



LORD ABBETT®

Lord Abbett Series Fund  
Total Return Portfolio

PROSPECTUS

MAY 1, 2019

**Class VC**

No ticker

This Fund serves as an underlying investment vehicle for variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance policies. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities or determined whether this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

INVESTMENT PRODUCTS: NOT FDIC INSURED—NO BANK GUARANTEE—MAY LOSE VALUE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE FUND	Investment Objective	2
	Fees and Expenses	2
	Principal Investment Strategies	3
	Principal Risks	4
	Performance	9
	Management	10
	Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares	10
	Tax Information	10
	Payments to Insurance Companies and Other Financial Intermediaries	11

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FUND	Investment Objective	11
	Principal Investment Strategies	11
	Principal Risks	16
	Additional Operational Risks	25
	Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings	29
	Management and Organization of the Fund	29

INFORMATION FOR MANAGING YOUR FUND ACCOUNT	Financial Intermediary Compensation	30
	Purchases and Redemptions	32
	Account Policies	33
	Conflicts of Interest	39
	Distributions and Taxes	39
	Service Arrangements	40

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	Financial Highlights	41
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# TOTAL RETURN PORTFOLIO

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Fund's investment objective is to seek income and capital appreciation to produce a high total return.

## 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 reflect the fees and expenses of variable annuity contracts or variable life insurance policies (together, "Variable Contracts"). If such fees and expenses were reflected, expenses shown would be higher.

<b>Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b> <i>(Expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)</i>	
Class	VC Shares
Management Fees	0.28%
Other Expenses	0.44%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.72%
<sup>(1)</sup> This amount has been updated from the fiscal year amount to reflect current fees and expenses.	

## Example

This 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 assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect Variable Contract expenses, fees, and charges. If these expenses, fees, and charges were included, your costs would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

Class	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
VC Shares	\$74	\$230	\$401	\$894

**Portfolio Turnover.** The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which

are not reflected in the 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 611% of the average value of its portfolio.

## PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Under normal conditions, the Fund pursues its investment objective by investing primarily in investment grade debt (or fixed income) securities. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in high-yield debt securities (commonly referred to as "lower-rated" or "junk" bonds). The Fund may invest in debt securities issued by non-U.S. entities but denominated in U.S. dollars, and securities issued by non-U.S. entities and denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in debt securities of non-U.S. issuers that are denominated in non-U.S. currencies.

The Fund generally may invest in the following types of debt securities:

- Securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities;
- Corporate debt securities;
- Mortgage-backed, mortgage-related, and other asset-backed securities;
- Inflation-linked investments; and
- Senior loans, including bridge loans, novations, assignments, and participations. The Fund may invest up to 10% of its net assets in floating or adjustable rate senior loans.

The Fund may invest in Treasury Inflation Protected Securities ("TIPS"), which are U.S. Government bonds whose principal automatically is adjusted for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers ("CPI-U"), and other inflation-indexed securities issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

The Fund will not invest more than 25% of its total assets in any industry; however, this limitation does not apply to mortgage-backed securities, privately issued mortgage-related securities, or securities issued by the U.S. Government, its agencies and instrumentalities.

The Fund attempts to manage interest rate risk through its management of the average duration of the securities it holds in its portfolio. Under normal conditions, the Fund will maintain its average duration range within two years of the U.S. bond market's duration as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Universal Index (which was approximately 5.73 years as of February 15, 2019). The duration of a security takes into account the expected pattern of all payments of interest and principal on the security over time, including how these payments are affected by changes in interest rates.

The Fund may use derivatives to hedge against risk or to gain investment exposure. Currently, the Fund expects to invest in derivatives consisting principally of futures, forwards, options, and swaps. The Fund may use derivatives to seek to enhance returns, to attempt to hedge some of its investment risk, to manage portfolio duration, as a substitute for holding the underlying asset on which the derivative instrument is based, or for cash management purposes. For example, the Fund may invest in or sell short U.S. Treasury futures, securities index futures (such as the Markit CMBX Index, a synthetic tradable index referencing a basket of commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS)), other futures, and/or currency forwards to adjust the Fund's related exposures or for other portfolio management reasons.

The Fund buys and sells securities using a relative value-oriented investment process, meaning the Fund generally seeks more investment exposure to securities believed to be undervalued and less investment exposure to securities believed to be overvalued. The Fund combines top-down and bottom-up analysis to construct its portfolio, using a blend of quantitative and fundamental research. As part of its top-down analysis, the Fund evaluates global economic conditions, including monetary, fiscal, and regulatory policy, as well as the political and geopolitical environment, in order to identify and assess opportunities and risks across different segments of the fixed income market. The Fund employs bottom-up analysis to identify and select securities for investment by the Fund based on in-depth company, industry, and market research and analysis. The Fund may actively rotate sector exposure based on its assessment of relative value. The Fund engages in active and frequent trading of its portfolio securities.

The Fund may sell a security when the Fund believes the security is less likely to benefit from the current market and economic environment, shows signs of deteriorating fundamentals, or has reached its valuation target, among other reasons. The Fund seeks to remain fully invested in accordance with its investment objective. The Fund may, however, deviate entirely from the investment strategy described above for temporary defensive purposes. The Fund may miss certain investment opportunities if defensive strategies are used and thus may not achieve its investment objective.

## **PRINCIPAL RISKS**

As with any investment in a mutual fund, investing in the Fund involves risk, including the risk that you may receive little or no return on your investment. When you redeem your shares, they may be worth more or less than what you paid for them, which means that you may lose a portion or all of the money you invested in the Fund. The principal risks of investing in the Fund, which could adversely affect its performance, include:

- **Portfolio Management Risk:** If the strategies used and investments selected by the Fund's portfolio management team fail to produce the intended result, the Fund may suffer losses or underperform other funds with the same investment objective or strategies, even in a favorable market.
- **Market Risk:** The market values of securities will fluctuate, sometimes sharply and unpredictably, based on overall economic conditions, governmental actions or intervention, political developments and other factors. Although prices of debt securities tend to rise and fall less dramatically than those of equity securities, they may experience heightened volatility.
- **Fixed Income Securities Risk:** The Fund is subject to the general risks and considerations associated with investing in debt securities, including the risk that issuers will fail to make timely payments of principal or interest or default altogether. Typically, shorter-term bonds are less volatile than longer-term bonds; however, longer-term bonds typically offer higher yields and more stable interest income than shorter-term bond investments. Lower-rated securities in which the Fund may invest may be more volatile and may decline more in price in response to negative issuer developments or general economic news than higher rated securities. In addition, as interest rates rise, the Fund's investments typically will lose value.
- **High-Yield Securities Risk:** High-yield securities (commonly referred to as "junk" bonds) typically pay a higher yield than investment grade securities, but may have greater price fluctuations and have a higher risk of default than investment grade securities. The market for below investment grade securities may be less liquid due to such factors as interest rate sensitivity, negative perceptions of the junk bond markets generally, and less secondary market liquidity. This may make such securities more difficult to sell at an acceptable price, especially during periods of financial distress, increased market volatility, or significant market decline.
- **Credit Risk:** Debt securities are subject to the risk that the issuer or guarantor of a security may not make interest and principal payments as they become due or may default altogether. In addition, if the market perceives a deterioration in the creditworthiness of an issuer, the value and liquidity of bonds issued by that issuer may decline. To the extent that the Fund holds below investment grade securities, these risks may be heightened. Insured debt securities have the credit risk of the insurer in addition to the credit risk of the underlying investment being insured.
- **Interest Rate Risk:** As interest rates rise, prices of bonds (including tax-exempt bonds) generally fall, typically causing the Fund's investments to lose value. Additionally, rising interest rates or lack of market participants may lead to decreased liquidity in the fixed income markets. Interest rate changes

typically have a greater effect on the price of longer-term bonds, including inverse floaters, than on the price of shorter-term bonds. A wide variety of market factors can cause interest rates to rise, including central bank monetary policy, rising inflation, and changes in general economic conditions. The Fund will be exposed to heightened interest rate risk as interest rates rise from historically low levels.

- **Liquidity/Redemption Risk:** It may be difficult for the Fund to sell certain securities, including below investment grade securities, in a timely manner and at their stated value, which could result in losses to the Fund. In addition, the Fund may lose money when selling securities at inopportune times to fulfill shareholder redemption requests. The risk of loss may increase depending on the size and frequency of redemption requests, whether the redemption requests occur in times of overall market turmoil or declining prices, and whether the securities the Fund intends to sell have decreased in value or are illiquid. The Fund may be unable to sell illiquid securities at its desired time or price. As noted, the market for below investment grade securities generally is less liquid than the market for higher rated securities, subjecting them to greater price fluctuations. The purchase price and subsequent valuation of illiquid securities normally reflect a discount, which may be significant, from the market price of comparable securities for which a liquid market exists. Illiquidity can be caused by a variety of factors, including economic conditions, events relating to the issuer, a drop in overall market trading volume, an inability to find a ready buyer, or legal restrictions on the securities' resale. Certain securities that are liquid when purchased may later become illiquid, particularly in times of overall economic distress. Liquidity risk may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment or other circumstances where investor redemptions from fixed income mutual funds may be higher than normal, causing increased supply in the market due to selling activity.
- **Government Securities Risk:** The Fund invests in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies and instrumentalities (such as the Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae"), the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), or the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac")). Unlike Ginnie Mae securities, securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government-related organizations such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government and no assurance can be given that the U.S. Government would provide financial support.
- **Mortgage-Related and Other Asset-Backed Securities Risk:** Mortgage-related securities, including commercial mortgage-backed securities and other privately issued mortgage-related securities, and other asset-backed securities may be particularly sensitive to changes in economic conditions, including

delinquencies and/or defaults. The prices of mortgage- and asset-backed securities, depending on their structure and the rate of payments, can be volatile. They are subject to prepayment risk (higher than expected prepayment rates of mortgage obligations due to a fall in market interest rates) and extension risk (lower than expected prepayment rates of mortgage obligations due to a rise in market interest rates). These risks increase the Fund's overall interest rate risk. Some mortgage-related securities receive government or private support, but there is no assurance that such support will remain in place.

- **Inflation-Linked Investments Risk:** Unlike traditional fixed income securities, the principal and interest payments of inflation-linked investments are adjusted periodically based on the inflation rate. The value of the Fund's inflation-linked investments may be vulnerable to changes in expectations of inflation or interest rates and there is no guarantee that the Fund's use of these instruments will be successful.
- **Foreign and Emerging Market Company Risk:** Investments in foreign companies and in U.S. companies with economic ties to foreign markets generally involve special risks that can increase the likelihood that the Fund will lose money. For example, as compared with companies organized and operated in the U.S., these companies may be more vulnerable to economic, political, and social instability and subject to less government supervision, lack of transparency, inadequate regulatory and accounting standards, and foreign taxes. In addition, the securities of foreign companies also may be subject to inadequate exchange control regulations, the imposition of economic sanctions or other government restrictions, higher transaction and other costs, reduced liquidity, and delays in settlement to the extent they are traded on non-U.S. exchanges or markets. Emerging market securities generally are more volatile than other foreign securities, and are subject to greater liquidity, regulatory, and political risks. Investments in emerging markets may be considered generally riskier than investments in more developed markets because such markets tend to develop unevenly and may never fully develop.
- **Foreign Currency Risk:** Investments in securities denominated in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar, or, in the case of hedged positions, that the U.S. dollar will decline in value relative to the currency being hedged. Foreign currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time.
- **Senior Loan Risk:** Investments in floating or adjustable rate senior loans are subject to increased credit and liquidity risks. Senior loan prices also may be adversely affected by supply-demand imbalances caused by conditions in the senior loan market or related markets. Below investment grade senior loans,



like high-yield debt securities, or junk bonds, usually are more credit sensitive than interest rate sensitive, although the value of these instruments may be affected by interest rate swings in the overall fixed income market. Senior loans may be subject to structural subordination and, although the loans may be senior to equity and other debt securities in the borrower's capital structure, the loans may be subordinated to other obligations of the borrower or its subsidiaries.

- **Derivatives Risk:** The risks associated with derivatives may be different from and greater than the risks associated with directly investing in securities and other investments. Derivatives may increase the Fund's volatility and reduce its returns. The risks associated with derivatives include, among other things, the following:
  - The risk that the value of a derivative may not correlate with the value of the underlying asset, rate, or index in the manner anticipated by the portfolio management team and may be more sensitive to changes in economic or market conditions than anticipated.
  - Derivatives may be difficult to value, especially under stressed or unforeseen market conditions.
  - The risk that the counterparty may fail to fulfill its contractual obligations under the derivative contract. Central clearing of derivatives is intended to decrease counterparty risk but does not eliminate it.
  - The Fund may be required to segregate permissible liquid assets to cover its obligations under these transactions and may have to liquidate positions before it is desirable to do so to fulfill its segregation requirements.
  - The risk that there will not be a liquid secondary trading market for the derivative, or that the Fund will otherwise be unable to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position when desired, exposing the Fund to additional losses.
  - Because derivatives generally involve a small initial investment relative to the risk assumed (known as leverage), derivatives can magnify the Fund's losses and increase its volatility.
  - The Fund's use of derivatives may affect the amount and timing of distributions.

Derivatives may not perform as expected and the Fund may not realize the intended benefits. Whether the Fund's use of derivatives is successful will depend on, among other things, the portfolio managers' ability to correctly forecast market movements and other factors. If the portfolio managers incorrectly forecast these and other factors, the Fund's performance could

suffer. In addition, given their complexity, derivatives are subject to the risk that improper or misunderstood documentation may expose the Fund to losses.

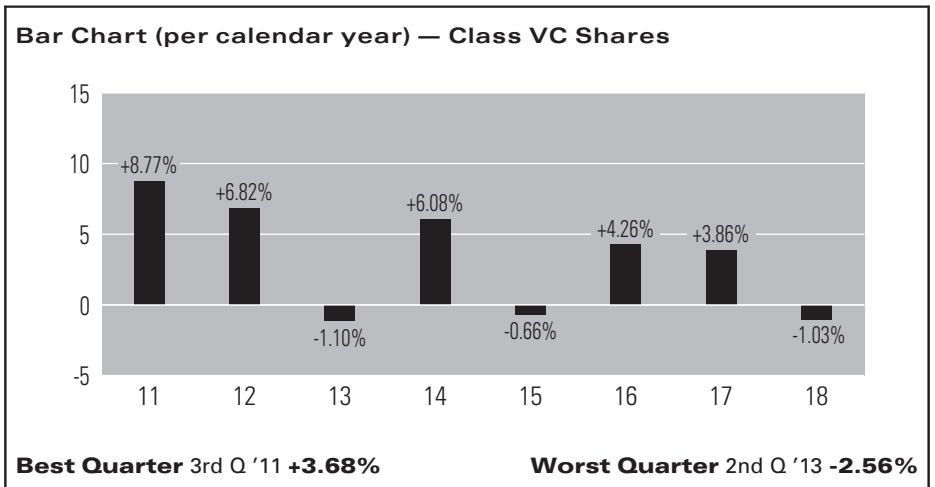
- **High Portfolio Turnover Risk:** High portfolio turnover may result in increased transaction costs and reduced investment performance.

An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. For more information on the principal risks of the Fund, please see the “More Information About the Fund – Principal Risks” section in the prospectus.

**PERFORMANCE**

The bar chart and table below provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by illustrating the variability of the Fund’s returns. Each assumes reinvestment of dividends and distributions. The Fund’s past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the Fund’s Class VC shares from calendar year to calendar year. This chart does not reflect the sales charges or other expenses of Variable Contracts. If those sales charges and expenses were reflected, returns would be lower.



The table below shows how the Fund’s average annual total returns compare to the returns of securities market indices with investment characteristics similar to those of the Fund.

<b>Average Annual Total Returns (for the periods ended December 31, 2018)</b>				
Class	1 Year	5 Years	Life of Class	Inception Date for Performance
Class VC Shares	-1.03%	2.47%	3.62%	4/30/2010
<b>Index</b>				
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Universal Index <i>(reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)</i>	-0.26%	2.72%	3.33%	4/30/2010
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index <i>(reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)</i>	0.01%	2.52%	3.00%	4/30/2010

## MANAGEMENT

**Investment Adviser.** The Fund’s investment adviser is Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC (“Lord Abbett”).

**Portfolio Managers.**

<b>Portfolio Manager/Title</b>	<b>Member of the Portfolio Management Team Since</b>
Kewjin Yuoh, Partner and Portfolio Manager	2010
Robert A. Lee, Partner and Chief Investment Officer	2010
Andrew H. O’Brien, Partner and Portfolio Manager	2010
Steven F. Rocco, Partner and Director of Taxable Fixed Income	2010

## PURCHASE AND SALE OF FUND SHARES

Because the Fund serves as an underlying investment vehicle for Variable Contracts, Fund shares currently are available only to certain insurance company separate accounts at net asset value (“NAV”).

## TAX INFORMATION

For information about the federal income tax treatment of Fund distributions to the insurance company separate accounts that hold shares in the Fund, please refer to the prospectus provided by the insurance company for your Variable

Contract. Because of the unique tax status of Variable Contracts, you should consult your tax adviser regarding treatment under the federal, state, and local tax rules that apply to you.

## **PAYMENTS TO INSURANCE COMPANIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES**

The Fund and its related companies may make payments to the sponsoring insurance company, its affiliates, or other financial intermediaries for distribution and/or other services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the insurance company or other financial intermediary to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your individual financial professional or visit your insurance company's or financial intermediary's website for more information.

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

The Fund's investment objective is to seek income and capital appreciation to produce a high total return.

## **PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES**

Under normal conditions, the Fund pursues its investment objective by investing primarily in investment grade debt (or fixed income) securities. Investment grade debt securities are securities that are rated within the four highest grades assigned by an independent rating agency such as Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Aaa, Aa, A, Baa), S&P Global Ratings (AAA, AA, A, BBB), or Fitch Ratings (AAA, AA, A, BBB), or are unrated but determined by Lord Abbett to be of comparable quality. The Fund may invest in corporate debt securities, as well as securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in high-yield debt securities (commonly referred to as "lower-rated" or "junk" bonds). High-yield debt securities are debt securities that are rated BB/Ba or lower by an independent rating agency, or are unrated but determined by Lord Abbett to be of comparable quality. High-yield debt securities typically pay a higher yield than investment grade debt securities, but present greater risks, as discussed below.

The Fund also may invest in debt securities issued by non-U.S. entities but denominated in U.S. dollars, and securities issued by non-U.S. entities and denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in debt securities of non-U.S. issuers that are denominated in non-U.S. currencies.

The investment grade and high-yield securities described above may include mortgage-backed, mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities, which directly or indirectly represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans, real property, or other assets. Mortgage-related securities include mortgage pass-through securities, collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs), commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS), mortgage dollar rolls, stripped mortgage-backed securities (SMBS) and other securities that directly or indirectly represent a participation in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans on real property. The Fund will not invest more than 25% of its total assets in any industry; however, this limitation does not apply to mortgage-backed securities, privately issued mortgage-related securities, or securities issued by the U.S. Government, its agencies and instrumentalities.

The Fund may invest in TIPS, which are U.S. Government bonds whose principal automatically is adjusted for inflation as measured by the CPI-U, and other inflation-indexed securities issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

The Fund may invest up to 10% of its net assets in floating or adjustable rate senior loans, including bridge loans, novations, assignments, and participations. Senior loans are business loans made to borrowers that may be U.S. or foreign corporations, partnerships, or other business entities. The interest rates on senior loans periodically are adjusted to a generally recognized base rate such as LIBOR or the prime rate as set by the Federal Reserve. Senior loans typically are secured by specific collateral of the borrower and hold the most senior position in the borrower's capital structure or share the senior position with the borrower's other senior debt securities. This capital structure position generally gives holders of senior loans a priority claim on some or all of the borrower's assets in the event of default.

The Fund may use derivatives to hedge against risk or to gain investment exposure. Derivatives are financial instruments that derive their value from the value of an underlying asset, reference rate, or index. The Fund may use derivatives for hedging purposes, including protecting the Fund's unrealized gains by hedging against possible adverse fluctuations in the securities markets or changes in interest rates or currency exchange rates that may reduce the market value of the Fund's investment portfolio. The Fund also may use derivatives for non-hedging purposes to seek to enhance the Fund's returns, spreads or gains, or to efficiently invest excess cash or quickly gain market exposure. For example, the Fund may invest in or sell short U.S. Treasury futures, securities index futures (such as the Markit CMBX Index, a synthetic tradable index referencing a basket of CMBS), other futures, and/or currency forwards to adjust the Fund's related exposures or for other portfolio management reasons. The Fund may engage in derivative transactions on an exchange or in the OTC market. The Fund currently operates pursuant to an exemption from regulation by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as a commodity pool under the

Commodity Exchange Act. The Fund currently intends to limit its investments in derivatives to continue to comply with the conditions of the exemption, but the Fund may be subject to regulation as a commodity pool in the future.

The types of derivative instruments that the Fund may use consist principally of:

- **Futures and Options on Futures.** The Fund may enter into futures contracts and options on futures contracts, which involve the purchase or sale of a contract to buy or sell a specified security or other financial instrument at a specific future date and price on an exchange or the OTC market. The Fund may enter into such contracts as a substitute for taking a position in any underlying asset or to increase returns.
- **Foreign Currency Forward Contracts and Options.** The Fund may use foreign currency forward contracts and options to hedge the risk to the portfolio that foreign exchange price movements will be unfavorable for U.S. investors. Under some circumstances, the Fund may commit a substantial portion or the entire value of its portfolio to the completion of forward contracts. Generally, these instruments allow the Fund to lock in a specified exchange rate for a period of time. Foreign currency forward contracts also may be used to increase the Fund's exposure to foreign currencies that Lord Abbett believes may rise in value relative to the U.S. dollar or to shift the Fund's exposure to foreign currency fluctuations from one country to another.
- **Options.** The Fund may purchase call and put options and write (*i.e.*, sell) covered call and put option contracts in accordance with its investment objective and policies. A "call option" is a contract sold for a price giving its holder the right to buy a specific number of securities at a specific price prior to a specified date. A "covered call option" is a call option issued on securities already owned by the writer of the call option for delivery to the holder upon the exercise of the option. A "put option" gives the purchaser of the option the right to sell, and obligates the writer to buy, the underlying securities at the exercise price at any time during the option period. A put option sold by the Fund is covered when, among other things, the Fund segregates permissible liquid assets having a value equal to or greater than the exercise price of the option to fulfill the obligation undertaken or otherwise covers the transaction.

The Fund may purchase and sell call and put options in respect of specific securities (or groups or "baskets" of specific securities) or securities indices, currencies or futures. The Fund also may enter into OTC options contracts, which are available for a greater variety of securities, and a wider range of expiration dates and exercise prices, than are exchange-traded options. Successful use by the Fund of options and options on futures will depend on

Lord Abbett's ability to predict correctly movements in the prices of individual securities, the relevant securities market generally, foreign currencies or interest rates.

- **Swaps.** The Fund may enter into interest rate, equity index, credit, currency and total return swap agreements, and swaptions (options on swaps) and similar transactions. The Fund may enter into these swap transactions for hedging purposes or in an attempt to obtain a particular return when it is considered desirable to do so. An OTC swap transaction involves an agreement between two parties to exchange different cash flows based on a specified or "notional" amount. The cash flows exchanged in a specific transaction may be, among other things, payments that are the equivalent of interest on a principal amount, payments that would compensate the purchaser for losses on a defaulted security or basket of securities, or payments reflecting the performance of one or more specified currencies, securities or indices. The Fund may enter into OTC swap transactions with counterparties that generally are banks, securities dealers or their respective affiliates. Certain types of swaps, such as interest rate swaps, are cleared through clearing houses.

The Fund attempts to manage interest rate risk through its management of the average duration of the securities it holds in its portfolio. Duration is a mathematical concept that measures a portfolio's exposure to interest rate changes. The duration of a security takes into account the expected pattern of all payments of interest and principal on the security over time, including how these payments are affected by changes in interest rates. The longer a portfolio's duration, the more sensitive it is to interest rate risk. The shorter a portfolio's duration, the less sensitive it is to interest rate risk. For example, the price of a portfolio with a duration of five years would be expected to fall approximately five percent if interest rates rose by one percentage point and a portfolio with a duration of two years would be expected to fall approximately two percent if interest rates rose by one percentage point. Under normal conditions, the Fund will maintain its average duration range within two years of the bond market's duration as measured by the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Universal Index (which was approximately 5.73 years as of February 15, 2019).

The Fund buys and sells securities using a relative value-oriented investment process, meaning the Fund generally seeks more investment exposure to securities believed to be undervalued and less investment exposure to securities believed to be overvalued. The Fund combines top-down and bottom-up analysis to construct its portfolio, using a blend of quantitative and fundamental research. As part of its top-down analysis, the Fund evaluates global economic conditions, including monetary, fiscal, and regulatory policy, as well as the political and geopolitical environment, in order to identify and assess opportunities and risks across different segments of the fixed income market. The

Fund employs bottom-up analysis to identify and select securities for investment by the Fund based on in-depth company, industry, and market research and analysis. The Fund applies proprietary filters to this analysis to determine security selection, sector exposure, and term structure. The Fund may actively rotate sector exposure based on its assessment of relative value. The Fund engages in active and frequent trading of its portfolio securities.

The Fund may sell a security if it no longer meets the Fund's investment criteria or for a variety of other reasons, such as to secure gains, limit losses, maintain its duration, redeploy assets into opportunities believed to be more promising, increase cash, or satisfy redemption requests, among others. The Fund will not be required to sell a security that has been downgraded after purchase; however, in these cases, the Fund will monitor the situation to determine whether it is advisable for the Fund to continue to hold the security. In considering whether to sell a security, the Fund may evaluate factors including, but not limited to, the condition of the economy, changes in the issuer's competitive position or financial condition, changes in the outlook for the issuer's industry, and the Fund's valuation target for the security, and the impact of the security's duration on the Fund's overall duration.

**Temporary Defensive Strategies.** The Fund seeks to remain fully invested in accordance with its investment objective. However, in an attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political, or other conditions, the Fund may take a temporary defensive position that is inconsistent with its principal investment strategies by holding some or all of its assets in short-term investments. These investments include cash, commercial paper, money market instruments, repurchase agreements, and U.S. Government securities. The Fund also may hold these types of investments while looking for suitable investment opportunities or to maintain liquidity. Taking a temporary defensive position could prevent the Fund from achieving its investment objective.

**Restrictions Relating to Other (Non-Principal) Investment Techniques.** In addition to the principal investment strategies discussed above, the Fund may use other investment types and techniques in seeking to achieve its investment objective. The applicable investment restrictions associated with such other investment types and techniques are set forth below. Please see "Fund Investments" in Part I of the statement of additional information ("SAI") and "Additional Information on Portfolio Investments, Risks, and Techniques" in Part II of the SAI for more information on these and the other investment types and techniques that may be used by the Fund.

***Illiquid Securities.*** The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities. An illiquid security is a security that the Fund reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in then-current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the security. In determining the liquidity of an investment, the



Fund may consider, among other things, the relevant market, trading and investment specific considerations of the security, including anticipated trading sizes.

***Options.*** The Fund may purchase and sell (write) exchange-listed or over-the-counter put and call options. The Fund will not purchase an option if, as a result of such purchase, more than 10% of its net assets would be invested in premiums for such options.

***Reverse Repurchase Agreements.*** The Fund may enter into reverse repurchase agreements, which are a form of borrowing. In a reverse repurchase agreement, the Fund sells a security to a securities dealer or bank for cash and also agrees to repurchase the same security at an agreed upon price on an agreed upon date. Reverse repurchase agreements expose the Fund to credit risk (that is, the risk that the counterparty will fail to resell the security to the Fund). Engaging in reverse repurchase agreements also may involve the use of leverage, in that the Fund may reinvest the cash it receives in additional securities. The Fund's investments in reverse repurchase agreements will not exceed 20% of the Fund's net assets.

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

As with any investment in a mutual fund, investing in the Fund involves risk, including the risk that you may receive little or no return on your investment. When you redeem your shares, they may be worth more or less than what you paid for them, which means that you may lose a portion or all of the money you invested in the Fund. Before you invest in the Fund, you should carefully evaluate the risks in light of your investment goals. An investment in the Fund held for longer periods over full market cycles typically provides the most favorable results.

The principal risks you assume when investing in the Fund are described below. The Fund attempts to manage these risks through careful security selection, portfolio diversification, and continual portfolio review and analysis, but there can be no assurance or guarantee that these strategies will be successful in reducing risk. Please see the SAI for a further discussion of strategies employed by the Fund and the risks associated with an investment in the Fund.

- **Portfolio Management Risk:** The strategies used and investments selected by the Fund's portfolio management team may fail to produce the intended result and the Fund may not achieve its objective. The securities selected for the Fund may not perform as well as other securities that were not selected for the Fund. As a result, the Fund may suffer losses or underperform other funds with the same investment objective or strategies, and may generate losses even in a favorable market.

- **Market Risk:** The market values of securities will fluctuate, sometimes sharply and unpredictably, based on overall economic conditions, governmental actions or intervention, market disruptions caused by trade disputes or other factors, political developments and other factors. Changes in the financial condition of a single issuer can impact a market as a whole. In addition, data imprecision, technology malfunctions, operational errors, and similar factors may adversely affect a single issuer, a group of issuers, an industry, or the market as a whole. Prices of equity securities tend to rise and fall more dramatically than those of debt securities. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the prices of the various securities held by the Fund. Economies and financial markets throughout the world are becoming increasingly interconnected, which raises the likelihood that events or conditions in one country or region will adversely affect markets or issuers in other countries or regions.
- **Fixed Income Securities Risk:** The Fund is subject to the general risks and considerations associated with investing in debt securities, including the risk that issuers will fail to make timely payments of principal or interest or default altogether. Typically, shorter-term bonds are less volatile than longer-term bonds; however, longer-term bonds typically offer higher yields and more stable interest income than shorter-term bond investments. Lower-rated securities in which the Fund may invest may be more volatile and may decline more in price in response to negative issuer developments or general economic news than higher rated securities. In addition, as interest rates rise, the Fund's investments typically will lose value.
- **High-Yield Securities Risk:** High-yield securities (commonly referred to as "junk" bonds) typically pay a higher yield than investment grade securities, but they have a higher risk of default than investment grade securities, and their prices are much more volatile. The market for high-yield securities may be less liquid due to such factors as specific industry developments, interest rate sensitivity, negative perceptions of the junk bond markets generally, and less secondary market liquidity, and may be subject to greater credit risk than investment grade securities. Below investment grade securities may be highly speculative and have poor prospects for reaching investment grade standing. Issuers of below investment grade securities generally are not as strong financially as those issuers with higher credit ratings, and are more likely to encounter financial difficulties, especially during periods of rising interest rates or other unfavorable economic or market conditions. Below investment grade securities are subject to the increased risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest obligations and a greater risk of default. Some issuers of below investment grade bonds may be more likely to default as to principal or interest payments after the Fund purchases their securities. A default, or concerns in the market about an increase in risk of default or the

deterioration in the creditworthiness of an issuer, may result in losses to the Fund. The Fund may incur higher expenses to protect its interests in such securities and may lose its entire investment in defaulted bonds.

The secondary market for high-yield securities is concentrated in relatively few market makers and is dominated by institutional investors, including mutual funds, insurance companies, and other financial institutions. As a result, the secondary market for such securities is not as liquid as, and is more volatile than, the secondary market for higher rated securities. In addition, market trading volume for lower-rated securities is generally lower and the secondary market for such securities could shrink or disappear suddenly and without warning as a result of adverse market or economic conditions, independent of any specific adverse changes in the condition of a particular issuer. Because of the lack of sufficient market liquidity, the Fund may incur losses because it may be required to effect sales at a disadvantageous time and then only at a substantial drop in price. These factors may have an adverse effect on the market price and the Fund's ability to dispose of particular portfolio investments. A less liquid secondary market also may make it more difficult for the Fund to obtain precise valuations of the below investment grade securities in its portfolio.

- **Credit Risk:** The value of a security may decline based on adverse conditions of the issuer, such as management performance, financial difficulties, or reduced demand for the goods and services provided by the issuer. In addition, if the market perceives a deterioration in the creditworthiness of an issuer, the value and liquidity of securities issued by that issuer may decline. As a result, the issuer of a fixed income security owned by the Fund may fail to make timely payments of principal or interest, or may default on such payments. If an issuer becomes less creditworthy, a debt security may decline in liquidity and value, even when interest rates are falling. This risk is greatest for high-yield fixed income securities, which have lower credit ratings. To the extent the Fund holds below investment grade securities, these risks may be heightened. The credit quality of the Fund's portfolio securities or instruments may meet the Fund's credit quality requirements at the time of purchase but then deteriorate thereafter, and such a deterioration can occur rapidly. In certain instances, the downgrading or default of a single holding or guarantor of the Fund's holding may impair the Fund's liquidity and have the potential to cause significant NAV deterioration. Corporate fixed income securities generally are subject to greater credit risk than U.S. Government securities. Although certain U.S. Government securities in which the Fund invests are guaranteed as to payments of interest and principal, their market prices are not guaranteed and will fluctuate in response to market movements.

- **Interest Rate Risk:** As interest rates rise, prices of bonds (including tax-exempt securities) generally fall. Additionally, rising interest rates or lack of market participants may lead to decreased liquidity in the fixed income markets. Interest rate changes typically have a greater effect on the price of fixed income securities with longer durations. Interest rate changes can be sudden and unpredictable, and the Fund may lose money as a result of movements in interest rates. A wide variety of market factors can cause interest rates to rise, including central bank monetary policy, rising inflation, and changes in general economic conditions. The Fund will be exposed to heightened interest rate risk as interest rates rise from historically low levels.
- **Liquidity/Redemption Risk:** The Fund may lose money when selling securities at inopportune times to fulfill shareholder redemption requests. The risk of loss may increase depending on the size and frequency of redemption requests, whether the redemption requests occur in times of overall market turmoil or declining prices, and whether the securities the Fund intends to sell have decreased in value or are illiquid. The Fund may be less able to sell illiquid securities at its desired time or price. As noted, the market for below investment grade securities generally is less liquid than the market for higher rated bonds, subjecting them to greater price fluctuations. It may be more difficult for the Fund to value its investments in illiquid securities than more liquid securities. The purchase price and subsequent valuation of restricted and illiquid securities normally reflect a discount, which may be significant, from the market price of comparable securities for which a liquid market exists. To the extent the Fund holds below investment grade fixed income securities, the Fund may be especially subject to the risk that during certain periods, the liquidity of particular issuers or industries, or all securities within a particular investment category will shrink or disappear suddenly and without warning as a result of adverse economic, market, or political events, rising interest rates, or adverse investor perceptions, whether or not accurate. Illiquidity can be caused by a variety of factors, including economic conditions, events relating to the issuer, a drop in overall market trading volume, an inability to find a ready buyer, or legal restrictions on the securities' resale. Certain securities that are liquid when purchased may later become illiquid, particularly in times of overall economic distress. Liquidity risk may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment or other circumstances where investor redemptions from fixed income mutual funds may be higher than normal, causing increased supply in the market due to selling activity.

To the extent that the traditional dealer counterparties that engage in fixed income trading do not maintain inventories of corporate bonds (which provide an important indication of their ability to “make markets”) that keep pace with the growth of the bond markets over time, relatively low levels of dealer inventories could lead to decreased liquidity and increased volatility in

the fixed income markets. Additionally, market participants other than the Fund may attempt to sell fixed income holdings at the same time as the Fund, which could cause downward pricing pressure and contribute to illiquidity.

- **Government Securities Risk:** The Fund invests in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies and instrumentalities (such as Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac securities). Securities issued or guaranteed by Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac are not issued directly by the U.S. Government. Ginnie Mae is a wholly-owned U.S. corporation that is authorized to guarantee, with the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government, the timely payment of principal and interest of its securities. By contrast, securities issued or guaranteed by U.S. Government-related organizations such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. No assurance can be given that the U.S. Government would provide financial support to its agencies and instrumentalities if not required to do so by law, and consequently, the Fund may be required to look principally to the agency issuing or guaranteeing the obligation for ultimate repayment.
- **Mortgage-Related and Other Asset-Backed Securities Risk:** The mortgage- and asset-backed securities in which the Fund invests may be particularly sensitive to changes in economic conditions, including delinquencies and/or defaults, and changes in prevailing interest rates. The prices of mortgage- and asset-backed securities, depending on their structure and the rate of payments, can be volatile. Like other debt securities, when interest rates rise, the value of mortgage- and other asset-backed securities generally will decline; however, when interest rates are declining, the value of mortgage-related securities with prepayment features may not increase as much as other fixed income securities. Alternatively, rising interest rates may cause prepayments to occur at a slower-than-expected rate, extending the duration of a security and typically reducing its value. Early repayment of principal on some mortgage-related securities may deprive the Fund of income payments above current market rates. The payment rate thus will affect the price and volatility of a mortgage-related security. The value of some mortgage-related and other asset-backed securities may fluctuate in response to the market's perception of the creditworthiness of the issuers. Additionally, although mortgages and mortgage-related securities generally are supported by some form of government or private guarantee and/or insurance, there is no assurance that private guarantors or insurers will meet their obligations.
- **Inflation-Linked Investments Risk:** As inflation increases, the value of the Fund's assets can decline as can the value of the Fund's distributions. Although the Fund invests in inflation-linked investments, the value of its securities may be vulnerable to changes in expectations of inflation or interest

rates. Although inflation-linked investments are expected to be protected from long-term inflationary trends, short-term increases in inflation may lead to a decline in value. If interest rates rise because of reasons other than inflation (for example, because of changes in currency exchange rates), investors in these securities may not be protected to the extent that the increase is not reflected in the security's inflation measure. There is no guarantee that the Fund will generate returns that exceed the rate of inflation in the U.S. economy over time. There is no guarantee that the Fund's use of inflation-linked investments will be successful. Furthermore, during periods of deflation or periods when the actual rate of inflation is lower than anticipated, the Fund is likely to underperform funds that hold fixed income securities similar to those held by the Fund but do not hold inflation-linked investments.

- **Foreign and Emerging Market Company Risk:** Investments in foreign (including emerging market) companies and in U.S. companies with economic ties to foreign markets generally involve special risks that can increase the likelihood that the Fund will lose money. For example, as compared with companies organized and operated in the U.S., these companies may be more vulnerable to economic, political, and social instability and subject to less government supervision, lack of transparency, inadequate regulatory and accounting standards, and foreign taxes. In addition, the securities of foreign companies also may be subject to inadequate exchange control regulations (including limitations on currency movements and exchanges), the imposition of economic sanctions or other government restrictions, higher transaction and other costs, and delays in settlement to the extent they are traded on non-U.S. exchanges or markets. Investments in foreign companies also may be adversely affected by governmental actions such as the nationalization of companies or industries, expropriation of assets, or confiscatory taxation. Foreign company securities also include American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”), Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”), and other similar depositary receipts. ADRs, GDRs, and other similar depositary receipts may be less liquid than the underlying shares in their primary trading market.

Foreign company securities also may be subject to thin trading volumes and reduced liquidity, which may lead to greater price fluctuation. A change in the value of a foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar will change the value of securities held by the Fund that are denominated in that foreign currency, including the value of any income distributions payable to the Fund as a holder of such securities. Currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time for a number of reasons, including changes in interest rates and the overall economic health of the issuer. Devaluation of a currency by a country's government or banking authority also will have an adverse impact on the U.S. dollar value of any investments

denominated in that currency. These and other factors can materially adversely affect the prices of securities the Fund holds, impair the Fund's ability to buy or sell securities at their desired price or time, or otherwise adversely affect the Fund's operations. The Fund may invest in securities of issuers, including emerging market issuers, whose economic fortunes are linked to non-U.S. markets, but which principally are traded on a U.S. securities market or exchange and denominated in U.S. dollars. To the extent the Fund invests in this manner, the percentage of the Fund's assets that is exposed to the risks associated with foreign companies may exceed the percentage of the Fund's assets that is invested in foreign securities that are principally traded outside of the U.S.

The Fund's investments in emerging market companies generally are subject to heightened risks compared to its investments in developed market companies. Investments in emerging markets may be considered speculative and generally are riskier than more developed markets because such markets tend to develop unevenly and may never fully develop. Emerging markets are more likely to experience hyperinflation and currency devaluations. Securities of emerging market companies may have far lower trading volumes, tend to be less liquid, especially subject to greater price volatility, have a smaller market capitalization, have less government regulation and may not be subject to as extensive and frequent accounting, financial and other reporting requirements as securities issued in more developed countries. Further, investing in the securities of issuers located in certain emerging countries may present a greater risk of loss resulting from problems in security registration and custody or substantial economic or political disruptions. The Fund may invest in securities of companies whose economic fortunes are linked to emerging markets but which principally are traded on a non-emerging market exchange. Such investments do not meet the Fund's definition of an emerging market security. To the extent the Fund invests in this manner, the percentage of the Fund's portfolio that is exposed to emerging market risks may be greater than the percentage of the Fund's assets that the Fund defines as representing emerging market securities.

- **Foreign Currency Risk:** Investments in securities that are denominated in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that those currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar, or in the case of hedged positions, that the U.S. dollar will decline in value relative to the currency being hedged. Foreign currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time. A decline in the value of foreign currencies relative to the U.S. dollar will reduce the value of securities that are denominated in those currencies. The Fund may engage in foreign currency transactions to attempt to protect the Fund from adverse currency movements. Such transactions include the risk that Lord Abbett will not accurately predict currency



movements. As a result, the Fund may experience significant losses or see its return reduced. Also, it may be difficult or impractical to hedge currency risk in many emerging markets.

- **Senior Loan Risk:** Investments in floating or adjustable rate senior loans are subject to increased credit and liquidity risks. Senior loan prices also may be adversely affected by supply-demand imbalances caused by conditions in the senior loan market or related markets. The Fund may invest primarily in senior loans that are rated below investment grade or, if unrated, deemed by Lord Abbett to be the equivalent of below investment grade securities. Below investment grade senior loans, like high-yield debt securities, or junk bonds, usually are more credit sensitive than interest rate sensitive, although the value of these instruments may be affected by broader interest rate swings in the overall fixed income market. Senior loans may be subject to structural subordination and, although the loans may be senior to equity and other debt securities in the borrower's capital structure, the loans may be subordinated to other obligations of the borrower or its subsidiaries. In some cases, no active trading market may exist for certain senior loans, which may impair the ability of the Fund to realize full value in the event of the need to sell a senior loan and which may make it difficult for the Fund to value senior loans.

Compared to securities and to certain other types of financial assets, purchases and sales of loans take longer to settle. This extended settlement process can (i) increase the counterparty risk borne by the Fund; (ii) leave the Fund unable to timely exercise voting and other rights as a holder of loans it has agreed to purchase; (iii) delay the Fund from realizing the proceeds of a sale of a loan; (iv) inhibit the Fund's ability to re-sell a loan that it has agreed to purchase if conditions change (leaving the Fund more exposed to price fluctuations); (v) prevent the Fund from timely collecting principal and interest payments; and (vi) expose the Fund to adverse tax or regulatory consequences. To the extent the extended loan settlement process gives rise to short-term liquidity needs, such as the need to satisfy redemption requests, the Fund may hold cash, sell investments, or temporarily borrow from banks or other lenders.

In certain circumstances, loans may not be considered securities, and in the event of fraud or misrepresentation by a borrower or an arranger, the Fund will not have the protection of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws, as would be the case for bonds or stocks. Instead, in such cases, the Fund generally will rely on the contractual provisions in the loan agreement itself, and common-law fraud protections under applicable state law.



• **Derivatives Risk:** The risks associated with derivatives may be different from and greater than the risks associated with directly investing in securities and other investments. Derivatives may increase the Fund's volatility and reduce its returns. The risks associated with derivatives include, among other things, the following:

- The risk that the value of a derivative may not correlate with the value of the underlying asset, rate, or index in the manner anticipated by the portfolio management team and may be more sensitive to changes in economic or market conditions than anticipated.
- Derivatives may be difficult to value, especially under stressed or unforeseen market conditions.
- The risk that the counterparty may fail to fulfill its contractual obligations under the derivative contract. Central clearing of derivatives is intended to decrease counterparty risk but does not eliminate it.
- The Fund may be required to segregate permissible liquid assets to cover its obligations under these transactions and may have to liquidate positions before it is desirable to do so to fulfill its segregation requirements.
- The risk that there will not be a liquid secondary trading market for the derivative, or that the Fund will otherwise be unable to sell or otherwise close a derivatives position when desired, exposing the Fund to additional losses.
- Because derivatives generally involve a small initial investment relative to the risk assumed (known as leverage), derivatives can magnify the Fund's losses and increase its volatility.
- The Fund's use of derivatives may affect the amount and timing.

There is no assurance that the Fund will be able to employ its derivatives strategies successfully. Derivatives may not perform as expected and the Fund may not realize the intended benefits. Whether the Fund's use of derivatives is successful will depend on, among other things, the portfolio managers' ability to correctly forecast market movements, company and industry valuation levels and trends, changes in foreign exchange and interest rates, and other factors. If the portfolio managers incorrectly forecast these and other factors, the Fund's performance could suffer. Although hedging may reduce or eliminate losses, it also may reduce or eliminate gains. When used for hedging purposes, the changes in value of a derivative may not correlate as expected with the currency, security, portfolio, or other risk being hedged. When used as an alternative or substitute for, or in combination with, direct investments, the return provided by the derivative

may not provide the same return as direct investment. In addition, given their complexity, derivatives are subject to the risk that improper or misunderstood documentation may expose the Fund to losses.

The U.S. Government has enacted legislation that provides for new regulation of the derivatives market, including clearing, margin, reporting, and registration requirements. The European Union and other countries are implementing similar requirements, which will affect the Fund when it enters into a derivatives transaction with a counterparty organized in such a country or otherwise subject to that country's derivatives regulations. Because these requirements are new and evolving, their ultimate impact on the Fund remains unclear. It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instruments could potentially limit or restrict the ability of the Fund to use these instruments as a part of its investment strategy, increase the costs of using these instruments, make them less effective, or otherwise adversely affect their value. Limits or restrictions applicable to the counterparties with which the Fund engages in derivative transactions could also prevent the Fund from using these instruments or affect the pricing or other factors relating to these instruments.

- **High Portfolio Turnover Risk:** High portfolio turnover may result in increased transaction costs. These costs are not reflected in the Fund's annual operating expenses or in the expense example in the prospectus and shareholder reports, but they can reduce the Fund's investment performance. If the Fund realizes capital gains when it sells investments, it generally must distribute those gains to shareholders. The Financial Highlights table at the end of the prospectus shows the Fund's portfolio turnover rate during past fiscal years.

## ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL RISKS

In addition to the principal investment risks described above, the Fund also may be subject to certain operational risks, including:

- **Cyber Security Risk:** As the use of technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, Lord Abbett and other service providers have become more susceptible to operational and information security risks. Cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events and include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorized access to electronic systems for purposes of misappropriating assets, personally identifiable information ("PII") or proprietary information (e.g., trading models and algorithms), corrupting data, or causing operational disruption, for example, by compromising trading systems or accounting platforms. Other ways in which the business operations of Lord Abbett, other service providers, or issuers of securities in which Lord Abbett invests a shareholder's assets may be impacted include interference with a shareholder's ability to value its

portfolio, the unauthorized release of PII or confidential information, and violations of applicable privacy, recordkeeping and other laws. A shareholder and/or its account could be negatively impacted as a result.

While Lord Abbett has established internal risk management security protocols designed to identify, protect against, detect, respond to and recover from cyber security incidents, there are inherent limitations in such protocols including the possibility that certain threats and vulnerabilities have not been identified or made public due to the evolving nature of cyber security threats. Furthermore, Lord Abbett cannot control the cyber security systems of third party service providers or issuers. There currently is no insurance policy available to cover all of the potential risks associated with cyber incidents. Unless specifically agreed by Lord Abbett separately or required by law, Lord Abbett is not a guarantor against, or obligor for, any damages resulting from a cyber security-related incident.

- **Large Shareholder Risk:** To the extent a large number of shares of the Fund is held by a single shareholder or group of related shareholders (e.g., an institutional investor or multiple accounts advised by a common adviser) or a group of shareholders with a common investment strategy, the Fund is subject to the risk that a redemption by those shareholders of all or a large portion of their Fund shares will adversely affect the Fund's performance by forcing the Fund to sell portfolio securities, potentially at disadvantageous prices, to raise the cash needed to satisfy the redemption request. These transactions may adversely affect the Fund's performance to the extent that the Fund is required to sell investments (or invest cash) when it would not otherwise do so. Redemptions of a large number of shares also may increase transaction costs or, by necessitating a sale of portfolio securities, have adverse tax consequences for Fund shareholders. Additionally, redemptions by a large shareholder also potentially limit the use of any capital loss carryforwards and other losses to offset future realized capital gains (if any) and may limit or prevent the Fund's use of tax equalization.
- **Operational Risk:** The Fund is also subject to the risk of loss as a result of other services provided by Lord Abbett and other service providers, including pricing, administrative, accounting, tax, legal, custody, transfer agency, and other services. Operational risk includes the possibility of loss caused by inadequate procedures and controls, human error, and system failures by a service provider; each of which may negatively affect the Fund's performance. For example, trading delays or errors could prevent the Fund from benefiting from potential investment gains or avoiding losses. In addition, a service provider may be unable to provide a NAV for the Fund or share class on a timely basis. Similar types of operational risks also are

present for issuers of securities in which the Fund invests, which could result in material adverse consequences for such issuers, and may cause the Fund's investment in such securities to lose value.

- **Business Continuity:** Lord Abbett has developed a Business Continuity Program (the "Program") that is designed to minimize the disruption of normal business operations in the event of an adverse incident impacting Lord Abbett, its affiliates, or the Fund. While Lord Abbett believes that the Program should enable it to reestablish normal business operations in a timely manner in the event of an adverse incident, there are inherent limitations in such programs (including the possibility that contingencies have not been anticipated and procedures do not work as intended) and under some circumstances, Lord Abbett, its affiliates, and any vendors used by Lord Abbett, its affiliates, or the Fund could be prevented or hindered from providing services to the Fund for extended periods of time. These circumstances may include, without limitation, acts of God, acts of governments, any act of declared or undeclared war or of a public enemy (including acts of terrorism), power shortages or failures, utility or communication failure or delays, labor disputes, strikes, shortages, supply shortages, system failures or malfunctions. The Fund's ability to recover any losses or expenses it incurs as a result of a disruption of business operations may be limited by the liability, standard of care, and related provisions in its contractual arrangements with Lord Abbett and other service providers.
- **Market Disruption and Geopolitical Risk:** Geopolitical and other events (e.g., wars, terrorism or natural disasters) may disrupt securities markets and adversely affect global economies and markets, thereby decreasing the value of the Fund's investments. Sudden or significant changes in the supply or prices of commodities or other economic inputs (e.g., the marked decline in oil prices that began in late 2014) may have material and unexpected effects on both global securities markets and individual countries, regions, sectors, companies, or industries, which could significantly reduce the value of the Fund's investments. Terrorist attacks or natural disasters could result in unplanned or significant securities market closures. Securities markets also may be susceptible to market manipulation (e.g., the manipulation of the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)) or other fraudulent trading practices, which could disrupt the orderly functioning of markets, increase overall market volatility or reduce the value of investments traded in them, including investments of the Fund. Instances of fraud and other deceptive practices committed by senior management of certain companies in which the Fund invests may undermine Lord Abbett's due diligence efforts with respect to such companies, and if such fraud is discovered, negatively affect the value of the Fund's investments. Financial fraud also may impact the rates or indices underlying the Fund's investments.

While the U.S. Government has always honored its credit obligations, a default by the U.S. Government (as has been threatened in recent years) would be highly disruptive to the U.S. and global securities markets and could significantly reduce the value of the Fund's investments. Similarly, political events within the United States at times have resulted, and may in the future result, in a shutdown of government services, which could adversely affect the U.S. economy, decrease the value of many Fund investments, and increase uncertainty in or impair the operation of the U.S. or other securities markets. Uncertainty surrounding the sovereign debt of several European Union ("EU") countries, as well as the continued existence of the EU itself, has disrupted and may continue to disrupt markets in the United States and around the world. If a country changes its currency or leaves the EU or if the EU dissolves, the world's securities markets likely will be significantly disrupted. In June 2016, the United Kingdom ("UK") approved a referendum to leave the EU (commonly known as "Brexit") and in March 2017, the UK commenced the formal process of withdrawing from the EU. Brexit has resulted and may in the future result in volatility in European and global markets and could have negative long-term impacts on financial markets in the UK and throughout Europe. Considerable uncertainty exists over the potential consequences and precise timeframe for Brexit, how it will be conducted, how negotiations of trade agreements will proceed, and how the financial markets will react, and, as this process unfolds, markets may be further disrupted. Further, Brexit may lead to legal and tax uncertainty and potentially divergent national laws and regulations as the UK determines which EU laws to replace or replicate. The consequences of the UK's or another country's exit from the EU also could threaten the stability of the euro for remaining EU countries and could negatively affect the financial markets of other countries in the European region and beyond.

Substantial government interventions (e.g., currency controls) also could adversely affect the Fund. War, terrorism, economic uncertainty, and related geopolitical events have led, and in the future may lead, to increased short-term market volatility and may have adverse long-term effects on U.S. and world economies and markets generally. Likewise, natural and environmental disasters, such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in early 2011, and systemic market dislocations of the kind surrounding the insolvency of Lehman Brothers in 2008, if repeated, would be highly disruptive to economies and markets, adversely affecting individual companies and industries, securities markets, interest rates, credit ratings, inflation, investor sentiment, and other factors affecting the value of the Fund's investments. During such market disruptions, the Fund's exposure to the risks described elsewhere in the "Principal Risks" section of the prospectus will likely increase. Market disruptions, including sudden government interventions, can also prevent the Fund from implementing its investment strategies and

achieving its investment objective. To the extent the Fund has focused its investments in the stock index of a particular region, adverse geopolitical and other events in that region could have a disproportionate impact on the Fund.

- **Valuation Risk:** The valuation of the Fund’s investments involves subjective judgment. There can be no assurance that the Fund will value its investments in a manner that accurately reflects their current market values or that the Fund will be able to sell any investment at a price equal to the valuation ascribed to that investment for purposes of calculating the Fund’s NAV. Incorrect valuations of the Fund’s portfolio holdings could result in the Fund’s shareholder transactions being effected at a NAV that does not accurately reflect the underlying value of the Fund’s portfolio, resulting in the dilution of shareholder interests.

## DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

A description of the Fund’s policies and procedures regarding the disclosure of the Fund’s portfolio holdings is available in the SAI. Further information is available at [www.lordabbett.com](http://www.lordabbett.com).

## MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF THE FUND

**Board of Directors.** The Board oversees the management of the business and affairs of the Fund. The Board appoints officers who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fund and who execute policies authorized by the Board. At least 75 percent of the Board members are not “interested persons” (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended) of the Fund.

**Investment Adviser.** The Fund’s investment adviser is Lord Abbett which is located at 90 Hudson Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302-3973. Founded in 1929, Lord Abbett manages one of the nation’s oldest mutual fund complexes and manages approximately \$172.1 billion in assets across a full range of mutual funds, institutional accounts, and separately managed accounts, including \$1.2 billion for which Lord Abbett provides investment models to managed account sponsors as of February 28, 2019.

**Portfolio Managers.** The Fund is managed by experienced portfolio managers responsible for investment decisions together with a team of investment professionals who provide issuer, industry, sector and macroeconomic research and analysis. The SAI contains additional information about portfolio manager compensation, other accounts managed, and ownership of Fund shares.

Kewjin Yuoh, Partner and Portfolio Manager, heads the Fund’s team. Mr. Yuoh joined Lord Abbett in 2010. Additional members of the Fund’s team are Robert A. Lee, Partner and Chief Investment Officer, Andrew H. O’Brien, Partner and Portfolio Manager, and Steven F. Rocco, Partner and Director of

Taxable Fixed Income. Messrs. Lee, O'Brien, and Rocco joined Lord Abbett in 1997, 1998, and 2004, respectively. Messrs. Yuoh, Lee, O'Brien, and Rocco have been members of the Fund's team since its inception and are jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund.

**Management Fee.** Lord Abbett is entitled to a management fee based on the Fund's average daily net assets. The management fee is accrued daily and payable monthly as calculated at the following annual rates:

Prior to May 1, 2019, Lord Abbett was entitled to a management fee for the Fund as calculated at the following annual rates:

- 0.45% on the first \$1 billion of average daily net assets;
- 0.40% on the next \$1 billion of average daily net assets; and
- 0.35% on the Fund's average daily net assets over \$2 billion.

Effective May 1, 2019, Lord Abbett is entitled to a management fee for the Fund as calculated at the following annual rates:

- 0.28% on the first \$4 billion of average daily net assets;
- 0.26% on the next \$11 billion of average daily net assets; and
- 0.25% on the Fund's average daily net assets over \$15 billion.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, the effective annual rate of the fee paid to Lord Abbett, net of any applicable waivers or reimbursements, was 0.24% of the Fund's average daily net assets.

In addition, Lord Abbett provides certain administrative services to the Fund pursuant to an Administrative Services Agreement in return for a fee at an annual rate of 0.04% of the Fund's average daily net assets. The Fund pays all of its expenses not expressly assumed by Lord Abbett.

Each year the Board considers whether to approve the continuation of the existing management and administrative services agreements between the Fund and Lord Abbett. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval is available in the Fund's annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY COMPENSATION

**Revenue Sharing and Other Payments to Dealers and Financial Intermediaries.** Lord Abbett (the term "Lord Abbett" in this section also refers to Lord Abbett Distributor LLC, the Fund's principal underwriter ("Lord Abbett Distributor"), unless the context requires otherwise) may make payments to certain financial intermediaries for marketing and distribution support activities. Lord Abbett makes these payments, at its own expense, out of its own resources (including revenues from advisory fees), and without any additional costs to the Fund or the Fund's shareholders.

These payments, which may include amounts that sometimes are referred to as “revenue sharing” payments, are in addition to the Fund’s fees and expenses described in this prospectus. In general, these payments are intended to compensate or reimburse financial intermediary firms for certain activities, including: promotion of sales of Fund shares, such as placing the Lord Abbett Family of Funds on a preferred list of fund families; making Fund shares available on certain platforms, programs, or trading venues; educating a financial intermediary firm’s sales force about the Lord Abbett Funds; providing services to shareholders; and various other promotional efforts and/or costs. The payments made to financial intermediaries may be used to cover costs and expenses related to these promotional efforts, including travel, lodging, entertainment, and meals, among other things. In addition, Lord Abbett may provide payments to a financial intermediary in connection with Lord Abbett’s participation in or support of conferences and other events sponsored, hosted, or organized by the financial intermediary. The aggregate amount of these payments may be substantial and may exceed the actual costs incurred by the financial intermediary in engaging in these promotional activities or services and the financial intermediary firm may realize a profit in connection with such activities or services.

Lord Abbett may make such payments on a fixed or variable basis based on Fund sales, assets, transactions processed, and/or accounts attributable to a financial intermediary, among other factors. Lord Abbett determines the amount of these payments in its sole discretion. In doing so, Lord Abbett may consider a number of factors, including: a financial intermediary’s sales, assets, and redemption rates; the nature and quality of any shareholder services provided by the financial intermediary; the quality and depth of the financial intermediary’s existing business relationships with Lord Abbett; the expected potential to expand such relationships; and the financial intermediary’s anticipated growth prospects. Not all financial intermediaries receive revenue sharing payments and the amount of revenue sharing payments may vary for different financial intermediaries. Lord Abbett may choose not to make payments in relation to certain of the Lord Abbett Funds or certain classes of shares of any particular Fund.

In some circumstances, these payments may create an incentive for a broker-dealer or its investment professionals to recommend or sell Fund shares to you. Lord Abbett may benefit from these payments to the extent the broker-dealers sell more Fund shares or retain more Fund shares in their clients’ accounts because Lord Abbett receives greater management and other fees as Fund assets increase. For more specific information about these payments, including revenue sharing arrangements, made to your broker-dealer or other financial intermediary and the conflicts of interest that may arise from such arrangements, please



contact your investment professional. In addition, please see the SAI for more information regarding Lord Abbett's revenue sharing arrangements with financial intermediaries.

## **PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS**

The Fund offers in this prospectus, at NAV, one class of shares named Variable Contract Class, which is referred to in this prospectus as Class VC. Shares of the Fund are not offered directly to the public. Rather, shares of the Fund currently are offered only to separate accounts of certain insurance companies. These insurance companies sell Variable Contracts that generate premiums, some of which will be invested in the Fund. Redemptions will be effected by the separate accounts to meet obligations under the Variable Contracts. Variable Contract owners do not deal directly with the Fund with respect to the purchase or redemption of Fund shares.

You should note that your purchase, exchange, and redemption requests may be subject to review and verification on an ongoing basis.

We reserve the right to modify, restrict, or reject any purchase order or exchange request if the Fund or Lord Abbett Distributor determines that it is in the best interest of the Fund and its shareholders. All purchase orders are subject to our acceptance.

**Liquidity Management.** The Fund has implemented measures designed to enable it to pay redemption proceeds in a timely fashion while maintaining adequate liquidity. The Fund's portfolio management team continually monitors portfolio liquidity and adjusts the Fund's cash level based on portfolio composition, redemption rates, market conditions, and other relevant criteria. Under normal circumstances, the Fund's portfolio management team may meet redemption requests and manage liquidity by selling portfolio securities. Under certain circumstances, including stressed market conditions, the Fund's portfolio management team may meet redemption requests and manage liquidity by (i) borrowing from a bank under a line of credit or from another Lord Abbett Fund (to the extent permitted under any SEC exemptive relief and the Fund's investment restrictions, in each case as stated in the Fund's SAI and/or prospectus, as applicable), (ii) transacting in exchange-traded funds and/or derivatives, or (iii) paying redemption proceeds in kind, as discussed below. Despite the Fund's reasonable best efforts, however, there can be no assurance that the Fund will manage liquidity successfully in all market environments. As a result, the Fund may not be able to pay redemption proceeds in a timely fashion because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, or other factors.

**Redemptions in Kind.** The Fund reserves the right to pay redemption proceeds in whole or in part by distributing liquid securities from the Fund's portfolio. It is not expected that the Fund would pay redemptions by an in kind distribution except in unusual and/or stressed circumstances. If the Fund pays redemption proceeds by distributing securities in kind, you could incur brokerage or other charges, and tax liability, and you will bear market risks until the distributed securities are converted into cash.

## ACCOUNT POLICIES

**Pricing of Fund Shares.** Under normal circumstances, NAV per share is calculated each business day at the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, on each day on which the NYSE is open for trading. The most recent NAV per share for the Fund is available at [www.lordabbett.com](http://www.lordabbett.com). Purchases and sales (including exchanges) of Fund shares are executed at the NAV next determined after the Fund or the Fund's authorized agent receives your order in good order. In the case of purchase, redemption, or exchange orders placed through your financial intermediary, when acting as the Fund's authorized agent (or the agent's designee), the Fund will be deemed to have received the order when the agent or designee receives the order in good order.

Purchase and sale orders must be placed by the close of trading on the NYSE in order to receive that day's NAV; orders placed after the close of trading on the NYSE will receive the next business day's NAV. Fund shares will not be priced on holidays or other days when the NYSE is closed for trading. In the event the NYSE is closed on a day it normally would be open for business for any reason (including, but not limited to, technology problems or inclement weather), or the NYSE has an unscheduled early closing on a day it has opened for business, the Fund reserves the right to treat such day as a business day. In such cases, the Fund would accept purchase and redemption orders until, and calculate its NAV as of, the normally scheduled close of regular trading on the NYSE for that day, so long as Lord Abbett believes there generally remains an adequate market to obtain reliable and accurate market quotations.

In calculating NAV, securities listed on any recognized U.S. or non-U.S. exchange (including NASDAQ) are valued at the market closing price on the exchange or system on which they are principally traded. Unlisted equity securities are valued at the last transaction price, or, if there were no transactions that day, at the mean between the most recently quoted bid and asked prices. Unlisted fixed income securities (other than those with remaining maturities of 60 days or less) are valued at prices supplied by independent pricing services, which prices are broker/dealer-supplied valuations or evaluated or "matrix" prices based on electronic data processing techniques. Such valuations are based on the mean between the bid and asked prices, when available, and are based on

the bid price when no asked price is available. Unlisted fixed income securities (other than senior loans) having remaining maturities of 60 days or less are valued at their amortized cost. The principal markets for non-U.S. securities and U.S. fixed income securities also generally close prior to the close of the NYSE. Consequently, values of non-U.S. investments and U.S. fixed income securities will be determined as of the earlier closing of such exchanges and markets unless the Fund prices such a security at its fair value. This may allow significant events, including broad market moves that occur in the interim, to affect the values of non-U.S. securities and U.S. fixed income securities held by the Fund. These timing differences may allow a shareholder to exploit differences in the Fund's share prices that are based on closing prices of non-U.S. securities and U.S. fixed-income securities that are determined before the Fund calculates its NAV per share. For more information, please see the section "Excessive Trading and Market Timing" below.

Securities for which prices or market quotations are not readily available, do not accurately reflect fair value in Lord Abbett's opinion, or have been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the market on which the security is principally traded but before 4:00 p.m. Eastern time are valued by Lord Abbett under fair value procedures approved by and administered under the supervision of the Fund's Board. These circumstances may arise, for instance, when trading in a security is suspended, the market on which a security is traded closes early, or demand for a security (as reflected by its trading volume) is insufficient and thus calls into question the reliability of the quoted or computed price, or the security is relatively illiquid. The Fund may use fair value pricing more frequently for securities primarily traded on foreign exchanges. Because many foreign markets close hours before the Fund values its foreign portfolio holdings, significant events, including broad market moves, may occur in the interim potentially affecting the values of foreign securities held by the Fund. The Fund determines fair value in a manner that fairly reflects the market value of the security on the valuation date based on consideration of any information or factors it deems appropriate. These may include recent transactions in comparable securities, information relating to the specific security, developments in the markets and their performance, and current valuations of relevant general and sector indices. The Fund's use of fair value pricing may cause the NAV of Fund shares to differ from the NAV that would be calculated using market quotations. Fair value pricing involves subjective judgments and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security may be materially different from the value that could be realized upon the sale of that security.

Certain securities that are traded primarily on foreign exchanges may trade on weekends or days when the NAV is not calculated. As a result, the value of securities may change on days when shareholders are not able to purchase or sell Fund shares.

**Excessive Trading and Market Timing.** The Fund is not designed for short-term investors and is not intended to serve as a vehicle for frequent trading in response to short-term swings in the market. Excessive, short-term or market timing trading practices (“frequent trading”) may disrupt management of the Fund, raise its expenses, and harm long-term shareholders in a variety of ways. For example, volatility resulting from frequent trading may cause the Fund difficulty in implementing long-term investment strategies because it cannot anticipate the amount of cash it will have to invest. The Fund may find it necessary to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous times to raise cash to meet the redemption demands resulting from such frequent trading. Each of these, in turn, could increase tax, administrative, and other costs, and reduce the Fund’s investment return.

To the extent the Fund invests in foreign securities, the Fund may be particularly susceptible to frequent trading because many foreign markets close hours before the Fund values its portfolio holdings. This may allow significant events, including broad market moves that occur in the interim, to affect the values of foreign securities held by the Fund. The time zone differences among foreign markets may allow a shareholder to exploit differences in the Fund’s share prices that are based on closing prices of foreign securities determined before the Fund calculates its NAV per share (known as “time zone arbitrage”). To the extent the Fund invests in securities that are thinly traded or relatively illiquid, the Fund also may be particularly susceptible to frequent trading because the current market price for such securities may not accurately reflect current market values. A shareholder may attempt to engage in frequent trading to take advantage of these pricing differences (known as “price arbitrage”). The Fund has adopted fair value procedures that allow the Fund to use values other than the closing market prices of these types of securities to reflect what the Fund reasonably believes to be their fair value at the time it calculates its NAV per share. The Fund expects that the use of fair value pricing will reduce a shareholder’s ability to engage successfully in time zone arbitrage and price arbitrage to the detriment of other Fund shareholders, although there is no assurance that fair value pricing will do so. For more information about these procedures, see “Pricing of Fund Shares” above.

The Fund’s Board has adopted additional policies and procedures that are designed to prevent or stop frequent trading. We recognize, however, that it may not be possible to identify and stop or avoid every instance of frequent trading in Fund shares. For this reason, the Fund’s policies and procedures are intended to identify and stop frequent trading that we believe may be harmful to the Fund. For this purpose, we consider frequent trading to be harmful if, in general, it is likely to cause the Fund to incur additional expenses or to sell portfolio holdings for other than investment strategy-related reasons. Toward this end, we have procedures in place to monitor the purchase, sale and exchange activity in Fund shares by investors and financial intermediaries that place orders on behalf of

their clients, which procedures are described below. The Fund may modify its frequent trading policy and monitoring procedures from time to time without notice as and when deemed appropriate to enhance protection of the Fund and its shareholders.

Financial intermediaries include broker-dealers, registered investment advisers, banks, trust companies, certified financial planners, third-party administrators, recordkeepers, trustees, custodians, financial consultants and insurance companies.

**Frequent Trading Policy and Procedures.** We have procedures in place designed to enable us to monitor the purchase, sale and exchange activity in Fund shares by investors and financial intermediaries that place orders on behalf of their clients in order to attempt to identify activity that is potentially harmful to the Fund. While we attempt to apply the policy and procedures uniformly to detect frequent trading practices, there can be no assurance that we will succeed in identifying all such practices or that some investors will not employ tactics that evade our detection. Lord Abbett U.S. Government & Government Sponsored Enterprises Money Market Fund, Inc. and Lord Abbett Ultra Short Bond Fund are not subject to the frequent trading policy and procedures.

Lord Abbett Distributor may review the frequent trading policies and procedures that an individual financial intermediary is able to put in place to determine whether its policies and procedures are consistent with the protection of the Fund and its investors, as described above. Lord Abbett Distributor also will seek the financial intermediary's agreement to cooperate with Lord Abbett Distributor's efforts to (1) monitor the financial intermediary's adherence to its policies and procedures and/or receive an amount and level of information regarding trading activity that Lord Abbett Distributor in its sole discretion deems adequate, and (2) stop any trading activity Lord Abbett Distributor identifies as frequent trading. Nevertheless, these circumstances may result in a financial intermediary's application of policies and procedures that are less effective at detecting and preventing frequent trading than the policies and procedures adopted by Lord Abbett Distributor and by certain other financial intermediaries. These difficulties may be magnified by the nature of the Fund serving as an investment vehicle for variable products, which may have their own frequent trading policies, which policies may be inconsistent with the Fund's policies. If an investor would like more information concerning the policies, procedures and restrictions that may be applicable to his or her account, the investor should contact the financial intermediary placing purchase orders on his or her behalf. A substantial portion of the Fund's shares may be held by financial intermediaries through omnibus accounts or in nominee name.

With respect to monitoring of accounts maintained by a financial intermediary, to our knowledge, in an omnibus environment or in nominee name, Lord Abbett Distributor will seek to receive sufficient information from the financial

intermediary to enable it to review the ratio of purchase versus redemption activity of each underlying sub-account or, if such information is not readily obtainable, in the overall omnibus account(s) or nominee name account(s). If we identify activity that we believe may be indicative of frequent trading activity, we normally will notify the financial intermediary and request it to provide Lord Abbett Distributor with additional transaction information so that Lord Abbett Distributor may determine if any investors appear to have engaged in frequent trading activity. Lord Abbett Distributor's monitoring activity normally is limited to review of historic account activity. This may result in procedures that may be less effective at detecting and preventing frequent trading than the procedures Lord Abbett Distributor uses in connection with accounts not maintained in an omnibus environment or in nominee name.

If an investor related to an account maintained in an omnibus environment or in nominee name is identified as engaging in frequent trading activity, we normally will request that the financial intermediary take appropriate action to curtail the activity and will work with the relevant party to do so. Such action may include actions similar to those that Lord Abbett Distributor would take, such as issuing warnings to cease frequent trading activity, placing blocks on accounts to prohibit future purchases and exchanges of Fund shares, or requiring that the investor place trades through the mail only, in each case either indefinitely or for a period of time. Again, we reserve the right to immediately attempt to place a block on an account or take other action without prior notification when we deem such action appropriate in our sole discretion. If we determine that the financial intermediary has not demonstrated adequately that it has taken appropriate action to curtail the frequent trading, we may consider seeking to prohibit the account or sub-account from investing in the Fund and/or also may terminate our relationship with the financial intermediary. As noted above, these efforts may be less effective at detecting and preventing frequent trading than the policies and procedures Lord Abbett Distributor uses in connection with accounts not maintained in an omnibus environment or in nominee name.

**Procedures Required by the USA PATRIOT Act.** To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, federal law requires all financial institutions, including the Fund, to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person who opens an account. The Fund is required to obtain sufficient information from shareholders to enable it to form a reasonable belief that it knows the true identity of its shareholders, and we may ask for other information that will allow us to verify the identity of investors or, in some cases, the status of financial professionals. We will ask for this information in the case of persons who will be signing on behalf of certain entities that will own the account, or, as applicable, this information will be obtained by the investing insurance company on behalf of the Fund. We also may ask for copies of documents. If we are unable to obtain the required information within a short period of time after an investor seeks to open an

account, we will return the purchase order or account application. No monies will be invested until we have all required information. We may verify the identity of each person that opens a new account through the use of a database maintained by a third party or through other means. If we are unable to verify any such person's identity, we may liquidate and close the account. This may result in adverse tax consequences. In addition, the Fund reserves the right to reject purchase orders or account applications accompanied by cash, cashier's checks, money orders, bank drafts, traveler's checks, and third party or double-endorsed checks, among others.

**How to Protect Your Account from State Seizure.** Under state law, mutual fund accounts can be considered "abandoned property." The Fund may be required by state law to forfeit or pay abandoned property to the state government if you have not accessed your account for a period specified by the state of your domicile. Depending on the state, in most cases, a mutual fund account may be considered abandoned and forfeited to the state if the account owner has not initiated any activity in the account or contacted the fund company holding the account for as few as three or as many as five years. Because the Fund is legally required to send the state the assets of accounts that are considered "abandoned," the Fund will not be liable to shareholders for good faith compliance with these state laws. If you invest in the Fund through a financial intermediary, we encourage you to contact the financial intermediary regarding applicable state abandoned property laws.

If you hold your account directly with the Fund (rather than through an intermediary), we strongly encourage you to contact us at least once each year. Below are ways in which you can assist us in safeguarding your Fund investments:

- Log into your account at [www.lordabbett.com](http://www.lordabbett.com). Please note that, by contrast, simply visiting our public website will not constitute contact with us under state abandoned property rules; instead, an account login is required.
- Call our 24-hour automated service line at 800-865-7582 and use your Personal Identification Number (PIN). If you have never used this system, you will need your account number to establish a PIN.
- Call one of our customer service representatives at 800-821-5129 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Eastern time. To establish contact with us under certain states' abandoned property rules, you will need to provide your name, account number, and other identifying information.
- Promptly notify us if your name, address, or other account information changes.
- Promptly vote on proxy proposals related to any Lord Abbett Fund you hold.



- Promptly take action on letters you receive in the mail from the Fund concerning account inactivity, outstanding dividend and redemption checks, and/or abandoned property and follow the directions in these letters.

**Additional Information.** This prospectus and the SAI do not purport to create any contractual obligations between the Fund and shareholders. Further, shareholders are not intended third-party beneficiaries of any contracts entered into by (or on behalf of) the Fund, including contracts with Lord Abbett or other parties who provide services to the Fund.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As discussed above, shares of the Fund offered in this prospectus currently are available only to separate accounts of certain insurance companies. Although the Fund currently does not anticipate any disadvantages to Variable Contract owners because it offers its shares to such entities, there is a possibility that a material conflict may arise. The Board of Directors intends to monitor events in order to identify any disadvantages or material irreconcilable conflicts and to determine what action, if any, should be taken in response. If a material disadvantage or conflict arises, the Board of Directors may require one or more insurance company separate accounts to withdraw its investments in the Fund. If this occurs, the Fund may be forced to sell portfolio securities at disadvantageous prices.

## DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

The Fund expects to pay its shareholders dividends from its net investment income at least semiannually and to distribute any net capital gains annually. Holders of Variable Contracts may qualify for favorable tax treatment with respect to such contracts. For additional information about the federal income tax treatment of Fund distributions to the insurance company separate accounts that hold shares in the Fund, please refer to the prospectus provided by the insurance company for your Variable Contract.

The Fund has elected to be treated and intends to qualify each year as a regulated investment company under the Code. As such, the Fund must satisfy federal tax requirements relating to the sources of its income, diversification of its assets and distribution of its income to shareholders. As long as the Fund meets such requirements, it will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on any net investment income and net capital gains that it timely distributes.

In order for Holders of Variable Contracts to receive the favorable tax treatment available with respect to Variable Contracts, certain diversification and investor control requirements must be met. The Fund intends to comply with these diversification and investor control requirements. To satisfy the diversification requirements contained in Section 817(h) of the Code and Treasury regulations



thereunder, the Fund generally either (1) will not be permitted to invest more than 55% of the value of its total assets in the securities of a single investment; more than 70% of the value of its total assets in the securities of any two investments; more than 80% of the value of its total assets in the securities of any three investments; or more than 90% of the value of its total assets in the securities of any four investments or (2) will be required to meet an alternate safe harbor diversification test. If the Fund were to fail to satisfy one of these diversification requirements on the last day of any quarter of a calendar year or if Variable Contract owners were determined to have an impermissible level of “investor control” over the investment options underlying Variable Contracts, owners of Variable Contracts that are invested in shares in the Fund could become subject to current federal taxation at ordinary income rates with respect to any income accrued under the Variable Contract for the current and all prior taxable years. For more specific information on the diversification requirements applicable to Variable Contracts, see the SAI.

Because of the unique tax status of Variable Contracts, you should consult your tax adviser regarding treatment under the federal, state, and local tax rules that apply to you.

#### **SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS**

Certain insurance companies will be compensated by the Fund up to 0.25% of the average daily NAV of the Fund’s Class VC Shares held in the insurance company’s separate account to service and maintain Variable Contract owners’ accounts. The services provided may include: providing information periodically to Variable Contract owners; showing the number of shares of the Fund held through the Variable Contract; responding to Variable Contract owners’ inquiries relating to the services performed by the insurance company; forwarding shareholder communications from the Fund, including proxy materials, shareholder reports and annual and semiannual financial statements, as well as dividend, distribution and tax notices to Variable Contract owners, if required by law; and such other similar services as the Fund may reasonably request, from time to time, to the extent the insurance company is permitted to provide such services under federal and state statutes, rules and regulations.

The Fund also may compensate certain insurance companies, third-party administrators and other entities for providing recordkeeping, sub-transfer agency and other administrative services to the Fund.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

This table describes the Fund's performance for the fiscal years indicated. "Total Return" shows how much your investment in the Fund would have increased or decreased during each year, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. Total Return does not reflect the sales charges or other expenses of Variable Contracts. If those sales charges and expenses were reflected, returns would be lower. These Financial Highlights have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm, in conjunction with their annual audit of the Fund's financial statements. Financial statements and the report of the independent registered public accounting firm thereon appear in the most recent annual report to shareholders and are incorporated by reference in the SAI, which is available upon request. Certain information reflects financial results for a single Fund share with operations during the fiscal years indicated.

# TOTAL RETURN PORTFOLIO

## Financial Highlights

	Per Share Operating Performance:						
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Investment operations:			Distributions to shareholders from:		
		Net investment income <sup>(a)</sup>	Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	Total from investment operations	Net investment income	Net realized gain	Total distributions
12/31/2018	\$16.65	\$0.44	\$(0.60)	\$(0.16)	\$(0.53)	\$ —	\$(0.53)
12/31/2017	16.42	0.36	0.27	0.63	(0.40)	—	(0.40)
12/31/2016	16.25	0.36	0.31	0.67	(0.44)	(0.06)	(0.50)
12/31/2015	16.85	0.36	(0.47)	(0.11)	(0.47)	(0.02)	(0.49)
12/31/2014	16.22	0.32	0.66	0.98	(0.32)	(0.03)	(0.35)

<sup>(a)</sup> Calculated using average shares outstanding during the period.

<sup>(b)</sup> Total return does not consider the effects of sales charges or other expenses imposed by an insurance company and assumes the reinvestment of all distributions.

# TOTAL RETURN PORTFOLIO

## Financial Highlights (concluded)

	Net asset value, end of period	Total return <sup>(b)</sup> (%)	Ratios to Average Net Assets:			Supplemental Data:	
			Total expenses after waivers and/or reimbursements (%)	Total expenses (%)	Net investment income (%)	Net assets, end of period (000)	Portfolio turnover rate (%)
12/31/2018	\$15.96	(1.03)	0.67	0.89	2.70	\$561,610	611
12/31/2017	16.65	3.86	0.64	0.88	2.16	554,378	452
12/31/2016	16.42	4.26	0.64	0.89	2.16	447,115	443
12/31/2015	16.25	(0.66)	0.64	0.89	2.11	390,155	432
12/31/2014	16.85	6.08	0.64	0.90	1.87	317,732	466

## To Obtain Information:

**By telephone.** For shareholder account inquiries and for literature requests call the Fund at: 888-522-2388.

**By mail.** Write to the Fund at:  
The Lord Abbett Family of Funds  
90 Hudson Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07302-3973

**Via the Internet.** Lord, Abbett & Co. LLC  
[www.lordabbett.com](http://www.lordabbett.com)

Text only versions of Fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from the SEC:  
<http://www.sec.gov>.

You can also obtain copies by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC (phone 202-551-8090) or by sending your request and a duplicating fee to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, DC 20549-1520 or by sending your request electronically to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This prospectus is intended for use in connection with a Variable Contract. More information on the Fund is available free upon request, including the following:

### ANNUAL/SEMIANNUAL REPORTS

The Fund's annual and semiannual reports contain more information about the Fund's investments and performance. The annual report also includes details about the market conditions and investment strategies that had a significant effect on the Fund's performance during the last fiscal year. The reports are available free of charge, at [www.lordabbett.com](http://www.lordabbett.com), and through other means, as indicated on the left.

### STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI")

The SAI provides more details about the Fund and its policies. A current SAI is on file with the SEC and is incorporated by reference into (or legally considered part of) this prospectus. The SAI is available free of charge, at [www.lordabbett.com](http://www.lordabbett.com), and through other means, as indicated on the left.

## Lord Abbett Series Fund, Inc. Total Return Portfolio



LORD ABBETT®

Lord Abbett Mutual Fund shares are distributed by: LORD ABBETT DISTRIBUTOR LLC

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