| NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes, except withholding taxes) | -8.67% | 0.89% | -4.73% |
| MSCI AC World Daily TR Gross USD Index (reflects no deduction for expenses or taxes) | -8.93% | 4.82% | 6.66% |

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Investment Adviser. Van Eck Associates Corporation

Portfolio Managers.

Joseph M. Foster has been Portfolio Manager of the Fund since its inception in 2013. Imaru Casanova has been Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund since 2014 and a member of the investment team since 2011.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

The Fund is available for purchase only through variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies offered by the separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Shares of the Fund may not be purchased or sold directly by individual owners of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies. If you are a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy holder, please refer to the prospectus that describes your annuity contract or life insurance policy for information about minimum investment requirements and how to purchase and redeem shares of the Fund.

TAX INFORMATION

The Fund normally distributes its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, to its shareholders, the participating insurance companies investing in the Fund through separate accounts. These distributions may not be taxable

to you as a holder of a variable annuity contract or variable life insurance policy; please see “How the Fund is managed—Taxes” and consult the prospectus or other information provided to you by your participating insurance company regarding the federal income taxation of your contract or policy.

PAYMENTS TO BROKER-DEALERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

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

II. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE, STRATEGIES, POLICIES, RISKS AND OTHER INFORMATION

This section states the Fund's investment objective and describes certain strategies and policies that the Fund may utilize in pursuit of its investment objective. This section also provides additional information about the principal risks associated with investing in the Fund.

1. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The VanEck VIP Global Gold Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation by investing in common stocks of gold-mining companies. The Fund may take current income into consideration when choosing investments.

The Fund's investment objective is non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Trustees the ("Board") without shareholder approval. To the extent practicable, the Fund will provide shareholders with 60 days' prior written notice before changing its investment objective.

2. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RISKS

Commodities and Commodity-Linked Derivatives Risk. Commodities include precious metals (such as gold, silver, platinum and palladium in the form of bullion and coins), industrial metals, gas and other energy products and natural resources. The value of a commodity-linked derivative investment generally is based upon the price movements of a physical commodity (such as energy, mineral, or agricultural products), a commodity futures contract or commodity index, or other economic variable based upon changes in the value of commodities or the commodities markets. The Fund may seek exposure to the commodity markets through investments in leveraged or unleveraged commodity-linked or index-linked notes, which are derivative debt instruments with principal and/or coupon payments linked to the value of commodities, commodity futures contracts or the performance of commodity indices. These notes are sometimes referred to as "structured notes" because the terms of these notes may be structured by the issuer and the purchaser of the note.

Exposure to the commodities markets may subject the Fund to greater volatility than investments in traditional securities. The commodities markets may fluctuate widely based on a variety of factors including changes in overall market movements, political and economic events and policies, war, acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and changes in interest rates or inflation rates. Prices of various commodities may also be affected by factors such as drought, floods, weather, embargoes, tariffs and other regulatory developments. The prices of commodities can also fluctuate widely due to supply and demand disruptions in major producing or consuming regions. Certain commodities may be produced in a limited number of countries and may be controlled by a small number of producers. As a result, political, economic and supply related events in such countries could have a disproportionate impact on the prices of such commodities.

Commodity-Linked "Structured" Securities. Because the value of a commodity-linked derivative instrument typically is based upon the price movements of a physical commodity, the value of the commodity-linked derivative instrument may be affected by changes in overall market movements, commodity index volatility, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry. The value of these securities will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodity or related index of investment.

Structured Notes. Structured notes expose the Fund economically to movements in commodity prices. The performance of a structured note is determined by the price movement of the commodity underlying the note. A highly liquid secondary market may not exist for structured notes, and there can be no assurance that one will develop. These notes are often leveraged, increasing the volatility of each note's market value relative to changes in the underlying commodity, commodity futures contract or commodity index.

Tax Risk. The tax treatment of commodity linked derivative instruments may be adversely affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority. If, as a result of any such adverse action, the income of the Fund from certain commodity-linked derivatives was treated as non-qualifying income, the Fund might fail to qualify as a regulated investment company and/or be subject to federal income tax at the Fund level. As a regulated investment company, the Fund must derive at least 90% of its gross income for each taxable year from sources treated as qualifying income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), including income from any financial instrument or position that constitutes a security under section 2(a)(36) of the 1940 Act. In September 2016 the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") announced that it will no longer issue private letter rulings on questions relating to the treatment of a corporation as a regulated investment company that require a determination of whether a financial instrument or position is a security under section 2(a)(36) of the 1940 Act. The IRS also revoked rulings issued to some funds regarding the treatment of commodity-linked notes held directly by such funds. The uncertainty surrounding the treatment of certain derivative instruments under the qualification tests for a

regulated investment company may limit the Fund's use of such derivative instruments. The Fund also may incur transaction and other costs to comply with any new or additional guidance from the IRS.

Concentration in Gold-Mining Industry Risk. The Fund concentrates its investments in the securities of companies engaged in gold-related activities, including exploration, mining, processing, or dealing in gold. The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of industries. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation (including environmental regulation), impacting the gold-mining industry. Fluctuations in the price of gold often dramatically affect the profitability of companies in the gold-mining industry. Changes in the political or economic climate for a large gold producer, such as China or Australia, may have a direct impact on the price of gold worldwide. The value of securities of companies in the gold-mining industry are highly dependent on the price of gold at any given time.

Derivatives Risk. The term "derivatives" covers a broad range of financial instruments, including swap agreements, options, warrants, futures contracts, currency forwards and structured notes, whose values are derived, at least in part, from the value of one or more indicators, such as a security, asset, index or reference rate.

The use of derivatives presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying currency, security, commodity, asset, index or reference rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. Derivative strategies often involve leverage, which may exaggerate a loss, potentially causing the Fund to lose more money than it would have lost had it invested in the underlying security. The values of derivatives may move in unexpected ways, especially in unusual market conditions, and may result in increased volatility, among other consequences. The use of derivatives may also increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders, because changes in government regulation of derivatives could affect the character, timing and amount of the Fund's taxable income or gains. Additionally, the Fund's use of derivatives may be limited by the requirements for taxation of the Fund as a regulated investment company. Other risks arise from the Fund's potential inability to terminate or sell derivative positions. A liquid secondary market may not always exist for the Fund's derivative positions at times when the Fund might wish to terminate or sell such positions. Over-the-counter instruments (investments not traded on an exchange) may be illiquid, and transactions in derivatives traded in the over-the-counter market are subject to counterparty risk. The use of derivatives also involves the risk of mispricing or improper valuation and that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying security, asset, index or reference rate.

Direct Investments Risk. Direct investments are investments made directly with an enterprise through a shareholder or similar agreement not through publicly traded shares or interests. The Fund will not invest more than 10% of its total assets in direct investments. Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for these investments, the Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Although these securities may be resold in privately negotiated transactions, the prices on these sales could be less than those originally paid by the Fund. Issuers whose securities are not publicly traded may not be subject to public disclosure and other investor protection requirements applicable to publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.

Emerging Market Securities Risk. Emerging market securities typically present even greater exposure to the risks described under "Foreign Securities" and may be particularly sensitive to certain economic changes. Emerging market securities are exposed to a number of risks that may make these investments volatile in price or difficult to trade. Political risks may include unstable governments, nationalization, restrictions on foreign ownership, laws that prevent investors from getting their money out of a country and legal systems that do not protect property rights as well as the laws of the U.S. These restrictions and/or controls may at times limit or prevent foreign investment in securities of issuers located or operating in emerging market countries. Market risks may include economies that concentrate in only a few industries, securities issued that are held by only a few investors, limited trading capacity in local exchanges and the possibility that markets or issues may be manipulated by foreign nationals who have inside information. These factors, among others, make investing in issuers located or operating in emerging market countries significantly riskier than investing in issuers located or operating in more developed countries, and any one of them could cause a decline in the value of the Fund's shares.

Foreign Currency Transactions Risk. An investment transacted in a foreign currency may lose value due to fluctuations in the rate of exchange. These fluctuations can make the return on an investment go up or down, entirely apart from the quality or performance of the investment itself. The Fund may enter into foreign currency transactions either to facilitate settlement transactions or for purposes of hedging exposure to underlying currencies. To manage currency exposure, the Fund may enter into forward currency contracts to "lock in" the U.S. dollar price of the security. A forward currency

contract involves an agreement to purchase or sell a specified currency at a specified future price set at the time of the contract.

Foreign Securities Risk. Foreign investments are subject to greater risks than U.S. domestic investments. These additional risks may include exchange rate fluctuations and exchange controls; less publicly available information; more volatile or less liquid securities markets; and the possibility of arbitrary action by foreign governments, including the takeover of property without adequate compensation or imposition of prohibitive taxation, or political, economic or social instability. The Fund invests in securities of issuers located in countries whose economies are heavily dependent upon trading with key partners. Any reduction in this trading may have an adverse impact on the Fund's investments. Foreign companies also may be subject to significantly higher levels of taxation than U.S. companies, including potentially confiscatory levels of taxation, thereby reducing the earnings potential of such foreign companies. Foreign companies may become subject to sanctions imposed by the United States, another country or an international organization, which could result in the immediate freeze of the foreign companies' assets or securities. The imposition of such sanctions could impair the market value of the securities of such foreign companies and limit the Fund's ability to buy, sell, receive or deliver the securities. The Fund may invest indirectly in foreign securities through depository receipts, such as American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), which involve risks similar to those associated with direct investments in such securities.

Risks of Investing in Australian Issuers. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in securities of Australian issuers. Investment in Australian issuers may subject the Fund to regulatory, political, currency, security, and economic risk specific to Australia. The Australian economy is heavily dependent on exports from the agricultural and mining sectors. As a result, the Australian economy is susceptible to fluctuations in the commodity markets. The Australian economy is also becoming increasingly dependent on its growing services industry. The Australian economy is dependent on trading with key trading partners, including the United States, China, Japan, Singapore and certain European countries. Reduction in spending on Australian products and services, or changes in any of the economies, may cause an adverse impact on the Australian economy. Additionally, Australia is located in a part of the world that has historically been prone to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and droughts, and is economically sensitive to environmental events. Any such event may adversely impact the Australian economy, causing an adverse impact on the value of the Fund.

Risks of Investing in Canadian Issuers. As of December 31, 2018, the Fund invested a significant portion of its assets in securities of Canadian issuers. The Canadian economy is very dependent on the demand for, and supply and price of, natural resources. The Canadian market is relatively concentrated in issuers involved in the production and distribution of natural resources. There is a risk that any changes in natural resources sectors could have an adverse impact on the Canadian economy. The Canadian economy is dependent on and may be significantly affected by the U.S. economy, given that the United States is Canada's largest trading partner and foreign investor. Reduction in spending on Canadian products and services or changes in the U.S. economy may adversely impact the Canadian economy. Since the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA") in 1994, total two-way merchandise trade between the United States and Canada has more than doubled. To further this relationship, all three NAFTA countries entered into The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America in March 2005, which addressed economic and security related issues. However, political developments in the United States, including the renegotiation of NAFTA may have implications for the trade arrangements between the United States and Canada, which could negatively affect the value of the securities held by the Funds. These agreements may further increase Canada's dependency on the U.S. economy. Past periodic demands by the Province of Quebec for sovereignty have significantly affected equity valuations and foreign currency movements in the Canadian market and such demands may continue to have this effect in the future. In addition, certain sectors of Canada's economy may be subject to foreign ownership limitations. This may negatively impact the Fund's ability to invest in Canadian issuers.

Risks of Investing in Other Investment Companies. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies (excluding money market funds), including open end and closed end funds and ETFs, subject to the limitations under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). The Fund's investments in money market funds are not subject to this limitation.

The Fund's investment in another investment company may subject the Fund indirectly to the underlying risks of the investment company. The Fund also will bear its share of the underlying investment company's fees and expenses, which are in addition to the Fund's own fees and expenses. Shares of closed-end funds and ETFs may trade at prices that reflect a premium above or a discount below the investment company's net asset value, which may be substantial in the case of closed-end funds. If investment company securities are purchased at a premium to net asset value, the premium may not exist when those securities are sold and the Fund could incur a loss.

Management Risk. Investment decisions made by the Adviser in seeking to achieve the Fund's investment objective may not produce the returns expected by the Adviser, may cause a decline in the value of the securities held by the Fund and, in turn, cause the Fund's shares to lose value or underperform other funds with similar investment objectives.

Market Risk. Market risk refers to the risk that the market prices of securities that the Fund holds will rise or fall, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. Security prices may decline over short or even extended periods not only because of company-specific developments but also due to an economic downturn, a change in interest or currency rates or a change in investor sentiment. In general, equity securities tend to have greater price volatility than debt securities.

Non-Diversification Risk. A non-diversified fund may invest a larger portion of its assets in a single issuer than a "diversified" fund. A "diversified" fund is required by the 1940 Act, generally, with respect to 75% of the value of its total assets, to invest not more than 5% of such assets in the securities of a single issuer and not to hold more than 10% of the outstanding voting securities of a single issuer. A non-diversified fund's greater investment in a single issuer makes the fund more susceptible to financial, economic or market events impacting such issuer. A decline in the value of or default by a single security in the non-diversified fund's portfolio may have a greater negative effect than a similar decline or default by a single security in a diversified portfolio.

Operational Risk. An investment in the Fund involves "operational risk"—the risk arising from the Fund's operations. The Fund is exposed to operational risk arising from a number of factors, including but not limited to, human error, processing and communication errors, errors of the Fund's service providers, counterparties or other third-parties, failed or inadequate processes and technology or system failures.

Regulatory Risk. The Fund and the Subsidiary are subject to the laws and regulated by the governments of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands, respectively. Changes in the laws or regulations of the United States or the Cayman Islands, including any changes to applicable tax laws and regulations, could impair the ability of the Fund to achieve its investment objective and could increase the operating expenses of the Fund or the Subsidiary. For example, in 2012, the U.S. Commodities Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") adopted amendments to its rules that affect the ability of certain investment advisers to registered investment companies and other entities to rely on previously available exclusions or exemptions from registration under the Commodities Exchange Act of 1936, as amended ("CEA") and regulations thereunder. In addition, the CFTC or the SEC could at any time alter the regulatory requirements governing the use of commodity futures, options on commodity futures, structured notes or swap transactions by investment companies, which could result in the inability of the Fund to achieve its investment objective through its current strategies.

Investment in the Subsidiary is expected to provide the Fund with exposure to the commodities markets within the limitations of the federal income tax requirements of Subchapter M of the Code. Subchapter M requires, among other things, that at least 90% of the Fund's gross income be derived from securities or derived with respect to its business of investing in securities (typically referred to as "qualifying income"). Historically, in many cases a fund intending to utilize a subsidiary for commodities investments would apply to the IRS to obtain a private letter ruling that income from the fund's investment in a subsidiary would constitute qualifying income for purposes of Subchapter M. However, in March 2019, the IRS issued final regulations permitting regulated investment companies to treat income from investments such as the Fund's Subsidiary as qualifying income for purposes of Subchapter M even if the Subsidiary does not make a distribution of that income such that funds no longer need to rely upon private letter rulings. Accordingly, the Fund expects to invest its assets in the Subsidiary, consistent with applicable law and the advice of counsel, in a manner that should permit the Fund to treat income allocable from the Subsidiary as qualifying income. Should the IRS take action that adversely affects the tax treatment of the Fund's use of the Subsidiary, it could limit the Fund's ability to pursue its investment objective as described. The Fund also may incur transaction and other costs to comply with any new or additional guidance from the IRS.

Small- and Medium-Capitalization Companies Risk. Securities of small- and medium-sized companies are often subject to less analyst coverage and may be in early and less predictable periods of their corporate existences. In addition, these companies often have greater price volatility, lower trading volume and less liquidity than larger more established companies. These companies tend to have smaller revenues, narrower product lines, less management depth and experience, smaller shares of their product or service markets, fewer financial resources and less competitive strength than larger companies. The stocks of small- and medium-sized companies may have returns that vary, sometimes significantly, from the overall stock market.

Subsidiary Risk. By investing in the Subsidiary, the Fund is indirectly exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary's investments. The derivatives and other investments held by the Subsidiary, including ETFs that invest in gold bullion, are generally similar to those that are permitted to be held by the Fund and are subject to the same risks that apply to similar investments if held directly by the Fund. These risks are described elsewhere in this prospectus.

The Subsidiary is not registered under the 1940 Act, and, unless otherwise noted in this prospectus, is not subject to all the investor protections of the 1940 Act. In addition, changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands could result in the inability of the Fund and/or the Subsidiary to operate as described in this prospectus and the SAI and could eliminate or severely limit the Fund's ability to invest in the Subsidiary which may adversely affect the Fund and its shareholders.

3. ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

INVESTING DEFENSIVELY

The Fund may take temporary defensive positions that are inconsistent with the Fund's principal investment strategies in anticipation of or in an attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions. The Fund may not achieve its investment objective while it is investing defensively.

SECURITIES LENDING

The Fund may lend its securities as permitted under the 1940 Act, including by participating in securities lending programs managed by broker-dealers or other institutions. Securities lending allows the Fund to retain ownership of the securities loaned and, at the same time, earn additional income. The borrowings must be collateralized in full with cash, U.S. government securities or high-quality letters of credit.

The Fund could experience delays and costs in recovering the securities loaned or in gaining access to the securities lending collateral. If the Fund is not able to recover the securities loaned, the Fund may sell the collateral and purchase a replacement investment in the market. The value of the collateral could decrease below the value of the replacement investment by the time the replacement investment is purchased. Cash received as collateral and which is invested is subject to market appreciation and depreciation.

4. OTHER INFORMATION AND POLICIES

BENEFICIARIES OF CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS

VanEck VIP Trust (the "Trust") enters into contractual arrangements with various parties, including, among others, the Fund's investment adviser, administrator and distributor, who provide services to the Fund. Shareholders of the Fund are not parties to, or intended (or "third-party") beneficiaries of, any of those contractual arrangements, and those contractual arrangements are not intended to create in any individual shareholder or group of shareholders any right to enforce such contractual arrangements against the service providers or to seek any remedy under such contractual arrangements against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the Trust.

This prospectus provides information concerning the Trust and the Fund that you should consider in determining whether to purchase shares of the Fund. None of this prospectus, the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") or any document filed as an exhibit to the Trust's registration statement, is intended to, nor does it, give rise to an agreement or contract between the Trust or the Fund and any investor, or give rise to any contract or other rights in any individual shareholder, group of shareholders or other person other than any rights conferred explicitly by federal or state securities laws that may not be waived.

CHANGING THE FUND'S 80% POLICY

The Fund's policy of investing "at least 80% of its net assets" (which includes net assets plus any borrowings for investment purposes) may be changed by the Board without a shareholder vote, as long as shareholders are given 60 days notice of the change.

CYBER SECURITY

The Fund and its service providers are susceptible to cyber security risks that include, among other things, theft, unauthorized monitoring, release, misuse, loss, destruction or corruption of confidential and highly restricted data; denial of service attacks; unauthorized access to relevant systems; compromises to networks or devices that the Fund and its service providers use to service the Fund's operations; and operational disruption or failures in the physical infrastructure or operating systems that support the Fund and its service providers. Cyber attacks against or security breakdowns of the Fund or its service providers may adversely impact the Fund and its shareholders, potentially resulting in, among other things, financial losses; the inability of Fund shareholders to transact business and the Fund to process transactions; the inability to calculate the Fund's net asset value; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties,

reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs; and/or additional compliance costs. The Fund may incur additional costs for cyber security risk management and remediation purposes. In addition, cyber security risks may also impact issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which may cause the Fund's investments in such issuers to lose value. There can be no assurance that the Fund or its service providers will not suffer losses relating to cyber attacks or other information security breaches in the future.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS INFORMATION

Generally, it is the Fund's and Adviser's policy that no current or potential investor, including any Fund shareholder, shall be provided information about the Fund's portfolio on a preferential basis in advance of the provision of that information to other investors. A complete description of the Fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities is available in the Fund's SAI.

Portfolio holdings information for the Fund is available to all investors on the VanEck website at vaneck.com. Information regarding the Fund's top holdings and country and sector weightings, updated as of each month-end, is also located on this website. Generally, this information is posted to the website within 10 business days of the end of the applicable month. This information generally remains available on the website until new information is posted. The Fund reserves the right to exclude any portion of these portfolio holdings from publication when deemed in the best interest of the Fund, and to discontinue the posting of portfolio holdings information at any time, without prior notice.

PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS

The percentage limitations relating to the composition of the Fund's portfolio apply at the time the Fund acquires an investment. A subsequent increase or decrease in percentage resulting from a change in the value of portfolio securities or the total or net assets of the Fund will not be considered a violation of the restriction.

III. OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PAST PERFORMANCE OF A SIMILARLY MANAGED FUND

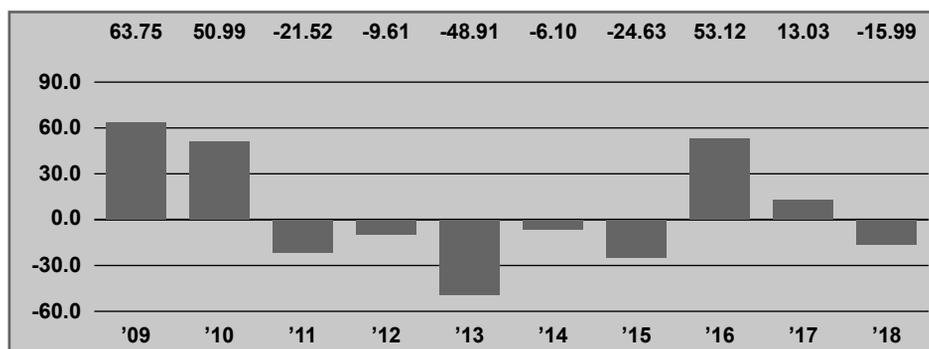
VanEck International Investors Gold Fund (the "IIG Fund"), a series of VanEck Funds, is a mutual fund with the same investment objective as the Fund that is managed by the Adviser using investment policies and strategies substantially similar to, and not materially different from, those of the Fund. Unlike the Fund, the IIG Fund is a retail mutual fund. Although the Fund is managed in a manner substantially similar to that of the IIG Fund, the performance of the Fund can be expected to differ from the performance of the IIG Fund because of, among other things, differences in their cash flows, fees and expenses (including sales loads and similar charges), portfolio sizes and positions in specific securities.

The performance presented below reflects the impact of the total operating expenses of the IIG Fund, which are lower than the total operating expenses of the Fund. For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the Class A shares of the IIG Fund had a total annual operating expense ratio (net of any fee waivers and expense reimbursements by the Adviser) of 1.45%. The performance figures for the IIG Fund assume the reinvestment of all distributions. Unlike the Fund, shares of the IIG Fund are subject to a sales load. The IIG Fund is managed by the same management team of the Adviser that manages the Fund.

The performance information presented does not represent the Fund's performance and should not be considered a substitute for the Fund's performance or a prediction of future performance of the Fund. The Fund's performance may be higher or lower than the performance of the IIG Fund.

The following table shows the average annual total returns of the Class A shares of the IIG Fund for the stated periods ended December 31, 2018 compared with those of relevant broad-based market indices. For instance, the NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index is a modified market capitalization-weighted index comprised of publicly traded companies primarily involved in the mining of gold and silver in locations around the world. The MSCI AC World Daily TR Gross USD Index represents large- and mid- cap companies across 23 developed and 24 emerging market countries. The average annual total returns are net of applicable sales loads.

CLASS A: Annual Total Returns (%) as of 12/31



Best Quarter: +46.89 2Q '16

Worst Quarter: -33.43% 2Q '13

| Average Annual Total Returns as of 12/31/2018 | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years |
|--|---------|---------|----------|
| Class A Shares (2/10/56) | | | |
| Before Taxes | -20.81% | -0.61% | -1.39% |
| After Taxes on Distributions ¹ | -21.71% | -1.69% | -2.50% |
| After Taxes on Distributions and Sale of Fund Shares | -12.30% | -0.90% | -0.83% |
| NYSE Arca Gold Miners Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes, except withholding taxes) | -8.67% | 0.89% | -3.55% |
| MSCI AC World Daily TR Gross USD Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes) | -8.93% | 4.82% | 10.05% |

¹ After-tax returns are calculated using the historical highest individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. These returns are shown for one class of shares only; after-tax returns for the other classes may vary. Actual after-tax returns depend on your individual tax situation and may differ from those shown in the preceding table. The after-tax return information shown above does not apply to Fund shares held through a tax-deferred account, such as a 401(k) plan or Investment Retirement Account.

1. MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

INVESTMENT ADVISER

Van Eck Associates Corporation (the “Adviser”), 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017, is the Adviser to the Fund. The Adviser has been an investment adviser since 1955 and also acts as adviser or sub-adviser to other mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, other pooled investment vehicles and separate accounts.

Jan F. van Eck and members of his family own 100% of the voting stock of the Adviser. As of December 31, 2018, the Adviser’s assets under management were approximately \$44.3 billion.

THE ADVISER, THE FUND, AND INSURANCE COMPANY SEPARATE ACCOUNTS

The Fund sells shares to various insurance company variable annuity and variable life insurance separate accounts as a funding vehicle for those accounts. The Fund does not foresee any disadvantages to shareholders from offering the Fund to various insurance companies. However, the Board will monitor any potential conflicts of interest. If conflicts arise, the Board may require an insurance company to withdraw its investments in one Fund, and place them in another. This might force the Fund to sell securities at a disadvantageous price. The Board may refuse to sell shares of the Fund to any separate account. It may also suspend or terminate the offering of shares of the Fund if required to do so by law or regulatory authority, or if such an action is in the best interests of Fund shareholders. The Adviser and its affiliates act as investment manager of several hedge funds and other investment companies and/or accounts (the “Other Clients”), which trade in the same securities as the Fund. These Other Clients may have investment objectives and/or investment strategies similar to or completely opposite of those of the Fund. From time to time such Other Clients may enter contemporaneous trades with those of the Fund, which implement strategies that are similar to or directly opposite those of the Fund. The Adviser will maintain procedures reasonably designed to ensure that the Fund is not unduly disadvantaged by such trades, yet still permit the Other Clients to pursue their own investment objectives and strategies.

FEES PAID TO THE ADVISER

The Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at an annual rate of 0.75% of the first \$500 million of average daily net assets of the Fund, 0.65% of the next \$250 million of average daily net assets and 0.50% of average daily net assets in excess of \$750 million. The Adviser also performs accounting and administrative services for the Fund. For these services, the Fund pays the Adviser a monthly fee at the annual rate of 0.25% of the first \$750 million of average daily net assets and 0.20% of average daily net assets in excess of \$750 million. For purposes of calculating these fees, the net assets of the Fund include the value of the Fund’s interest in the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary does not pay the Adviser a fee for managing the Subsidiary’s portfolio.

The Adviser has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Fund (excluding acquired fund fees and expenses, interest expense, trading expenses, dividends and interest payments on securities sold short, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.45% for Class S shares of the Fund’s average daily net assets per year until May 1, 2020. During such time, the expense limitation is expected to continue until the Board acts to discontinue all or a portion of such expense limitation.

The Adviser may hire and terminate sub-advisers in accordance with the terms of an exemptive order obtained by the Fund and the Adviser from the SEC under which the Adviser is permitted, subject to supervision and approval of the Board, to enter into and materially amend sub-advisory agreements without seeking shareholder approval. The Adviser will furnish shareholders of the Fund with information regarding a new sub-adviser within 90 days of the hiring of the new sub-adviser. Currently, the Adviser has not hired a sub-adviser to assist with the portfolio management of the Fund.

For the Fund’s most recent fiscal year, the advisory fee paid to the Adviser was as follows:

| VanEck VIP Trust | As a % of average daily net assets |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| VanEck VIP Global Gold Fund | 0.75% |

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board’s approval of the investment advisory agreement of the Fund is available in the Fund’s semi-annual report to shareholders for the period ended June 30, 2018.

PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

VANECK VIP GLOBAL GOLD FUND

Joseph M. Foster, Portfolio Manager of the Fund, is primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the Fund.

Joseph M. Foster. Mr. Foster is Portfolio Manager of the Fund and a senior precious metals analyst. He has been with the Adviser since 1996 and is currently the portfolio manager for various funds advised by the Adviser. Prior to joining the Adviser, Mr. Foster was a Senior Geologist at Pinson Mining Company where he managed the on-site geology department and conceived and implemented a comprehensive exploration program. Prior to this role, Mr. Foster held other positions in exploration geology at Pinson Mining Company and Lacana Gold, Inc.

Imaru Casanova. Ms. Casanova is Deputy Portfolio Manager of the Fund and a senior precious metals analyst. She joined the Adviser in 2011 and currently serves on the investment team for various funds advised by the Adviser. Prior to joining the Adviser, Ms. Casanova was a senior equity research analyst at McNicoll Lewis & Vlak responsible for establishing their metals and mining research department.

The SAI provides additional information about the above Portfolio Managers, their compensation, other accounts they manage, and their securities ownership in the Fund.

THE TRUST

For more information on the VanEck VIP Trust (the "Trust"), the Board and the Officers of the Trust, see "General Information," "Description of the Trust" and "Trustees and Officers" in the SAI.

THE DISTRIBUTOR

Van Eck Securities Corporation, 666 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (the "Distributor"), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Adviser, has entered into a Distribution Agreement with the Trust for distributing shares of the Fund.

The Distributor generally sells and markets shares of the Fund through intermediaries, including insurance companies or their affiliates. The intermediaries may be compensated by the Fund for providing various services.

In addition, the Distributor or the Adviser may pay certain intermediaries, out of its own resources and not as an expense of the Fund, additional cash or non-cash compensation as an incentive to intermediaries to promote and sell shares of the Fund and other mutual funds distributed by the Distributor. These payments are commonly known as "revenue sharing". The benefits that the Distributor or the Adviser may receive when each of them makes these payments include, among other things, placing the Fund on the intermediary's sales system and/or preferred or recommended fund list, offering the Fund through the intermediary's advisory or other specialized programs, and/or access (in some cases on a preferential basis over other competitors) to individual members of the intermediary's sales force. Such payments may also be used to compensate intermediaries for a variety of administrative and shareholders services relating to investments by their customers in the Fund.

The fees paid by the Distributor or the Adviser to intermediaries may be calculated based on the gross sales price of shares sold by an intermediary, the net asset value of shares held by the customers of the intermediary, or otherwise. These fees may, but are not normally expected to, exceed in the aggregate 0.50% of the average net assets of the Fund attributable to a particular intermediary on an annual basis.

The Distributor or the Adviser may also provide intermediaries with additional cash and non-cash compensation, which may include financial assistance to intermediaries in connection with conferences, sales or training programs for their employees, seminars for the public and advertising campaigns, technical and systems support, attendance at sales meetings and reimbursement of ticket charges. In some instances, these incentives may be made available only to intermediaries whose representatives have sold or may sell a significant number of shares.

Intermediaries may receive different payments, based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, reputation in the industry, sales and asset retention rates, target markets, and customer relationships and quality of service. No one factor is determinative of the type or amount of additional compensation to be provided. Financial intermediaries that sell Fund's shares may also act as a broker or dealer in connection with execution of transactions for the Fund's portfolio. The Fund and the Adviser have adopted procedures to ensure that the sales of the Fund's shares by an intermediary will not affect the selection of brokers for execution of portfolio transactions.

Not all intermediaries are paid the same to sell mutual funds. Differences in compensation to intermediaries may create a financial interest for an intermediary to sell shares of a particular mutual fund, or the mutual funds of a particular family of mutual funds. Before purchasing shares of the Fund, you should ask your intermediary or its representative about the

compensation in connection with the purchase of such shares, including any revenue sharing payments it receives from the Distributor.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION (12B-1)

Although the Fund offers two classes of shares to investors, only the Class S shares are subject to distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees under a plan adopted pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. Under the plan of distribution, Class S shares are subject to distribution and/or service fees of 0.25% of average daily net assets of the class. Of the amounts expended under the plan for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, approximately 100% was paid to intermediaries who sold shares or serviced accounts of the Fund shareholders. Because the distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees 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 CUSTODIAN

State Street Bank & Trust Company
One Lincoln Street
Boston, MA 02111

THE TRANSFER AGENT

DST Systems, Inc.
210 West 10th Street, 8th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64105

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Ernst & Young LLP
Five Times Square
New York, NY 10036

COUNSEL

Stradley Ronon Stevens and Young, LLP
2005 Market Street, Suite 2600
Philadelphia, PA 19103

2. TAXES

The Fund intends to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under the Code. As such, the Fund generally will not be subject to federal income tax to the extent that it distributes its net income and net capital gains. However, the applicable tax rules for qualification as a regulated investment company are extremely complex and it is possible the Fund might not so qualify. To the extent the Fund does not so qualify, it will be subject to tax at the applicable corporate income tax rate for the taxable year in question. Additionally, even if the Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company, it may be subject to corporate tax on certain income.

The Code requires funds used by insurance company variable annuity and life insurance contracts to comply with special diversification requirements for such contracts to qualify for tax deferral privileges. The Fund intends to invest so as to comply with these Code requirements.

For information concerning the federal income tax consequences to holders of the underlying variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, see the accompanying prospectus for the applicable contract.

3. HOW THE FUND SHARES ARE PRICED

The Fund buys or sells its shares at its net asset value, or NAV, per share next determined after receipt of a purchase or redemption plus any applicable sales charge. The Fund calculates its NAV per share class every day the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) is open, as of the close of regular trading on the NYSE, which is normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

You may enter a buy or sell order when the NYSE is closed for weekends or holidays. If that happens, your price will be the NAV calculated as of the close of the next regular trading session of the NYSE.

The Fund may invest in certain securities which are listed on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or other days when the Fund does not price its shares. As a result, the NAV of the Fund's shares may change on days when shareholders will not be able to purchase or redeem shares.

The Fund's investments are generally valued based on market quotations which may be based on quotes obtained from a quotation reporting system, established market makers, broker dealers or by an independent pricing service. Short-term debt investments having a maturity of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost, which approximates the fair value of the security. Assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources. When market quotations are not readily available for a portfolio security or other asset, or, in the opinion of the Adviser, are deemed unreliable, the Fund will use the security's or asset's "fair value" as determined in good faith in accordance with the Fund's Fair Value Pricing Policies and Procedures, which have been approved by the Board. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security or other asset is the amount which the Fund might reasonably expect to receive for the security or asset upon its current sale. The Fund's Pricing Committee, whose members are selected by the senior management of the Adviser and reported to the Board, is responsible for recommending fair value procedures to the Board and for administering the process used to arrive at fair value prices.

Factors that may cause the Fund's Pricing Committee to fair value a security include, but are not limited to: (1) market quotations are not readily available because a portfolio security is not traded in a public market, trading in the security has been suspended, or the principal market in which the security trades is closed, (2) trading in a portfolio security is limited or suspended and not resumed prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV, (3) the market for the relevant security is thin, or the price for the security is "stale" because its price has not changed for 5 consecutive business days, (4) the Adviser determines that a market quotation is not reliable, for example, because price movements are highly volatile and cannot be verified by a reliable alternative pricing source, or (5) a significant event affecting the value of a portfolio security is determined to have occurred between the time of the market quotation provided for a portfolio security and the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV.

In determining the fair value of securities, the Pricing Committee will consider, among other factors, the fundamental analytical data relating to the security, the nature and duration of any restrictions on the disposition of the security, and the forces influencing the market in which the security is traded.

Foreign equity securities in which the Fund invests may be traded in markets that close before the time that the Fund calculates its NAV. Foreign equity securities are normally priced based upon the market quotation of such securities as of the close of their respective principal markets, as adjusted to reflect the Adviser's determination of the impact of events, such as a significant movement in the U.S. markets occurring subsequent to the close of such markets but prior to the time at which the Fund calculates its NAV. In such cases, the Pricing Committee may apply a fair valuation formula to those foreign equity securities based on the Committee's determination of the effect of the U.S. significant event with respect to each local market.

Certain of the Fund's portfolio securities are valued by an independent pricing service approved by the Board. The independent pricing service may utilize an automated system incorporating a model based on multiple parameters, including a security's local closing price (in the case of foreign securities), relevant general and sector indices, currency fluctuations, and trading in depositary receipts and futures, if applicable, and/or research evaluations by its staff, in determining what it believes is the fair valuation of the portfolio securities valued by such independent pricing service.

There can be no assurance that the Fund could purchase or sell a portfolio security or other asset at the price used to calculate the Fund's NAV. Because of the inherent uncertainty in fair valuations, and the various factors considered in determining value pursuant to the Fund's fair value procedures, there can be material differences between a fair value price at which a portfolio security or other asset is being carried and the price at which it is purchased or sold. Furthermore, changes in the fair valuation of portfolio securities or other assets may be less frequent, and of greater magnitude, than changes in the price of portfolio securities or other assets valued by an independent pricing service, or based on market quotations.

4. SHAREHOLDER INFORMATION

FREQUENT TRADING POLICY

The Board has adopted policies and procedures reasonably designed to deter frequent trading in shares of the Fund, commonly referred to as "market timing," because such activities may be disruptive to the management of the Fund's portfolio and may increase Fund expenses and negatively impact the Fund's performance. As such, the Fund may reject a purchase or exchange transaction or restrict an insurance company's contract holder from investing in the Fund for any reason if the Adviser, in its sole discretion, believes that such contract holder is engaging in market timing activities that may be harmful to the Fund. The Fund discourages and does not accommodate frequent trading of shares by contract holders.

The Fund invests portions of its assets in securities of foreign issuers, and consequently may be subject to an increased risk of frequent trading activities because frequent traders may attempt to take advantage of time zone differences between the foreign markets in which the Fund's portfolio securities trade and the time as of which the Fund's net asset value is calculated ("time-zone arbitrage"). The Fund's investments in other types of securities may also be susceptible to frequent 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. The Fund has adopted fair valuation policies and procedures intended to reduce the Fund's exposure to potential price arbitrage. However, there is no guarantee that the Fund's net asset value will immediately reflect changes in market conditions.

Shares of the Fund are sold exclusively through institutional omnibus account arrangements registered to insurance companies and used by them as investment options for variable contracts issued by insurance companies. Such omnibus accounts allow for the aggregation of holdings of multiple contract holders and do not identify the underlying contract holders or their activity on an individual basis. Certain insurance companies have adopted policies and procedures to deter frequent short-term trading by their contract holders. The Fund may rely on an insurance company's policies and procedures, in addition to the Fund's techniques, to monitor for and detect abusive trading practices. The Fund reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to allow insurance companies to apply their own policies and procedures which may be more or less restrictive than those of the Fund. Contract holders are advised to contact their insurance company for further information as it relates to their specific contracts.

In addition to the foregoing, the Fund requires all insurance companies to agree to cooperate in identifying and restricting market timers in accordance with the Fund's policies and will periodically request contract holder trading activity based on certain criteria established by the Fund. The Fund may make inquiries regarding contract holder purchases, redemptions, and exchanges that meet certain criteria established by the Fund. There is no assurance that the Fund will request such information with sufficient frequency to detect or deter excessive trading or that review of such information will be sufficient to detect or deter excessive trading effectively. Furthermore, an insurance company may be limited by the terms of an underlying insurance contract regarding frequent trading 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 deter market timing activity in the Fund.

If the Fund identifies market timing activity, the insurance company will be contacted and asked to take steps to prevent further market timing activity (e.g., sending warning letters, placing trade restrictions on the contract holder's account in question, or closing the account). If the insurance company refuses or is unable to take such remedial action, a determination will be made whether additional steps should be taken, including, if appropriate, terminating the relationship with such insurance company.

Although the Fund will use reasonable efforts to prevent market timing activities in the Fund's shares, there can be no assurances that these efforts will be successful. As some insurance companies' contract holders may use various strategies to disguise their trading practices, the Fund's ability to detect frequent trading activities by insurance companies' contract holders may be limited by the ability and/or willingness of the insurance companies to monitor for these activities.

For further information about the Fund, please call or write your insurance company, or call 800-826-2333, or write to the Fund at the address on the back cover page.

V. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table that follows is intended to help you understand the Fund's Class S shares financial performance for the past five years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single Fund share. The total return in the table represents the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in the Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The information has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, the Trust's independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Fund's financial statements are included in the Fund's annual report, which is available upon request. Total return does not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the return would be lower than that shown.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For a share outstanding throughout each year:

| | Year Ended December 31, | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|
| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net asset value, beginning of year | \$ 7.60 | \$ 7.11 | \$ 4.83 | \$ 6.42 | \$ 6.85 |
| Income from investment operations: | | | | | |
| Net investment loss | (0.03)(b) | (0.07)(b) | (0.04) | (0.02) | (0.04) |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (1.13) | 0.91 | 2.35 | (1.54) | (0.36) |
| Total from investment operations | (1.16) | 0.84 | 2.31 | (1.56) | (0.40) |
| Less dividends and distributions from: | | | | | |
| Net investment income | (0.22) | (0.35) | (0.03) | — | (0.03) |
| Net realized capital gains | — | — | — | (0.03) | — |
| Total dividends and distributions | (0.22) | (0.35) | (0.03) | (0.03) | (0.03) |
| Net asset value, end of year | \$ 6.22 | \$ 7.60 | \$ 7.11 | \$ 4.83 | \$ 6.42 |
| Total return (a) | (15.70)% | 11.63% | 48.25% | (24.43)% | (5.89)% |
| Ratios/Supplemental Data | | | | | |
| Net assets, end of year (000's) | \$22,206 | \$21,360 | \$19,524 | \$ 7,750 | \$7,599 |
| Ratio of gross expenses to average net assets | 2.18% | 2.03% | 1.84% | 2.46% | 2.41% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% |
| Ratio of net expenses to average net assets excluding interest expense | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% |
| Ratio of net investment loss to average net assets | (0.51)% | (0.96)% | (1.00)% | (0.57)% | (0.88)% |
| Portfolio turnover rate | 45% | 65% | 57% | 44% | 33% |

- (a) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of year, reinvestment of any dividends and distributions at net asset value on the dividend/distribution payment date and a redemption at the net asset value on the last day of the year. The return does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund dividends/distributions or the redemption of Fund shares. Total returns do not include fees and expenses imposed under your variable annuity contract and/or life insurance policy. If these amounts were reflected, the returns would be lower than those shown.
- (b) Calculated based upon average shares outstanding.

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For more detailed information, see the Statement of Additional Information (SAI), which is legally a part of and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The SAI includes information regarding, among other things: the Fund and its investment policies and risks, management of the Fund, investment advisory and other services, the Fund's Board of Trustees, and tax matters related to the Fund.

Additional information about the investments is available in the Fund's annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Fund's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance during its last fiscal year.

- Call VanEck at 800.826.2333, or visit the VanEck website at vaneck.com to request, free of charge, the annual or semi-annual reports, the SAI or other information about the Fund.
- Reports and other information about the Fund are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of this information may be obtained, after paying a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: publicinfo@sec.gov.

Shares of the Fund are offered only to separate accounts of various insurance companies to fund the benefits of variable life policies and variable annuity policies. This prospectus sets forth concise information about the VanEck VIP Trust and Fund that you should know before investing. It should be read in conjunction with the prospectus for the Contract which accompanies this prospectus and should be retained for future reference. The Contract involves certain expenses not described in this prospectus and also may involve certain restrictions or limitations on the allocation of purchase payments or Contract values to the Fund. In particular, the Fund may not be available in connection with a particular Contract or in a particular state. See the applicable Contract prospectus for information regarding expenses of the Contract and any applicable restrictions or limitations with respect to the Fund.

VanEck®

VanEck VIP Trust
666 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

vaneck.com

SEC REGISTRATION NUMBER: 811-05083

VIPGOLDSPRO

