

## PROSPECTUS

May 1, 2018

**FIRST TRUST/DOW JONES DIVIDEND & INCOME  
ALLOCATION PORTFOLIO**

CLASS I

CLASS II

**FIRST TRUST MULTI INCOME ALLOCATION PORTFOLIO**

CLASS I

CLASS II

The First Trust Variable Insurance Trust (the "*Trust*") is an investment vehicle for life insurance companies writing variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts (each a "*Participating Insurance Company*"). This prospectus provides important information regarding the First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio and the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio (each a "*Fund*" and collectively, the "*Funds*").

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

**NOT FDIC INSURED MAY LOSE VALUE NO BANK GUARANTEE**

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## SUMMARY INFORMATION

### First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

#### Investment Objective

The First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio (the "Fund") seeks to provide total return by allocating among dividend-paying stocks and investment grade bonds.

#### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

The following table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses reflected below do not include contract level fees of the variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts offered by a Participating Insurance Company (each a "Contract"). If such fees were included, the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses would be higher. More information about eligibility requirements for each share class is available from your Participating Insurance Company.

#### Shareholder Fees

(fees paid directly from your investment)

	Class I	Class II
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None	None

#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

	Class I	Class II
Management Fees	0.60%	0.60%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%	0.00%
Other Expenses	0.38%	0.40%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1.23%</b>	<b>1.00%</b>
Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement <sup>(1)</sup>	0.03%	0.05%
<b>Total Net Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement</b>	<b>1.20%</b>	<b>0.95%</b>

(1) The Fund's investment advisor has agreed to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year at least until May 1, 2019. Expenses borne by the Fund's investment advisor are subject to reimbursement by the Fund for up to three years from the date the fee or expense was incurred, but no reimbursement payment will be made by the Fund at any time if it would result in the Class I share or Class II share expenses (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year. The agreement may be terminated by the Trust on behalf of the Fund at any time and by the Fund's investment advisor only after May 1, 2019 upon 60 days' written notice.

#### Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's annual operating expenses (before any fee waiver or expense reimbursement) remain at current levels for the time periods indicated. Additionally, the example assumes that the Fund's investment advisor's agreement to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year will be terminated following May 1, 2019. The example does not take into account Contract level fees. If such fees were included, the estimated expenses would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your cost would be:

Share Class	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Class I	\$122	\$387	\$673	\$1,486
Class II	97	313	548	1,220

## 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 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 71% of the average value of its portfolio.

## Principal Investment Strategies

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing, under normal market conditions, approximately 40 – 60% of its net assets in equity securities and approximately 40 – 60% of its net assets in fixed income securities at the time of purchase. Under normal market conditions, at the time of purchase at least 80% of the Fund’s net assets (including investment borrowings) will be invested in securities of issuers included in a Dow Jones index. The equity portion of the portfolio will be derived from a quantitative process that seeks to provide total return through investing generally in dividend paying stocks included in the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup>. The Fund’s investment advisor reserves the right to over-weight, under-weight or exclude certain securities from the portfolio that would otherwise be selected pursuant to the quantitative process in certain instances.

The fixed income component seeks to provide income and preserve capital through investing in a diversified investment grade debt portfolio. Investment grade debt securities are those long-term debt securities rated “BBB-” or higher by Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC or Fitch, Inc. or “Baa3” or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., and those short-term debt securities rated “A-3” or higher by Standard & Poor’s Financial Services LLC, “F3” or higher by Fitch, Inc. or “Prime 3” or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., at the time of purchase. Under normal market conditions, at the time of purchase approximately 80% of the net assets of the Fund allocated to corporate debt will be invested in investment grade debt securities included in the Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index (the “*Bond Index*”) and other investment grade debt securities of issuers whose securities are included in the Bond Index; and investment grade debt securities of issuers included in the Dow Jones Composite Average. The Fund may also invest in U.S. government and agency securities, including mortgage-backed securities. The Fund may, at certain times, also hold exchange-traded funds (“*ETFs*”) that invest in investment grade corporate debt securities and U.S. government bonds in lieu of investing directly in such securities. Corporate debt securities are fixed income securities issued by businesses to finance their operations. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most common types of corporate debt securities, with the primary differences being their maturities and secured or unsecured status. Commercial paper has the shortest term and is usually unsecured. Corporate debt may be rated investment grade or below investment grade and may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

## Principal Risks

You could lose money by investing in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. There can be no assurance that the Fund’s investment objective will be achieved.

**CALL RISK.** If an issuer calls higher-yielding securities held by the Fund, performance could be adversely impacted. During periods of falling interest rates, issuers of callable securities may call (redeem) securities with higher coupon rates or interest rates before their maturity dates. The Fund would then lose any price appreciation above the bond’s call price and would be forced to reinvest the unanticipated proceeds at lower interest rates, resulting in a decline in the Fund’s income. Such redemptions and subsequent reinvestments would also increase the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate.

**CREDIT RISK.** Credit risk is the risk that an issuer of a security will be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due and the related risk that the value of a security may decline because of concerns about the issuer’s ability to make such payments.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** As the use of Internet technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Fund has become more susceptible to potential operational risks through breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to the Fund’s digital information systems through “hacking” or malicious software coding, but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks through efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users. In addition, cyber security breaches of the Fund’s third party service providers, such as its administrator, transfer agent, custodian, or sub-advisor, as applicable, or issuers in which the Fund invests, can also subject the Fund to many of the same

risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. The Fund has established risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security. However, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Fund does not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers or third party service providers.

**DIVIDEND RISK.** There is no guarantee that the issuers of the Fund's equity securities will declare dividends in the future or that, if declared, they will either remain at current levels or increase over time.

**EQUITY SECURITIES RISK.** Because the Fund invests in equity securities, the value of the Fund's shares will fluctuate with changes in the value of these equity securities. Equity securities prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, such as market volatility, or when political or economic events affecting the issuers occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase. The equity markets have experienced recent volatility that may lead to sharp declines in the value of the equity securities and the Fund.

**EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND RISK.** An ETF trades like common stock and represents a portfolio of securities. The risks of owning an ETF generally reflect the risks of owning the underlying securities, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in it being more volatile and ETFs have management fees and other operating expenses that increase their costs.

**EXTENSION RISK.** Extension risk is the risk that, when interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the issuer (or obligor) more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these securities to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. The value of longer-term securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term securities. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, securities may exhibit additional volatility and may lose value.

**FINANCIAL COMPANIES RISK.** Financial companies are especially subject to the adverse effects of economic recession, currency exchange rates, government regulation, decreases in the availability of capital, volatile interest rates, portfolio concentrations in geographic markets and in commercial and residential real estate loans, and competition from new entrants in their fields of business.

**FIXED INCOME SECURITIES RISK.** An investment in the Fund involves risk associated with an investment in fixed income securities including the risk that certain of the securities in the Fund may not have the benefit of covenants that would prevent the issuer from engaging in capital restructurings or borrowing transactions in connection with corporate acquisitions, leveraged buyouts or restructurings. This limitation could reduce the ability of the issuer to meet its payment obligations and might result in increased credit risk. In addition, certain of the securities may be redeemed or prepaid by the issuer, resulting in lower interest payments received by the Fund and reduced distributions to shareholders.

**INCOME RISK.** Income from the Fund's fixed income investments could decline during periods of falling interest rates.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the debt securities in the Fund will decline because of rising market interest rates. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter-term investments and higher for longer-term investments. Duration is a measure of the expected price volatility of a debt instrument as a result of changes in market rates of interest, based on, among other factors, the weighted average timing of the instrument's expected principal and interest payments. In general, duration represents the expected percentage change in the value of a security for an immediate 1% change in interest rates. Therefore, prices of debt securities with shorter durations tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than debt securities with longer durations. As the value of a debt security changes over time, so will its duration.

**INVESTMENT COMPANIES RISK.** The Fund may invest in the shares of other investment companies, and therefore, the Fund's investment performance and risks may be related to the investment performance and risks of the underlying funds. In general, as a shareholder in other investment companies, the Fund bears its ratable share of the underlying fund's expenses, and would be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent the Fund invests in other investment companies.

**MANAGEMENT RISK.** The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. In managing the Fund's investment portfolio, the Fund's Advisor will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not have the desired result. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objective.

**MARKET RISK.** Market risk is the risk that a particular security owned by the Fund or shares of the Fund in general may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic, political, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of the Fund could decline in value or underperform other investments.

## First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

**MORTGAGE SECURITIES RISK.** The Fund invests in mortgage-related securities, including mortgage-backed securities, which may make the Fund more susceptible to adverse economic, political or regulatory events that affect the value of real estate. Changes in local, state and federal policies could negatively impact the mortgage-related securities market, which include various government initiated and sponsored homeowner assistance programs and eminent domain issues. Mortgage-related securities are subject to the risk that the rate of mortgage prepayments decreases, which extends the average life of a security and increases the interest rate exposure. Mortgage-related securities may also face liquidity issues when the Fund seeks to sell such securities, but is unable to find buyers at a bid-ask spread to make the transaction feasible. These securities are also subject to the risk that the underlying borrowers may default on their mortgages, resulting in a non-payment of principal and interest. Finally, the mortgage-related securities market may be negatively impacted by regulatory changes including those that are related to the mandate or existence of the government-sponsored enterprises, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae.

**SMALLER COMPANIES RISK.** The Fund invests in small and/or mid capitalization companies. Such companies may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments, and their securities may be less liquid and may experience greater price volatility than larger, more established companies as a result of several factors, including limited trading volumes, products or financial resources, management inexperience and less publicly available information. Accordingly, such companies are generally subject to greater market risk than larger, more established companies.

### Annual Total Return

The bar chart and table below illustrate the annual calendar year returns of the Fund based on net asset value as well as the average annual Fund returns. The bar chart and table provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns based on net asset value compare to those of a specialty market index, three broad-based market indices and two blended benchmark indices. The Fund's performance information is accessible on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

### First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio – Class I Shares Calendar Year Total Returns as of 12/31



During the periods shown in the chart above:

Best Quarter		Worst Quarter	
5.72%	March 31, 2013	-2.54%	September 30, 2015

## First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

### Average Annual Total Returns for the Periods Ended December 31, 2017

	1 Year	5 Years	Since Inception	Inception Date
<b>Fund Performance - Class I</b>	13.47%	9.50%	9.15%	5/1/2012
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index <sup>(1)</sup>	6.42%	3.48%	4.19%	
Russell 3000 <sup>®</sup> Index <sup>(2)</sup>	21.13%	15.58%	14.28%	
Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index <sup>SM(3)</sup>	21.16%	15.51%	14.19%	
Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index <sup>SM(4)</sup>	5.98%	3.52%	4.29%	
Blended Benchmark <sup>(5)</sup>	13.58%	9.51%	9.27%	
Secondary Blended Benchmark <sup>(6)</sup>	13.43%	9.61%	9.39%	
<b>Fund Performance - Class II</b>	13.75%		9.12%	5/1/2014
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index <sup>(1)</sup>	6.42%		3.96%	
Russell 3000 <sup>®</sup> Index <sup>(2)</sup>	21.13%		11.93%	
Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index <sup>SM(3)</sup>	21.16%		11.86%	
Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index <sup>SM(4)</sup>	5.98%		4.05%	
Blended Benchmark <sup>(5)</sup>	13.58%		8.01%	
Secondary Blended Benchmark <sup>(6)</sup>	13.43%		8.15%	

(1) *Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index measures the performance of investment grade U.S. corporate bonds. This index includes all publicly issued, dollar-denominated corporate bonds with a minimum of \$250 million par outstanding that are investment grade-rated (Baa3/BBB – or higher). The index excludes bonds having less than one year to final maturity as well as floating rate bonds, non-registered private placements, structured notes, hybrids, and convertible securities. (Bloomberg).*

(2) *The Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index is composed of 3,000 large U.S. companies, as determined by market capitalization. This index represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market. (Bloomberg).*

(3) *The Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup> measures all U.S. equity securities that have readily available prices.*

(4) *The Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index<sup>SM</sup> measures the return of readily tradable, high-grade U.S. corporate bonds. The index includes an equally weighted basket of 96 recently issued investment-grade corporate bonds with laddered maturities.*

(5) *The Blended Benchmark return is a 50/50 split between the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index and the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index returns.*

(6) *The Secondary Blended Benchmark return is a 50/50 split between the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup> and the Dow Jones Equal Weight U.S. Issued Corporate Bond Index<sup>SM</sup> returns.*

## Management

### **Investment Advisor**

First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”)

### **Portfolio Managers**

The Fund’s portfolio is managed by a team (the “Investment Committee”) consisting of:

- Daniel J. Lindquist, Chairman of the Investment Committee and Managing Director of First Trust
- Jon C. Erickson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- David G. McGarel, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of First Trust
- Roger F. Testin, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Todd Larson, Vice President of First Trust
- Chris A. Peterson, Senior Vice President of First Trust

The Investment Committee members are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Each Investment Committee member has served as a part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2012, except for Chris A. Peterson, who has served as a member of the portfolio management team since 2016.

### **Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares**

Shares of the Fund are sold only to each Participating Insurance Company's variable insurance account (each an "Account") to fund the benefits of the Contracts. The Account purchases shares of the Fund in accordance with variable account allocation instructions received from owners of the Contracts.

Individual investors may not purchase or redeem shares in the Fund directly; shares may be purchased or redeemed only through the Contracts. There are no minimum investment requirements. For a discussion of how Contract owners may purchase Fund shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account. Owners of the Contracts may direct purchase or redemption instructions to their Participating Insurance Company.

The Fund offers to buy back (redeem) shares of the Fund from the Account at any time at net asset value. The Account will redeem shares to make benefit or surrender payments under the terms of the Contracts or to effect transfers among investment options. Redemptions are processed on any day on which the Fund is open for business and are effected at the net asset value next determined after the redemption order, in proper form, is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day's closing price; otherwise, the next business day's price will be used. For a discussion of how Contract owners may redeem shares, please refer to the prospectus for your Account.

### **Tax Information**

Shares of the Fund may be purchased only by the Accounts of Participating Insurance Companies. Participating Insurance Companies and owners of Contracts should seek advice based on their individual circumstances from their own tax advisor. Tax disclosure relating to the Contracts that offer the Fund as an investment alternative is to be contained in the prospectus for the Contracts.

### **Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or a Participating Insurance Company), First Trust and related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.



## SUMMARY INFORMATION

### First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

#### Investment Objectives

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio's (the "Fund") primary investment objective is to maximize current income, with a secondary objective of capital appreciation.

#### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

The following table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses reflected below do not include contract level fees of the variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts offered by a Participating Insurance Company (each a "Contract"). If such fees were included, the Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses would be higher. More information about eligibility requirements for each share class is available from your Participating Insurance Company.

#### Shareholder Fees

(fees paid directly from your investment)

	Class I	Class II
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None	None

#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

	Class I	Class II
Management Fees	0.60%	0.60%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%	0.00%
Other Expenses	1.32%	1.32%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses	0.27%	0.27%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2.44%</b>	<b>2.19%</b>
Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	1.34%	1.34%
<b>Total Net Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and Expense Reimbursement</b>	<b>1.10%</b>	<b>0.85%</b>

- (1) *The Fund's investment advisor has agreed to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year at least until May 1, 2019. Expenses borne by the Fund's investment advisor are subject to reimbursement by the Fund for up to three years from the date the fee or expense was incurred, but no reimbursement payment will be made by the Fund at any time if it would result in the Class I share or Class II share expenses (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year. The agreement may be terminated by the Trust on behalf of the Fund at any time and by the Fund's investment advisor only after May 1, 2019 upon 60 days' written notice.*
- (2) *Pursuant to a contractual agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, and the Fund's investment advisor, the Fund's investment advisor will waive management fees in the amount of 0.37% of the Fund's average daily net assets until May 1, 2019. The agreement may be terminated by the Trust's Board of Trustees on behalf of the Fund at any time and by the Fund's investment advisor only after May 1, 2019 upon 60 days' written notice.*

#### Example

The following example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's annual operating expenses (before any fee waiver or expense reimbursement) remain at current levels for the time periods indicated. Additionally, the example assumes that the Fund's investment advisor's agreement to waive fees and/or pay the Fund's expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, taxes and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, of the Fund's average daily net assets per year will be terminated following May 1, 2019. The example does not take into account Contract level fees. If such fees were included, the estimated expenses would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your cost would be:

## First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

Share Class	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Class I	\$112	\$630	\$1,175	\$2,665
Class II	87	554	1,047	2,409

### 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 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 46% of the average value of its portfolio.

### Principal Investment Strategies

The Fund seeks to achieve its objectives through diversified exposure to nine income generating asset classes: dividend-paying stocks, preferred stocks, energy infrastructure companies and master limited partnerships (“MLPs”), real estate investment trusts (“REITs”), high yield or “junk” bonds, floating rate loans, corporate bonds, mortgage-backed securities and Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (“TIPS”). The Fund will be actively managed by First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”) and implementing the strategy involves multiple portfolio managers.

The Advisor will tactically adjust allocation weights in a manner deemed to offer attractive levels of total return relative to the level of expected risk. The Advisor intends to adjust asset allocation weights quarterly but may do so more or less frequently depending upon market conditions. The maximum weight of any asset class, at the time of adjustment, will be 20%. The minimum weight of any asset class, at the time of adjustment, will be 5%.

The Fund may, at certain times, invest in exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) that generally provide exposure to the nine asset classes in lieu of investing directly in such assets classes. Certain of the ETFs may be advised by First Trust, as a result, First Trust will also earn advisory fees on the underlying ETFs.

In general, the U.S. dollar-denominated fixed income securities in which the Fund invests may be issued by U.S. and non-U.S. issuers, of any credit quality, including high yield securities. The high yield securities in which the Fund invests are rated below investment grade at the time of purchase or unrated and deemed by the Advisor to be of comparable quality, commonly referred to as “junk” bonds. The Fund also invests in the equity securities of domestic and foreign issuers listed on a U.S. or foreign securities exchange and non-U.S. securities that are listed on a U.S. securities exchange in the form of American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) and Global Depositary Receipts (“GDRs”). The Fund may invest in equity securities issued by small, mid or large capitalization companies.

### Principal Risks

You could lose money by investing in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit of a bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency. There can be no assurance that the Fund’s investment objectives will be achieved.

**BANK LOANS RISK.** An investment in bank loans subjects the Fund to credit risk, which is heightened for bank loans in which the Fund invests because companies that issue such loans tend to be highly leveraged and thus are more susceptible to the risks of interest deferral, default and/or bankruptcy. Senior floating rate loans, in which the Fund may invest, are usually rated below investment grade but may also be unrated. As a result, the risks associated with these senior floating rate loans are similar to the risks of high yield fixed income instruments. An economic downturn would generally lead to a higher non-payment rate, and a senior floating rate loan may lose significant market value before a default occurs. Moreover, any specific collateral used to secure a senior floating rate loan may decline in value or become illiquid, which would adversely affect the senior floating rate loan’s value. Unlike the securities markets, there is no central clearinghouse for loan trades, and the loan market has not established enforceable settlement standards or remedies for failure to settle. Therefore, portfolio transactions in senior floating rate loan may have uncertain settlement time periods. Senior floating rate loans are subject to a number of risks described elsewhere in this prospectus, including liquidity risk and the risk of investing in below investment grade fixed income instruments.

**CALL RISK.** If an issuer calls higher-yielding securities held by the Fund, performance could be adversely impacted. During periods of falling interest rates, issuers of callable securities may call (redeem) securities with higher coupon rates or interest rates before their maturity dates. The Fund would then lose any price appreciation above the bond’s call price and would be

forced to reinvest the unanticipated proceeds at lower interest rates, resulting in a decline in the Fund's income. Such redemptions and subsequent reinvestments would also increase the Fund's portfolio turnover rate.

**CREDIT RISK.** Credit risk is the risk that an issuer of a security will be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due and the related risk that the value of a security may decline because of concerns about the issuer's ability to make such payments. Credit risk may be heightened for the Fund because it invests a portion of its net assets in high yield or "junk" debt. Such securities, while generally offering higher yields than investment grade debt with similar maturities, involve greater risks, including the possibility of dividend or interest deferral, default or bankruptcy, and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay dividends or interest and repay principal. Credit risk is heightened for loans in which the Fund invests because companies that issue such loans tend to be highly leveraged and thus are more susceptible to the risks of interest deferral, default and/or bankruptcy.

**CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE RISK.** The Fund may hold investments that are denominated in non-U.S. currencies, or in securities that provide exposure to such currencies, currency exchange rates or interest rates denominated in such currencies. Changes in currency exchange rates and the relative value of non-U.S. currencies will affect the value of the Fund's investment and the value of Fund shares. Currency exchange rates can be very volatile and can change quickly and unpredictably. As a result, the value of an investment in the Fund may change quickly and without warning and you may lose money.

**CYBER SECURITY RISK.** As the use of Internet technology has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Fund has become more susceptible to potential operational risks through breaches in cyber security. A breach in cyber security refers to both intentional and unintentional events that may cause the Fund to lose proprietary information, suffer data corruption or lose operational capacity. Such events could cause the Fund to incur regulatory penalties, reputational damage, additional compliance costs associated with corrective measures and/or financial loss. Cyber security breaches may involve unauthorized access to the Fund's digital information systems through "hacking" or malicious software coding, but may also result from outside attacks such as denial-of-service attacks through efforts to make network services unavailable to intended users. In addition, cyber security breaches of the Fund's third party service providers, such as its administrator, transfer agent, custodian, or sub-advisor, as applicable, or issuers in which the Fund invests, can also subject the Fund to many of the same risks associated with direct cyber security breaches. The Fund has established risk management systems designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security. However, there is no guarantee that such efforts will succeed, especially because the Fund does not directly control the cyber security systems of issuers or third party service providers.

**DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS RISK.** Depositary receipts may be less liquid than the underlying shares in their primary trading market. Any distributions paid to the holders of depositary receipts are usually subject to a fee charged by the depositary. Holders of depositary receipts may have limited voting rights, and investment restrictions in certain countries may adversely impact the value of depositary receipts because such restrictions may limit the ability to convert the equity shares into depositary receipts and vice versa. Such restrictions may cause the equity shares of the underlying issuer to trade at a discount or premium to the market price of the depositary receipts.

**DIVIDEND RISK.** There is no guarantee that the issuers of the Fund's equity securities will declare dividends in the future or that, if declared, they will either remain at current levels or increase over time.

**ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES RISK.** Energy infrastructure companies are subject to significant U.S., state and local government and/or foreign government regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations, including how facilities are constructed, maintained and operated, environmental and safety controls, and the prices and the methodology of determining the prices they may charge for the products and services. Such changes can adversely affect the profitability of these companies. Various governmental agencies and authorities have the power to enforce compliance with these regulations, and violators may be subject to administrative, civil and criminal penalties, including civil monetary penalties, imposition of remedial requirements, injunctions or all of the above. Stricter laws, regulations or enforcement policies could be enacted in the future, which would likely increase compliance costs and may adversely affect the financial performance of energy infrastructure companies. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, also may impact energy infrastructure companies.

Certain energy infrastructure companies in the utilities industry are subject to the imposition of rate caps, increased competition, the difficulty in obtaining an adequate return on invested capital or in financing large construction projects, the limitations on operations and increased costs and delays attributable to environmental considerations and the capital market's ability to absorb utility debt. In addition, taxes, government regulation, price and supply fluctuations, volatile interest rates and counter party risk. Such issuers have been experiencing certain of these problems to varying degrees.

Energy infrastructure companies may be directly affected by energy commodity prices, especially those companies that own the underlying energy commodity. A decrease in the production of availability of natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil, or other energy commodities or a decrease in the volume of such commodities available for transportation, processing, storage or distribution may adversely impact the financial performance of energy infrastructure companies.

**EQUITY SECURITIES RISK.** Because the Fund invests in equity securities, the value of the Fund's shares will fluctuate with changes in the value of these equity securities. Equity securities prices fluctuate for several reasons, including changes in investors' perceptions of the financial condition of an issuer or the general condition of the relevant stock market, such as market volatility, or when political or economic events affecting the issuers occur. In addition, common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase. The equity markets have experienced recent volatility that may lead to sharp declines in the value of the equity securities and the Fund.

**EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND RISK.** An ETF trades like common stock and represents a portfolio of securities. The risks of owning an ETF generally reflect the risks of owning the underlying securities, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in it being more volatile and ETFs have management fees and other operating expenses that increase their costs.

**EXTENSION RISK.** Extension risk is the risk that, when interest rates rise, certain obligations will be paid off by the issuer (or obligor) more slowly than anticipated, causing the value of these securities to fall. Rising interest rates tend to extend the duration of securities, making them more sensitive to changes in interest rates. The value of longer-term securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than shorter-term securities. As a result, in a period of rising interest rates, securities may exhibit additional volatility and may lose value.

**FINANCIAL COMPANIES RISK.** Financial companies are especially subject to the adverse effects of economic recession, currency exchange rates, government regulation, decreases in the availability of capital, volatile interest rates, portfolio concentrations in geographic markets and in commercial and residential real estate loans, and competition from new entrants in their fields of business.

**FIXED INCOME SECURITIES RISK.** An investment in the Fund involves risk associated with an investment in fixed income securities including the risk that certain of the securities in the Fund may not have the benefit of covenants that would prevent the issuer from engaging in capital restructurings or borrowing transactions in connection with corporate acquisitions, leveraged buyouts or restructurings. This limitation could reduce the ability of the issuer to meet its payment obligations and might result in increased credit risk. In addition, certain of the securities may be redeemed or prepaid by the issuer, resulting in lower interest payments received by the Fund and reduced distributions to shareholders.

**HIGH YIELD SECURITIES RISK.** High yield securities, or "junk" bonds, are subject to greater market fluctuations and risk of loss than securities with higher ratings, and therefore, are considered to be highly speculative. These securities are issued by companies that may have narrowly focused operations and/or other impediments to the timely payment of periodic interest and principal at maturity. If the economy slows down or dips into recession, the issuers of high yield securities may not have sufficient resources to continue making timely payment of periodic interest and principal at maturity. The market for high yield securities is smaller and less liquid than that for investment grade securities. High yield securities are generally not listed on a national securities exchange but trade in the over-the-counter markets. Due to the smaller, less liquid market for high yield securities, the bid-offer spread on such securities is generally greater than it is for investment grade securities and the purchase or sale of such securities may take longer to complete. In general, high yield securities may have a greater risk of default than other types of securities.

**ILLIQUID SECURITIES RISK.** Some of the securities held by the Fund may be illiquid. Illiquid securities involve the risk that the securities will not be able to be sold at the time desired by the Fund or at prices approximately the value at which the Fund values the securities.

**INCOME RISK.** If interest rates fall, the income from the Fund's portfolio will likely decline if the Fund holds floating rate debt that will adjust lower with falling interest rates. For loans, interest rates typically reset periodically.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the debt securities in the Fund will decline because of rising market interest rates. Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter-term investments and higher for longer-term investments. Duration is a measure of the expected price volatility of a debt instrument as a result of changes in market rates of interest, based on, among other factors, the weighted average timing of the instrument's expected principal and interest payments. In general, duration represents the expected percentage change in the value of a security for an immediate 1% change in interest rates. Therefore, prices of debt securities with shorter durations tend to be less sensitive to interest rate changes than debt securities with longer durations. As the value of a debt security changes over time, so will its duration.

Mortgage-related securities are particularly subject to the risk that interest rate volatility may adversely impact the valuation and price of such securities. Additionally, the return on the floating rate loans in which the Fund may invest will decline during a period of falling interest rates.

**INVESTMENT COMPANIES RISK.** The Fund may invest in the shares of other investment companies, and therefore, the Fund's investment performance and risks may be related to the investment performance and risks of the underlying funds. In general, as a shareholder in other investment companies, the Fund bears its ratable share of the underlying fund's expenses, and would be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent the Fund invests in other investment companies beyond any amounts waived or reimbursed by the Fund's investment advisor.

**LOAN PREPAYMENT RISK.** Loans are subject to prepayment risk. The degree to which borrowers prepay loans, whether as a contractual requirement or at their election, may be affected by general business conditions, the financial condition of the borrower and competitive conditions among loan investors, among others. As such, prepayments cannot be predicted with accuracy. Upon a prepayment, either in part or in full, the actual outstanding debt on which the Fund derives interest income will be reduced. The Fund may not be able to reinvest the proceeds received on terms as favorable as the prepaid loan.

**MANAGEMENT RISK.** The Fund is subject to management risk because it is an actively managed portfolio. In managing the Fund's investment portfolio, the Fund's Advisor and Sub-Advisors will apply investment techniques and risk analyses that may not have the desired result. There can be no guarantee that the Fund will meet its investment objectives.

**MARKET RISK.** Market risk is the risk that a particular security owned by the Fund or shares of the Fund in general may fall in value. Securities are subject to market fluctuations caused by such factors as economic, political, regulatory or market developments, changes in interest rates and perceived trends in securities prices. Shares of the Fund could decline in value or underperform other investments.

**MLP RISK.** An investment in MLP units involves risks which differ from an investment in common stock of a corporation. Holders of MLP units have limited control and voting rights on matters affecting the partnership, risks related to potential conflicts of interest between the MLP and MLP's general partner, cash flow risk, dilution risks, and risks related to the limited partner's limited call right. In addition, there are certain tax risks associated with an investment in MLP units and conflicts of interest may exist between common unit holders and the general partner, including those arising from incentive distribution payments. In addition, there is the risk that an MLP could be, contrary to its intention, taxed as a corporation, resulting in decreased returns from such MLP.

**MORTGAGE SECURITIES RISK.** The Fund invests in mortgage-related securities, including mortgage-backed securities, which may make the Fund more susceptible to adverse economic, political or regulatory events that affect the value of real estate. Changes in local, state and federal policies could negatively impact the mortgage-related securities market, which include various government initiated and sponsored homeowner assistance programs and eminent domain issues. Mortgage-related securities are subject to the risk that the rate of mortgage prepayments decreases, which extends the average life of a security and increases the interest rate exposure. Mortgage-related securities may also face liquidity issues when the Fund seeks to sell such securities, but is unable to find buyers at a bid-ask spread to make the transaction feasible. These securities are also subject to the risk that the underlying borrowers may default on their mortgages, resulting in a non-payment of principal and interest. Finally, the mortgage-related securities market may be negatively impacted by regulatory changes including those that are related to the mandate or existence of the government-sponsored enterprises, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Ginnie Mae.

**NON-U.S. SECURITIES AND EMERGING MARKETS RISK.** Non-U.S. securities are subject to higher volatility than securities of domestic issuers due to possible adverse political, social or economic developments; restrictions on foreign investment or exchange of securities; lack of liquidity; currency exchange rates; excessive taxation; government seizure of assets; different legal or accounting standards; and less government supervision and regulation of exchanges in foreign countries. These risks may be heightened for securities of companies located in, or with significant operations in, emerging market countries.

**PREFERRED SECURITIES RISK.** Preferred securities combine some of the characteristics of both common stocks and bonds. Preferred securities are typically subordinated to bonds and other debt instruments in a company's capital structure, in terms of priority to corporate income, and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than those debt instruments. Preferred securities are also subject to credit risk, interest rate risk and income risk.

**REIT INVESTMENT RISK.** Because the Fund invests in REITs, the Fund is subject to the risks associated with investing in real estate, which may include, but are not limited to, fluctuations in the value of underlying properties; defaults by borrowers or tenants; market saturation; changes in general and local operating expenses; and other economic, political or regulatory



## First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

occurrences affecting companies in the real estate industry. In addition to risks related to investments in real estate generally, investing in REITs involves certain other risks related to their structure and focus, which include, but are not limited to, dependency upon management skills, limited diversification, the risks of locating and managing financing for projects, heavy cash flow dependency, possible default by borrowers, the costs and potential losses of self-liquidation of one or more holdings, the risk of a possible lack of mortgage funds and associated interest rate risks, overbuilding, property vacancies, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, losses due to environmental damages, changes in neighborhood values and appeal to purchasers, the possibility of failing to maintain exemptions from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") and, in many cases, relatively small market capitalization, which may result in less market liquidity and greater price volatility. REITs are also subject to the risk that the real estate market may experience an economic downturn generally, which may have a material effect on the real estate in which the REITs invest and their underlying portfolio securities.

**SMALL FUND RISK.** The Fund currently has fewer assets than larger funds, and like other smaller funds, large inflows and outflows may impact the Fund's market exposure for limited periods of time. This impact may be positive or negative, depending on the direction of market movement during the period affected.

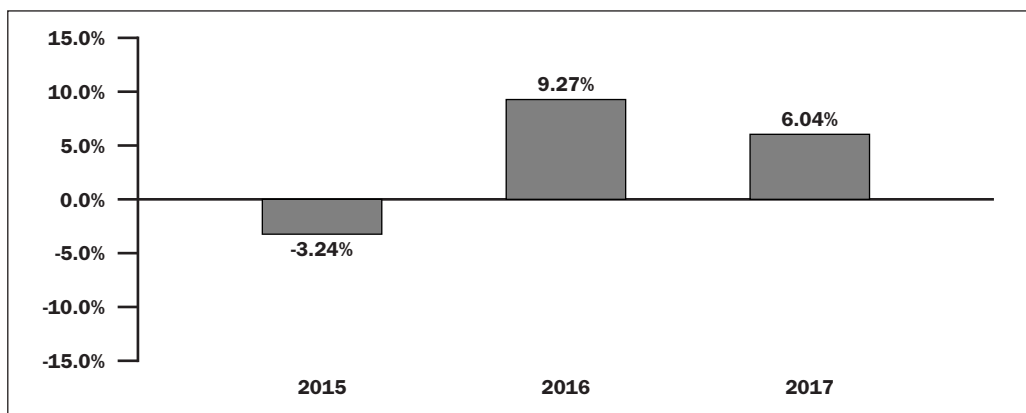
**SMALLER COMPANIES RISK.** The Fund invests in small and/or mid capitalization companies. Such companies may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments, and their securities may be less liquid and may experience greater price volatility than larger, more established companies as a result of several factors, including limited trading volumes, products or financial resources, management inexperience and less publicly available information. Accordingly, such companies are generally subject to greater market risk than larger, more established companies.

**TIPS RISK.** TIPS are inflation-indexed fixed income securities issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury and are subject to the same risks as other fixed income investments. In a falling inflationary environment, both interest payments and the value of the TIPS will decline.

### Annual Total Return

The bar chart and table below illustrate the annual calendar year returns of the Fund based on net asset value as well as the average annual Fund returns. The bar chart and table provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's average annual total returns based on net asset value compare to those of two blended benchmark indices and two broad-based market indices. Returns for the market indices do not include expenses, which are deducted from Fund returns, or taxes. The Fund's performance information is accessible on the Fund's website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

### First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio – Class I Shares Calendar Year Total Returns as of 12/31



During the periods shown in the chart above:

Best Quarter		Worst Quarter	
4.44%	June 30, 2016	-3.78%	September 30, 2015

## First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

### Average Annual Total Returns for the Periods Ended December 31, 2017

	1 Year	Since Inception	Inception Date
<b>Fund Performance - Class I</b>	6.04%	4.43%	5/1/2014
<b>Fund Performance - Class II</b>	6.22%	4.66%	
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index <sup>(1)</sup>	3.54%	2.64%	
Russell 3000 <sup>®</sup> Index <sup>(2)</sup>	21.13%	11.93%	
Broad Blended Benchmark <sup>(3)</sup>	10.30%	6.40%	
Multi Asset Class Blended Benchmark <sup>(4)</sup>	5.72%	4.09%	

(1) The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index represents the U.S. investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. Bonds included in the index are U.S. dollar denominated; have a fixed rate coupon; carry an investment-grade rating; have at least one year to final maturity; and meet certain criteria for minimum amount of outstanding par value.

(2) The Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index is composed of 3,000 large U.S. companies, as determined by market capitalization. This index represents approximately 98% of the investable U.S. equity market. (Bloomberg).

(3) The Broad Blended Benchmark return is a split between the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index (60%) and the Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index (40%).

(4) The Multi Asset Class Blended Benchmark is weighted to include nine indexes: Russell 3000<sup>®</sup> Index (15%), ICE BofAML Fixed Rate Preferred Securities Index (8%), Alerian MLP Index (15%), S&P U.S. REIT Index (15%), ICE BofAML U.S. High Yield Index (8%), S&P/LSTA Leveraged Loan Index (15%), Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Corporate Investment-Grade Index (8%), ICE BofAML U.S. MBS Index (8%), and ICE BofAML U.S. Inflation-Linked Treasury Index (8%).

## Management

### **Investment Advisor**

First Trust Advisors L.P. ("First Trust" or the "Advisor")

### **Investment Sub-Advisors**

Energy Income Partners, LLC ("EIP" or a "Sub-Advisor")

Stonebridge Advisors LLC ("Stonebridge" or a "Sub-Advisor")

### **Portfolio Managers**

The Fund's portfolio is managed by a team (the "Investment Committee") consisting of:

- Daniel J. Lindquist, Chairman of the Investment Committee and Managing Director of First Trust
- David G. McGarel, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of First Trust
- Jon C. Erickson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Roger F. Testin, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- William Housey, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Chris A. Peterson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Todd Larson, Vice President of First Trust
- James Snyder, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Jeremiah Charles, Senior Vice President of First Trust

The Investment Committee members are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund. Each Investment Committee member has served as a part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2014, except for Chris A. Peterson, who has served as a member of the portfolio management team since 2016.

## Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Shares of the Fund are sold only to each Participating Insurance Company's variable insurance account (each an "Account") to fund the benefits of the Contracts. The Account purchases shares of the Fund in accordance with variable account allocation instructions received from owners of the Contracts.

## First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

Individual investors may not purchase or redeem shares in the Fund directly; shares may be purchased or redeemed only through the Contracts. There are no minimum investment requirements. For a discussion of how Contract owners may purchase Fund shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account. Owners of the Contracts may direct purchase or redemption instructions to their Participating Insurance Company.

The Fund offers to buy back (redeem) shares of the Fund from the Account at any time at net asset value. The Account will redeem shares to make benefit or surrender payments under the terms of the Contracts or to effect transfers among investment options. Redemptions are processed on any day on which the Fund is open for business and are effected at the net asset value next determined after the redemption order, in proper form, is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day's closing price; otherwise, the next business day's price will be used. For a discussion of how Contract owners may redeem shares, please refer to the prospectus for your Account.

### **Tax Information**

Shares of the Fund may be purchased only by the Accounts of Participating Insurance Companies. Participating Insurance Companies and owners of Contracts should seek advice based on their individual circumstances from their own tax advisor. Tax disclosure relating to the Contracts that offer the Fund as an investment alternative is to be contained in the prospectus for the Contracts.

### **Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

If you purchase shares of the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank or a Participating Insurance Company), First Trust and related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.



## Additional Information on the Funds' Investment Objectives and Strategies

Each Fund's investment objective(s) is fundamental and may not be changed without approval by the holders of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund. Unless an investment policy is identified as being fundamental, all investment policies included in this prospectus and the Funds' Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") are non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the First Trust Variable Insurance Trust (the "Trust"), of which the Funds are each a series, without shareholder approval. If there is a material change to a Fund's principal investment strategies, you should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment for you. There is no guarantee that a Fund will achieve its investment objective(s).

During periods of large cash inflows, the Funds may depart from their principal investment strategies and invest a larger amount or all of their assets in ETFs and/or cash equivalents or they may hold cash.

The Funds have adopted certain investment limitations that cannot be changed without shareholder approval. These limitations include restrictions on the issuance of senior securities, borrowing money for other than temporary or other permissible purposes, underwriting securities of other issuers, transacting in real estate interests, making loans, transacting in physical commodities, and mortgaging Fund assets. Such limitations are discussed further in the SAI in the section entitled "Investment Objectives and Policies."

The Funds may engage in active and frequent trading which may result in increased portfolio turnover and brokerage costs.

To select the equity securities for the First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, First Trust primarily follows a disciplined investment strategy and invests in the common stocks determined by the strategy. The equity component of the portfolio is derived from a quantitative process that seeks to provide total return with below market risk and an above market dividend yield through investing generally in dividend paying stocks. First Trust begins with the universe of stocks in the Dow Jones U.S. Total Stock Market Index<sup>SM</sup>. The First Trust quantitative model for selecting the equity component of the Fund incorporates investment metrics for dividend strength, capital strength and price stability. The top 150 - 170 best scoring stocks are selected utilizing the First Trust quantitative selection methodology; however, First Trust reserves the right to over-weight, under-weight or exclude certain securities from the portfolio that would otherwise be selected pursuant to the methodology in certain instances including, but not limited to: the bankruptcy of the issuer; a legal question or impediment is affecting the security; an issue has arisen calling into question the viability, liquidity or tradability of the issuer; a decrease in or elimination of dividends by an issuer; or as otherwise determined from time to time by First Trust. Stocks are typically equally weighted and the equity portfolio is generally rebalanced each quarter.

To select the fixed income securities for the First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, First Trust begins with a universe of: investment grade debt securities included in the Bond Index and other investment grade debt securities of issuers whose securities are included in the Bond Index; and investment grade debt securities of issuers included in the Dow Jones Composite Average. Under normal market conditions, at the time of purchase debt securities from this universe will comprise approximately 80% of the net assets of the Fund devoted to corporate debt securities. The Fund may also invest in U.S. government and agency securities that First Trust believes will aid in managing duration, liquidity needs, and credit risk. The Fund may also hold ETFs that invest in investment grade corporate debt securities and U.S. government bonds in lieu of investing directly in such securities. The Fund may hold these ETFs to provide an efficient means to temporarily invest cash. However, the ETF holdings may constitute a large portion of the debt portfolio in periods when Fund asset size is low and it is in the best interest of the Fund to transact in ETFs for purposes of efficient liquidity and diversification benefits when compared to that provided by transacting in debt directly. In selecting the fixed income securities for the Fund, First Trust follows a top-down analysis of key secular and cyclical trends that seeks to identify the optimal sector allocation and security selection based upon macro trends and bottom-up fundamental research. The investment process routinely monitors market conditions and portfolio risk for its effect on relative value.

To select the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio's tactical allocation weights, the Advisor uses its own quantitative process and fundamental research to identify asset classes with the potential for providing a high level of current income and capital appreciation. The Advisor also completes fundamental, bottom-up analysis that emphasizes, but is not limited to, leverage, interest coverage, free cash flow, and the quality of company management. The analysis continues with relative value measurements to further screen and scale securities under consideration. The Fund will invest in securities that the Advisor believes offer attractive returns through capital appreciation and current income. The selection of ETFs will be primarily to achieve the desired asset class allocation set by the Advisor. The investment process routinely monitors market conditions and portfolio risks for their effects on achieving the Fund's objectives. These risks include, but are not limited to, duration exposure, industry diversification, and security concentration.

## Fund Investments

### Corporate Debt Securities

The Funds invest in corporate debt securities of all kinds, including those with small, mid and large capitalizations. Corporate debt securities are fixed income securities issued by businesses to finance their operations. Notes, bonds, debentures and commercial paper are the most common types of corporate debt securities, with the primary differences being their maturities and secured or unsecured status. Commercial paper has the shortest term and is usually unsecured. Corporate debt may be rated investment grade or below investment grade and may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

### Delayed Delivery Securities

The Funds may buy or sell securities on a when-issued or delayed-delivery basis, paying for or taking delivery of the securities at a later date, normally within 15 to 45 days of the trade. Such transactions involve an element of risk because the value of the securities to be purchased may decline before the settlement date.

### Derivatives

The First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio may use futures, interest rate swaps, total return swaps, non-U.S. currency swaps, credit default swaps, options and other derivative instruments to seek to enhance return, to hedge some of the risks of its investments in securities, as a substitute for a position in the underlying asset, to reduce transaction costs, to maintain full market exposure (which means to adjust the characteristics of its investments to more closely approximate those of the markets in which it invests), to manage cash flows, to limit exposure to losses due to changes to non-U.S. currency exchange rates, if applicable, or to preserve capital.

The Fund will comply with the regulatory requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with respect to coverage of options and futures positions by registered investment companies and, if the guidelines so require, will earmark or set aside cash, U.S. Government securities, high grade liquid debt securities and/or other liquid assets permitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission in a segregated custodial account in the amount prescribed. Securities earmarked or held in a segregated account cannot be sold while the futures or options position is outstanding, unless replaced with other permissible assets, and will be marked to market daily.

### Dividend Paying Equity Securities and Depositary Receipts

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in equity securities of domestic and foreign issuers listed on a U.S. or foreign securities exchange and non-U.S. securities that are listed on a U.S. securities exchange in the form of Depositary Receipts.

### Energy Infrastructure Companies and MLPs

These companies principally include publicly-traded MLPs and limited liability companies taxed as partnerships, MLP affiliates, yield corporations, pipeline companies, utilities and other companies that are involved in operating or providing services in support of infrastructure assets such as pipeline, power transmission, power generation, petroleum, natural gas storage and terminalling.

**MLPs.** The Funds may invest in MLPs, which are limited partnerships whose shares (or units) are listed and traded on a U.S. securities exchange, and I-Shares, which represent an ownership interest issued by an affiliated party of an MLP. To qualify as an MLP, a partnership must receive at least 90% of its income from qualifying sources such as natural resource activities. Natural resource activities include the exploration, development, mining, production, processing, refining, transportation, storage and marketing of mineral or natural resources. MLPs generally have two classes of owners, the general partner and limited partners. The general partner, which is generally a major energy company, investment fund or the management of the MLP, typically controls the MLP through a 2% general partner equity interest in the MLP plus common units and subordinated units. Limited partners own the remainder of the partnership, through ownership of common units, and have a limited role in the partnership's operations and management.

The Funds may invest in MLP subordinated units, which are typically issued by MLPs to their original sponsors, such as their founders, corporate general partners of MLPs, entities that sell assets to MLPs, and institutional investors. In addition, as indicated above, the Fund may invest in I Shares, which are issued by MLP affiliates. The MLP affiliate uses the proceeds from the sale of I-Shares to purchase limited partnership interests in the MLP in the form of i units. I-units have similar features as

MLP common units in terms of voting rights, liquidation preference and distributions. However, rather than receiving cash, the MLP affiliate receives additional i-units in an amount equal to the cash distributions received by MLP common units. Similarly, holders of I-Shares will receive additional I-Shares, in the same proportion as the MLP affiliates' receipt of i-units, rather than cash distributions. I-Shares themselves have limited voting rights which are similar to those applicable to MLP common units. I-Shares are listed and traded on a U.S. national securities exchange.

## **Equity Securities**

The First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio invests approximately 40 – 60% of its net assets in equity securities. The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio also invests in equity securities.

## **High Yield Corporate Bonds and Floating Rate Loans**

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in a combination of high yield corporate bonds and floating rate loans.

The high yield corporate bonds in which the Fund invests are rated below investment grade at the time of purchase or unrated and deemed by the Advisor to be of comparable quality, commonly referred to as “junk” bonds. Generally, bonds are considered to have “junk” status if they are rated Ba1/BB+/BB+ or below by Moody's Investor Service, Inc. (“Moody's”), Fitch Ratings (“Fitch”), or Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. (“S&P Ratings”), respectively. For purposes of determining whether a security is below investment grade, the lowest available rating will be considered. High yield debt may be issued, for example, by companies without long track records of sales and earnings or by issuers that have questionable credit strength. Corporate bonds may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

The floating rate loans in which the Fund invests represent amounts borrowed by companies or other entities from banks and other lenders. In many cases, floating rate loans are issued in connection with recapitalizations, acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, and refinancing. A significant portion of the floating rate loans in which the Fund invests are expected to be rated below investment grade or unrated. The floating rate loans held by the Fund may be senior or subordinate obligations of the borrower. In the event of bankruptcy, holders of senior floating rate loans are typically paid (to the extent assets are available) before certain other creditors of the borrower (e.g., bondholders and stockholders). Holders of subordinate loans may be paid after more senior bondholders. Loans may or may not be secured by collateral.

Floating rate loans have interest rates that reset periodically. The interest rates on floating rate loans are generally based on a percentage above the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), a U.S. bank's prime or base rate, the overnight federal funds rate, or another rate. Floating rate loans may be structured and administered by a financial institution that acts as the agent of the lenders participating in the floating rate loan. The Fund may acquire floating rate loans directly from a lender or through the agent, as an assignment from another lender who holds a floating rate loan, or as a participation interest in another lender's floating rate loan or portion thereof.

## **Investment Companies and Other Pooled Investment Vehicles**

The Funds may invest in securities of investment companies, including ETFs; some of which may be ETFs that are advised by the Advisor. ETFs trade on a securities exchange and their shares may, at times, trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value. As a shareholder in a pooled investment vehicle, a Fund will bear its ratable share of that vehicle's expenses, and would remain subject to payment of the fund's advisory and administrative fees with respect to assets so invested. Normally shareholders are subject to duplicative expenses to the extent a Fund invests in other pooled investment vehicles. In addition, a Fund will incur brokerage costs when purchasing and selling shares of ETFs and closed end investment companies. Securities of other pooled investment vehicles may be leveraged, in which case the value and/or yield of such securities will tend to be more volatile than securities of unleveraged vehicles.

The Funds' ability to invest in other investment companies is limited by the 1940 Act and the related rules and interpretations. The Funds may invest in other investment companies in excess of the limits imposed under the 1940 Act pursuant to exemptive orders obtained by certain investment companies and their sponsors from the Securities and Exchange Commission, subject to certain conditions and pursuant to a contractual arrangement between a Fund and such investment companies.

## **Mortgage-Related Investments and Mortgage-Related Derivatives**

The Funds invest in mortgage-related debt securities and other mortgage-related instruments. A Fund generally expects that the mortgage-related investments in which it invests will primarily consist of investment grade securities (i.e., securities with credit ratings within the four highest rating categories of a nationally recognized statistical rating organization at the time of purchase). The mortgage-related investments in which a Fund invests include mortgage-backed securities (such as residential

mortgage backed securities (“*RMBS*”) and commercial mortgage backed securities (“*CMBS*”). Mortgage-backed securities represent an interest in a pool of mortgage loans made by banks and other financial institutions to finance purchases of homes, commercial buildings and other real estate. The individual mortgage loans are packaged or “pooled” together for sale to investors. As the underlying mortgage loans are paid off, investors receive principal and interest payments. Mortgage-backed securities may be fixed-rate or adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities (ARMS). Certain mortgage-backed securities (including RMBS and CMBS), where mortgage payments are divided up between paying the loan’s principal and paying the loan’s interest, are referred to as stripped mortgage-backed securities (SMBS). Further, mortgage-backed securities can also be categorized as collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs) or real estate mortgage investment conduits (REMICs) where they are divided into multiple classes with each class being entitled to a different share of the principal and/or interest payments received from the pool of underlying assets.

The mortgage-backed securities in which a Fund invests may be, but are not required to be, issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities, such as Ginnie Mae and U.S. government-sponsored entities, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Government agency or instrumentality securities have different levels of credit support. For example, Ginnie Mae securities carry a guarantee as to the timely repayment of principal and interest that is backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government. However, the full faith and credit guarantee does not apply to the market prices and yields of the Ginnie Mae securities or to the net asset value, trading price or performance of a Fund, which will vary with changes in interest rates and other market conditions. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac pass-through mortgage certificates are backed by the credit of the respective instrumentality and are not guaranteed by the U.S. government. Other securities issued by government agencies or instrumentalities, including government-sponsored entities, may only be backed by the creditworthiness of the issuing institution, not the U.S. government, or the issuers may have the right to borrow from the U.S. Treasury to meet their obligations. Many mortgage-backed securities are pass-through securities, which means they provide investors with monthly payments consisting of a pro rata share of both regular interest and principal payments as well as unscheduled prepayments on the underlying mortgage loans. Because prepayment rates of individual mortgage pools vary widely, the average life of a particular pool cannot be predicted accurately. Adjustable-rate mortgage-backed securities include ARMS and other mortgage-backed securities with interest rates that adjust periodically to reflect prevailing market rates.

Additionally, the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in mortgage dollar rolls. In a mortgage dollar roll, the Fund will sell (or buy) mortgage-backed securities for delivery on a specified date and simultaneously contract to repurchase (or sell) substantially similar (same type, coupon and maturity) securities on a future date. During the period between a sale and repurchase, the Fund will forgo principal and interest paid on the mortgage-backed securities. The Fund will earn or lose money on a mortgage dollar roll from any difference between the sale price and the future purchase price. In a sale and repurchase, the Fund will also earn money on the interest earned on the cash proceeds of the initial sale. The Fund intends to enter into mortgage dollar rolls only with high quality securities dealers and banks, as determined by the Advisor.

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may also invest in to-be-announced transactions (“*TBA Transactions*”). A TBA Transaction is a method of trading mortgage-backed securities. In a TBA Transaction, the buyer and the seller agree on general trade parameters such as agency, settlement date, par amount and price. The actual pools delivered generally are determined two days prior to the settlement date.

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may invest in interest only synthetic (“*IOS*”) contracts. IOS contracts are synthetic total return swaps referencing the interest component of mortgage pools. They provide investors with synthetic exposure to interest flows of mortgage-backed securities. Initially, the Fund expects that the mortgage-related derivatives in which it invests will consist only of IOS contracts; however, the Fund may, in the future, invest in other mortgage-related derivatives to the extent consistent with the types of derivative instruments referenced below.

Further, the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio may enter into short sales as part of its overall portfolio management strategies or to offset a potential decline in the value of a security; however, the Fund does not expect, under normal market conditions, to engage in short sales with respect to more than 30% of the value of its net assets that are invested in Mortgage-Related Investments. To the extent required under applicable federal securities laws, rules, and interpretations thereof, the Fund will “set aside” liquid assets or engage in other measures to “cover” open positions and short positions held in connection with the foregoing types of transactions and mortgage-related derivatives.

### **Preferred Securities**

The First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio invests in preferred securities. Certain of the preferred securities in which the Fund invests are traditional preferred stocks which issue dividends that qualify for the dividends received deduction under which “qualified” domestic corporations are able to exclude a percentage of the dividends received from their taxable income.

Certain of the preferred securities in which the Fund invests are preferred stock that does not issue dividends that qualify for the dividends received deduction or generate qualified dividend income. Hybrid preferred securities, another type of preferred securities, are typically junior and fully subordinated liabilities of an issuer or the beneficiary of a guarantee that is junior and fully subordinated to the other liabilities of the guarantor. Preferred securities held by the Fund generally pay fixed or adjustable-rate distributions to investors and have preference over common stock in the payment of distributions and the liquidation of a company's assets, which means that a company typically must pay dividends or interest on its preferred securities before paying any dividends on its common stock. Preferred securities are generally junior to all forms of the company's debt, including both senior and subordinated debt.

## **REITs**

The Funds may invest in real estate investment trusts, or "REITs," which are companies that own and most often actively manage income-generating commercial real estate. Some REITs make or invest in loans and other obligations that are secured by real estate collateral. Most REITs are publicly traded. REITs receive special tax considerations and are typically a highly liquid method of investing in real estate.

REITs are generally categorized as equity REITs, mortgage REITs or hybrid REITs. Equity REITs invest in and own properties, and thus are responsible for the equity or value of their real estate assets. Their revenues come principally from their properties' rents. Mortgage REITs deal in investment and ownership of property mortgages. These REITs loan money for mortgages to owners of real estate or purchase existing mortgages or mortgage-backed securities. Their revenues are generated primarily by the interest that they earn on the mortgage loans. Hybrid REITs combine the investment strategies of equity REITs and mortgage REITs by investing in both properties and mortgages.

## **TIPS**

The Funds may invest in TIPS. TIPS are inflation-indexed fixed-income securities issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury that utilize an inflation mechanism tied to the Consumer Price Index ("CPI"). TIPS are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. TIPS are offered with coupon interest rates lower than those of nominal rate Treasury securities. The coupon interest rate remains fixed throughout the term of the securities. However, each day the principal value of the TIPS is adjusted based upon a pro-rata portion of the CPI as reported three months earlier. Future interest payments are made based upon the coupon interest rate and the adjusted principal value.

## **U.S. Government Securities**

The Funds may invest in U.S. government and agency securities, including mortgage-backed securities. U.S. government securities include U.S. Treasury obligations and securities issued or guaranteed by various agencies of the U.S. government, or by various instrumentalities that have been established or sponsored by the U.S. government. U.S. Treasury obligations are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government. Securities issued or guaranteed by federal agencies and U.S. government sponsored instrumentalities may or may not be backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

## **Cash Equivalents and Short-Term Investments**

Normally, a Fund invests substantially all of its assets to meet its investment objective(s). Each Fund may invest the remainder of its assets in securities with maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or it may hold cash. The percentage of a Fund invested in such holdings varies and depends on several factors, including market conditions. For temporary defensive purposes and during periods of high cash inflows or outflows, a Fund may depart from its principal investment strategies and invest part or all of its assets in these securities, or it may hold cash. During such periods, a Fund may not be able to achieve its investment objective(s). A Fund may adopt a defensive strategy when the portfolio managers believe securities in which the Fund normally invests have elevated risks due to political or economic factors and in other extraordinary circumstances. For more information on eligible short-term investments, see the SAI.

## **Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings**

A description of the policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the Funds' portfolio securities is included in the Funds' SAI, which is available on the Funds' website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).



## Additional Risks of Investing in the Funds

Risk is inherent in all investing. Investing in a Fund involves risk, including the risk that you may lose all or part of your investment. There can be no assurance that a Fund will meet its stated objective(s). Before you invest, you should consider the following risks in addition to the Principal Risks set forth above in this prospectus.

### Principal Risks

**CREDIT RISK.** An issuer of a debt instrument may be unable or unwilling to make dividend, interest and/or principal payments when due and the related risk that the value of a debt instrument may decline because of concerns about the issuer's ability or unwillingness to make such payments. High yield and comparable unrated debt securities, while generally offering higher yields than investment grade debt with similar maturities, involve greater risks, including the possibility of dividend or interest deferral, default or bankruptcy, and are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay dividends or interest and repay principal. Credit risk is heightened for loans in which a Fund invests because companies that issue such loans tend to be highly leveraged and thus are more susceptible to the risks of interest deferral, default and/or bankruptcy.

**DEPOSITARY RECEIPTS RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, an investment in depositary receipts involves further risks due to certain features of depositary receipts. Depositary receipts are usually in the form of ("ADRs"), Global Depositary Receipts ("GDRs") or European Depositary Receipts ("EDRs"). ADRs are U.S. dollar-denominated receipts representing shares of foreign-based corporations. ADRs are issued by U.S. banks or trust companies, and entitle the holder to all dividends and capital gains that are paid out on the underlying foreign shares. GDRs and EDRs are similar to ADRs, but are shares of foreign-based corporations generally issued by international banks in one or more markets around the world. ADRs, GDRs and EDRs may be less liquid than the underlying shares in their primary trading market. Any distributions paid to the holders of depositary receipts are usually subject to a fee charged by the depositary.

Holders of depositary receipts may have limited voting rights pursuant to a deposit agreement between the underlying issuer and the depositary. In certain cases, the depositary will vote the shares deposited with it as directed by the underlying issuer's board of directors. Furthermore, investment restrictions in certain countries may adversely impact the value of depositary receipts because such restrictions may limit the ability to convert shares into depositary receipts and vice versa. Such restrictions may cause shares of the underlying issuer to trade at a discount or premium to the market price of the depositary receipt. Moreover, if depositary receipts are converted into shares, the laws in certain countries may limit the ability of a non-resident to trade the shares and to reconvert the shares to depositary receipts.

Depositary receipts may be "sponsored" or "unsponsored." Sponsored depositary receipts are established jointly by a depositary and the underlying issuer, whereas unsponsored depositary receipts may be established by a depositary without participation by the underlying issuer. Holders of unsponsored depositary receipts generally bear all the costs associated with establishing the unsponsored depositary receipts. In addition, the issuers of the securities underlying unsponsored depositary receipts are not obligated to disclose material information in the United States and, therefore, there may be less information available regarding such issuers and there may not be a correlation between such information and the market value of the depositary receipts.

Depositary receipts may be unregistered and unlisted. A Fund's investments may also include depositary receipts that are not purchased in the public markets and are restricted securities that can be offered and sold only to "qualified institutional buyers" under Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("*Securities Act*"). Moreover, if adverse market conditions were to develop during the period between a Fund's decision to sell these types of depositary receipts and the point at which a Fund is permitted or able to sell such security, the Fund might obtain a price less favorable than the price that prevailed when it decided to sell.

**DERIVATIVES RISK.** The use of derivatives presents risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in traditional securities. Among the risks presented are market risk, credit risk, management risk and liquidity risk. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying asset, index or rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. In addition, when a Fund invests in certain derivative securities, including, but not limited to, when-issued securities, forward commitments and futures contracts, it is effectively leveraging its investments, which could result in exaggerated changes in the net asset value of the Fund's shares and can result in losses that exceed the amount originally invested. The success of a Fund's derivatives strategies will depend on the ability of the Advisor to assess and predict the impact of market or economic developments on the underlying asset, index or rate, and the derivative itself, without the benefit of observing the performance of the derivative under all possible market conditions.

Liquidity risk exists when a security cannot be purchased or sold at the time desired, or cannot be purchased or sold without adversely affecting the price.

**EMERGING MARKETS RISK.** With respect to the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, an investment in emerging market companies involves certain further risks not associated with investing in developed market countries because emerging market countries are often in the initial stages of their industrialization cycles and have low per capita income. These increased risks include the possibility of investment and trading limitations, greater liquidity concerns, higher price volatility, greater delays and possibility of disruptions in settlement transactions, greater political uncertainties and greater dependence on non-U.S. trade or development assistance. In addition, emerging market countries may be subject to overburdened infrastructures and environmental problems.

**EQUITY SECURITIES RISK.** Equity securities may decline significantly in price over short or extended periods of time, and such declines may occur in the equity market as a whole, or they may occur in only a particular country, company, industry or sector of the market.

**FINANCIAL COMPANIES RISK.** Negative developments relating to the subprime mortgage market have adversely affected credit and capital markets worldwide and reduced the willingness of lenders to extend credit, making borrowing on favorable terms more difficult. In addition, the liquidity of certain debt instruments has been reduced or eliminated due to the lack of available market makers. Banks and thrifts face increased competition from nontraditional lending sources as regulatory changes permit new entrants to offer various financial products. Regulatory changes could cause business disruptions or result in significant loss of revenue, and there can be no assurance as to the actual impact that these laws and their regulations will have on the financial markets.

**FLOATING RATE LOAN RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the loans in which the Fund may invest may not (i) be rated at the time of investment; (ii) be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission; (iii) be listed on a securities exchange; or (iv) have sufficient collateral securing the loan or the collateral may not be available in the event of bankruptcy. In addition, the amount of public information available with respect to loans may be less extensive than that available for more widely rated, registered and exchange-listed securities. Because no active trading market may exist for some of the loans in which the Fund may invest, such loans may be illiquid and more difficult to value than more liquid instruments for which a trading market does exist. Unlike the securities markets, there is no central clearinghouse for loan trades, and the loan market has not established enforceable settlement standards or remedies for failure to settle. Therefore, portfolio transactions in loans may have uncertain settlement time periods. Because the interest rates of loans in which the Fund may invest may reset frequently, if market interest rates fall, the loans' interest rates will be reset to lower levels, potentially reducing the Fund's income.

An investment in floating rate loans subjects the Fund to credit risk, which is heightened for loans in which the Fund invests because companies that issue such loans tend to be highly leveraged and thus are more susceptible to the risks of interest deferral, default and/or bankruptcy. The loans are usually rated below investment grade but may also be unrated. An economic downturn would generally lead to a higher non-payment rate, and a loan may lose significant market value before a default occurs. Moreover, any specific collateral used to secure a loan may decline in value or become illiquid, which would adversely affect the loan's value. Therefore, portfolio transactions in loans may have uncertain settlement time periods. Loans are subject to a number of risks described elsewhere in this prospectus, including liquidity risk and the risk of investing in below investment grade debt instruments. Floating rate loans are subject to prepayment risk. The degree to which borrowers prepay loans, whether as a contractual requirement or at their election, may be affected by general business conditions, the financial condition of the borrower and competitive conditions among loan investors, among others. As such, prepayments cannot be predicted with accuracy. Upon a prepayment, either in part or in full, the actual outstanding debt on which the Fund derives interest income will be reduced. The Fund may not be able to reinvest the proceeds received on terms as favorable as the prepaid loan.

**HIGH YIELD SECURITIES RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the Fund's investment high yield, high risk, domestic and foreign obligations, or "junk" securities, may entail increased credit risks and the risk that the value of Fund's assets will decline, and may decline precipitously, with increases in interest rates. In recent years there have been wide fluctuations in interest rates and thus in the value of fixed-rate obligations generally.

Securities such as those included in the Fund are, under most circumstances, subject to greater market fluctuations and risk of loss of income and principal than are investments in lower-yielding, higher-rated securities, and their value may decline precipitously because of increases in interest rates, not only because the increases in rates generally decrease values, but also because increased rates may indicate a slowdown in the economy and a decrease in the value of assets generally that may

adversely affect the credit of issuers of high yield, high risk securities resulting in a higher incidence of defaults among high yield, high risk securities. Adverse economic conditions or a development negatively affecting an issuer's creditworthiness, may result in the issuer being unable to maintain earnings or sell assets at the rate and at the prices, respectively, that are required to produce sufficient cash flow to meet its interest and principal requirements. For an issuer that has outstanding both senior commercial bank debt and subordinated high yield, high risk securities, an increase in interest rates will increase that issuer's interest expense insofar as the interest rate on the bank debt is fluctuating. However, many leveraged issuers enter into interest rate protection agreements to fix or cap the interest rate on a large portion of their bank debt. This reduces exposure to increasing rates, but reduces the benefit to the issuer of declining rates. The Advisor cannot predict future economic policies or their consequences or, therefore, the course or extent of any similar market fluctuations in the future.

High yield debt may be issued by companies without long track records of sales and earnings, or by issuers that have questionable credit strength. High yield debt and comparable unrated debt securities: (a) will likely have some quality and protective characteristics that, in the judgment of the rating agency evaluating the instrument, are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposures to adverse conditions; and (b) are predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay dividends or interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the obligation. Many lower-quality debt securities are subject to legal or contractual restrictions limiting the Fund ability to resell the securities to the general public.

**ILLIQUID SECURITIES RISK.** With respect to the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the Fund may invest a substantial portion of its assets in lower quality debt instruments issued by companies that are highly leveraged. Lower quality debt tends to be less liquid than higher quality debt. If the economy experiences a sudden downturn, or if the debt markets for such issuers become distressed, the Fund may have particular difficulty selling its assets in sufficient amounts, at reasonable prices and in a sufficiently timely manner to raise the cash necessary to meet any potentially heavy redemption requests by Fund shareholders. In such event, there would be a greater chance that the Fund may be forced to curtail or suspend redemptions, in which case you might experience a delay or inability to liquidate your investment at the desired time or in the desired amount.

**INCOME RISK.** If interest rates decline, the income earned from a Fund's portfolio may also decline. With respect to the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, this can result because the Fund generally holds floating rate debt that will adjust lower with falling interest rates. For loans, interest rates typically reset periodically.

**INVESTMENT COMPANIES RISK.** The Funds may invest in the shares of other investment companies, and therefore, a Fund's investment performance and risks may be related to the investment performance and risks of the underlying funds. In general, as a shareholder in other investment companies, a Fund bears its ratable share of the underlying fund's expenses, and would be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent a Fund invests in other investment companies beyond any amounts waived or reimbursed by the Advisor.

**LIBOR RISK.** In 2012, regulators in the United States and the United Kingdom alleged that certain banks, including some banks serving on the panel for U.S. dollar LIBOR, engaged in manipulative acts in connection with their submissions to the British Bankers Association. Manipulation of the LIBOR rate-setting process would raise the risk to the Fund of being adversely impacted if the Fund received a payment based upon LIBOR and such manipulation of LIBOR resulted in lower resets than would have occurred had there been no manipulation. In 2017, the head of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority announced a desire to phase out the use of LIBOR by the end of 2021. Due to the recency of this announcement, there remains uncertainty regarding the future utilization of LIBOR and the nature of any replacement rate. As such, the potential effect of a transition away from LIBOR on the Fund or the financial instruments in which the Fund invests cannot yet be determined.

**MLP TAX RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the Fund's ability to meet its investment objective(s) depends, in part, on the level of taxable income and distributions it receives from the MLP and MLP-related entities in which the Fund invests, a factor over which the Fund has no control. The benefit the Fund derives from its investment in MLPs is largely dependent on their being treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes. As a partnership, an MLP has no income tax liability at the entity level. If, as a result of a change in an MLP's business, an MLP were treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, such MLP would be obligated to pay federal income tax on its income at the applicable corporate tax rate. If an MLP was classified as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, the amount of cash available for distribution with respect to its units would be reduced and any such distributions received by the Fund would be taxed entirely as dividend income if paid out of the earnings of the MLP. Therefore, treatment of an MLP as a corporation for federal income tax purposes would result in a material reduction in the after-tax return to the Fund, likely causing a substantial reduction in the value of the shares of the Fund.



**NON-U.S. SECURITIES RISK.** With respect to the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, an investment in securities of non-U.S. companies involves other risks not associated with domestic issuers. Investment in non-U.S. securities may involve higher costs than investment in U.S. securities, including higher transaction and custody costs as well as the imposition of additional taxes by non-U.S. governments.

Non-U.S. investments may also involve risks associated with the level of currency exchange rates, less complete financial information about the issuers, less market liquidity, more market volatility and political instability. Future political and economic developments, the possible imposition of withholding taxes on dividend income, the possible seizure or nationalization of non-U.S. holdings, the possible establishment of exchange controls or freezes on the convertibility of currency, or the adoption of other governmental restrictions might adversely affect an investment in non-U.S. securities. Additionally, non-U.S. issuers may be subject to less stringent regulation, and to different accounting, auditing and recordkeeping requirements.

**PREFERRED SECURITIES RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, an investment in preferred securities involves the further risks not associated with an investment in common stocks set forth below.

- **Limited Voting Rights.** Generally, holders of preferred securities (such as the Fund) have no voting rights with respect to the issuing company unless preferred dividends have been in arrears for a specified number of periods, at which time the preferred security holders may elect a number of directors to the issuer's board. Generally, once the issuer pays all the arrearages, the preferred security holders no longer have voting rights.
- **Special Redemptions Rights.** In certain circumstances, an issuer of preferred securities may redeem the securities prior to a specified date. For instance, for certain types of preferred securities, a redemption may be triggered by a change in federal income tax or securities laws. As with call provisions, a special redemption by the issuer may negatively impact the return of the security held by the Fund.
- **Deferral.** Preferred securities may include provisions that permit the issuer, at its discretion, to defer distributions for a stated period without any adverse consequences to the issuer. If the Fund owns a preferred security that is deferring its distributions, the Fund may be required to report income for federal income tax purposes although it has not yet received such income in cash.
- **Subordination.** Preferred securities are subordinated to bonds and other debt instruments in a company's capital structure in terms of priority to corporate income and liquidation payments and therefore will be subject to greater credit risk than those debt instruments.
- **Liquidity.** Preferred securities may be substantially less liquid than many other securities, such as common stocks or U.S. government securities.

**PREPAYMENT RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, during periods of falling interest rates, an issuer of a loan may exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation earlier than expected. This may result in the Fund reinvesting proceeds at lower interest rates, resulting in a decline in the Fund's income.

## **Non-Principal Risks**

**BORROWING AND LEVERAGE RISK.** If a Fund borrows money, it must pay interest and other fees, which may reduce the Fund's returns. Any such borrowings are intended to be temporary. However, under certain market conditions, including periods of low demand or decreased liquidity, such borrowings might be outstanding for longer periods of time. As prescribed by the 1940 Act, a Fund will be required to maintain specified asset coverage of at least 300% with respect to any bank borrowing immediately following such borrowing. A Fund may be required to dispose of assets on unfavorable terms if market fluctuations or other factors reduce the Fund's asset coverage to less than the prescribed amount.

**COMMODITY PRICING RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, MLPs, MLP-related entities and energy companies may be directly affected by energy commodity prices, especially those energy companies who own the underlying energy commodity. Commodity prices fluctuate for several reasons including, changes in market and economic conditions, the impact of weather on demand, levels of domestic production and imported commodities, energy conservation, domestic and foreign governmental regulation and taxation and the availability of local, intrastate and interstate transportation systems. Volatility of commodity prices which leads to a reduction in production or supply may also impact the performance of MLPs, MLP-related entities and energy companies that are solely involved in the transportation, processing, storing, distribution or marketing of commodities. Volatility of commodity prices may also make it more difficult for MLPs, MLP-related entities and energy companies to raise capital to the extent the market perceives that their performance may be directly tied to commodity prices.

**CREDIT RATING AGENCY RISK.** Credit ratings are determined by credit rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's, Inc., Moody's Investors Services, Inc. and Fitch Inc., and are only the opinions of such entities. Ratings assigned by a rating agency are not absolute standards of credit quality and do not evaluate market risk or the liquidity of securities. Any shortcomings or inefficiencies in credit rating agencies' processes for determining credit ratings may adversely affect the credit ratings of securities held by a Fund and, as a result, may adversely affect those securities' perceived or actual credit risk.

**DEFERRED TAX RISK.** With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, as a limited partner in the MLPs in which it may invest, the Fund will be allocated its pro rata share of income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses from the MLPs. A significant portion of MLP income has historically been offset by tax deductions. The Fund will recognize income with respect to that portion of a distribution that is not offset by tax deductions, with the remaining portion of the distribution being treated as a tax-deferred return of capital. The percentage of an MLP's distribution which is offset by tax deductions will fluctuate over time for various reasons. A significant slowdown in acquisition or investment activity by MLPs held in the Fund's portfolio could result in a reduction of accelerated depreciation or other deductions generated by these activities, which may result in increased net income to the Fund. A reduction in the percentage of the income from an MLP offset by tax deductions or gains as a result of the sale of portfolio securities will reduce that portion, if any, of the Fund's distribution treated as a tax-deferred return of capital and increase that portion treated as dividend income, resulting in lower after-tax distributions to the Fund's shareholders. The Fund will rely to some extent on information provided by MLPs, which is usually not timely, to determine the tax character of the distributions to shareholders.

**EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT AND RECOUPMENT RISK.** First Trust has entered into an agreement with the Trust in which the Advisor has agreed to waive certain fees and/or reimburse the Fund for expenses exceeding an agreed upon amount. First Trust is also entitled to recoup from the Fund any waived or reimbursed amounts pursuant to the agreement for a period of up to three years from the date of waiver or reimbursement. Any such recoupment or modification or termination of the agreement could negatively affect the Fund's returns.

**FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS A REGULATED INVESTMENT COMPANY.** If, in any year, a Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under the applicable tax laws, the Fund would be taxed as an ordinary corporation. In such circumstances, the Fund could be required to recognize unrealized gains, pay substantial taxes and interest and make substantial distributions before requalifying as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment. If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company, distributions to the Fund's shareholders generally would be eligible for the dividends received deduction in the case of corporate shareholders. See "Federal Tax Matters."

**INFLATION RISK.** Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investments will be less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the value of a Fund's assets can decline as can the value of a Fund's distributions. Common stock prices may be particularly sensitive to rising interest rates, as the cost of capital rises and borrowing costs increase.

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RISK.** With respect to First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, the Fund relies on a sublicense from First Trust that permits the Fund to use the associated trade names, trademarks and/or service marks (the "Intellectual Property") in connection with the name and/or investment strategies of the Fund. Such license may be terminated by the owners of the Intellectual Property and, as a result, the Fund may lose its ability to use the Intellectual Property. There is also no guarantee that the owners of the Intellectual Property have all rights to license the Intellectual Property to First Trust for use by the Fund. Accordingly, in the event the license is terminated or the owners of the Intellectual Property do not have rights to license the Intellectual Property, it may have a significant effect on the operation of the Fund.

**ISSUER SPECIFIC CHANGES RISK.** The value of an individual security or particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole.

**LEGISLATION/LITIGATION RISK.** From time to time, various legislative initiatives are proposed that may have a negative impact on certain securities in which a Fund invests. In addition, litigation regarding any of the securities owned by a Fund may negatively impact the value of a Fund's shares. Such legislation or litigation may cause a Fund to lose value or may result in higher portfolio turnover if the Advisor or a Sub-Advisor determines to sell such a holding.

**VALUATION RISK.** Unlike publicly traded securities that trade on national exchanges, there is no central place or exchange for fixed income securities trading. Fixed income securities generally trade on an "over-the-counter" market which may be anywhere in the world where the buyer and seller can settle on a price. Due to the lack of centralized information and trading, the valuation of fixed income securities may carry more uncertainty and risk than that of publicly traded securities. Accordingly, determinations of the fair value of fixed income securities may be based on infrequent and dated information. Also, because

the available information is less reliable and more subjective, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of debt securities than for other types of securities. Typically, fixed income securities are valued using information provided by a third party pricing service, which primarily uses broker quotes to value the securities.

## Fund Organization

Each Fund is a series of the Trust, an investment company registered under the 1940 Act. Each Fund is treated as a separate fund with its own investment objective(s) and policies. The Trust is organized as a Massachusetts business trust. The Board is responsible for the overall management and direction of the Trust. The Board elects the Trust's officers and approves all significant agreements, including those with the investment advisor, custodian and fund administrative and accounting agent.

## Management of the Funds

First Trust Advisors L.P., 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187, is the investment advisor to the Funds. In this capacity, First Trust is responsible for the selection and ongoing monitoring of the securities in each Fund's portfolio and certain other services necessary for the management of the Funds.

First Trust is a limited partnership with one limited partner, Grace Partners of DuPage L.P., and one general partner, The Charger Corporation. Grace Partners of DuPage L.P. is a limited partnership with one general partner, The Charger Corporation, and a number of limited partners. The Charger Corporation is an Illinois corporation controlled by James A. Bowen, the Chief Executive Officer of First Trust. First Trust discharges its responsibilities subject to the policies of the Board.

First Trust serves as advisor or sub-advisor for seven mutual fund portfolios, 10 exchange-traded funds consisting of 130 series and 16 closed-end funds. It is also the portfolio supervisor of certain unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. ("FTP"), an affiliate of First Trust, 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. FTP specializes in the underwriting, trading and distribution of unit investment trusts and other securities. FTP is the principal underwriter of the shares of each Fund.

There is no one individual primarily responsible for portfolio management decisions for the Funds. Investments are made under the direction of each Fund's Investment Committee.

With respect to First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio, the Investment Committee consists of Daniel J. Lindquist, Jon C. Erickson, David G. McGarel, Roger F. Testin, Chris A. Peterson and Todd Larson.

- Mr. Lindquist, CFA, is Chairman of the Investment Committee and presides over Investment Committee meetings. Mr. Lindquist is responsible for overseeing the implementation of each Fund's investment strategy. Mr. Lindquist was a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP from September 2005 to July 2012 and is now a Managing Director of First Trust and FTP. Mr. Lindquist is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Erickson, CFA, joined First Trust in 1994 and is a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP. As the head of First Trust's Equity Research Group, Mr. Erickson is responsible for determining the securities to be purchased and sold by funds that do not utilize quantitative investment strategies. Mr. Erickson is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. McGarel, CFA, is the Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and a Managing Director of First Trust and FTP. As First Trust's Chief Investment Officer, Mr. McGarel consults with the other members of the Investment Committee on market conditions and First Trust's general investment philosophy. Mr. McGarel was a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP from January 2004 to July 2012. Mr. McGarel is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Testin, CFA, is a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP. Mr. Testin is the head of First Trust's Portfolio Management Group. Mr. Testin has been a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP since November 2003. Mr. Testin is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Peterson, CFA, is a Senior Vice President and head of First Trust's strategy research group. He joined First Trust in January of 2000. Mr. Peterson is responsible for developing and implementing quantitative equity investment strategies. Mr. Peterson received his B.S. in Finance from Bradley University in 1997 and his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 2005. He has over 19 years of financial services industry experience and is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

- Mr. Larson, CFA, has been a Vice President and Fixed Income Portfolio Manager at First Trust since December 2007. Mr. Larson is responsible for managing fixed income portfolios for First Trust's institutional clients. Prior to joining First Trust, Mr. Larson was a portfolio manager with ABN AMRO Asset Management, Horizon Cash Management and Van Kampen American Capital. Mr. Larson is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the Fund and First Trust have retained EIP and Stonebridge, an affiliate of First Trust, to serve as investment sub-advisors. First Trust Capital Partners, LLC, an affiliate of the Advisor, owns, through a wholly-owned subsidiary, a 15% ownership interest in each of the Energy Income Partners, LLC and EIP Partners, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and affiliate of Energy Income Partners, LLC. In this capacity, the Sub-Advisors will provide recommendations to the Advisor regarding the selection and on-going monitoring of the securities in the Fund's investment portfolio. EIP will act as sub-advisor for, and manage on a discretionary basis the investment and reinvestment of only the assets of the Fund allocated to EIP by the Advisor and furnish an investment program in respect of and make investment decisions only with respect to the portion of the Fund's investment portfolio allocated to it by the Advisor. Stonebridge will serve as a non-discretionary sub-adviser.

EIP has been retained by the Fund to provide recommendations regarding the selection and ongoing monitoring of the MLP, MLP affiliate and energy infrastructure securities in the Fund's investment portfolio and to exercise discretion only with respect to assets of the Fund allocated to EIP by the Advisor as described in the paragraph immediately preceding this one. EIP, located at 10 Wright Street, Westport, Connecticut 06880, is a registered investment advisor and serves as investment advisor to investment portfolios with approximately \$6.6 billion of assets as of January 31, 2018. EIP is a Delaware limited liability company and a Securities and Exchange Commission-registered investment advisor, founded in October 2003 by James J. Murchie to provide professional asset management services in the area of energy-related MLPs and other high-payout securities in the energy infrastructure sector. In addition to serving as sub-advisor to the Fund, EIP serves as the investment manager to two unregistered investment companies and one open end mutual fund investment company as well as separately managed accounts for high net worth individuals and institutions. EIP also provides a model portfolio for unified managed accounts. EIP also serves as the sub-advisor to the First Trust Energy Income and Growth Fund (NYSE: FEN), First Trust Energy Infrastructure Fund (NYSE: FIF), First Trust MLP and Energy Income Fund (NYSE: FEI), First Trust North American Energy Infrastructure Fund (NYSE: EMLP), First Trust New Opportunities MLP & Energy Fund (NYSE: FPL), a sleeve of the First Trust Strategic Income ETF (NYSE: FDIV) and the First Trust North American Energy Infrastructure Income UCITS Fund. EIP mainly focuses on portfolio companies that operate infrastructure assets such as pipelines, storage and terminals that receive fee-based or regulated income from their customers.

Stonebridge, an affiliate of First Trust based in Wilton, Connecticut, has been retained by the Fund to provide recommendations regarding the selection and ongoing monitoring of the preferred and hybrid securities in the Fund's investment portfolio. Stonebridge is a registered investment advisor with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Stonebridge, located at 10 Westport Road, Suite C-101, Wilton, Connecticut 06897, is a niche asset management firm that manages portfolios of preferred securities for investors. Stonebridge, formed in December 2004, serves as investment advisor or portfolio supervisor to investment portfolios with approximately \$8.8 billion in assets, which it managed or supervised as of January 31, 2018. A portion of these assets are contained in investments sponsored by FTP, for which Stonebridge acts as sub-portfolio supervisor.

With respect to First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, the Investment Committee consists of Daniel J. Lindquist, David G. McGarel, Jon C. Erickson, Roger F. Testin, Chris A. Peterson, William Housey, Todd Larson, James Snyder and Jeremiah Charles.

- Mr. Lindquist, see above.
- Mr. McGarel, see above.
- Mr. Erickson, see above.
- Mr. Testin, see above.
- Mr. Peterson, see above.
- Mr. Larson, see above.
- Mr. Housey, CFA, joined First Trust in June 2010 as Senior Portfolio Manager for the Leveraged Finance Investment Team and has 22 years of investment experience. Mr. Housey is a Senior Vice President of First Trust. Prior to joining First Trust, Mr. Housey was at Morgan Stanley/Van Kampen Funds, Inc. for 11 years and served as Executive Director and Co-Portfolio Manager. Mr. Housey has extensive experience in portfolio management of both leveraged and unleveraged credit products, including bank loans, high yield bonds, credit derivatives and corporate restructurings. Mr. Housey received a BS in Finance from Eastern Illinois University

and an MBA in Finance and Management and Strategy from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business. He holds the FINRA Series 7, Series 52 and Series 63 licenses and the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. He is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Chicago.

- Mr. Snyder is a Portfolio Manager for the First Trust Mortgage Securities Team. Prior to joining First Trust in 2013, Mr. Snyder worked as a Senior Portfolio Manager at Fort Sheridan Advisors where he managed mortgage portfolios for institutional clients. Mr. Snyder has led several mortgage trading and portfolio groups at Deerfield Capital, Spyglass Capital & Trading and American Express Financial Advisors. Mr. Snyder managed AXP Federal Income Fund, and developed mortgage trading strategies for Spyglass Capital and Deerfield's Mortgage REIT and Opportunity Fund. Mr. Snyder holds a B.S. and M.A. in Economics from DePaul University and an MBA from University of Chicago Booth School of Business.
- Mr. Charles is a Portfolio Manager for the First Trust Mortgage Securities Team. Prior to joining First Trust in 2013, Mr. Charles worked as a Vice President of mortgage product sales for CRT Capital where he advised pension funds, hedge funds, and institutional money managers. Before joining CRT in 2011, Mr. Charles spent six years with Deerfield Capital Management LLC as a Senior Vice President and Senior Portfolio Manager for the mortgage trading team. Mr. Charles began his professional career as an analyst at Piper Jaffray. Mr. Charles holds a B.S. in Finance from the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado, and a M.S. in Real Estate Finance with Honors from the Charles H. Kellstadt Graduate School of Business at DePaul University.

For additional information concerning First Trust, the Sub-Advisors and the Investment Committees, including a description of the services provided to the Funds, see "Management of the Funds" in the Funds' SAI. In addition, the SAI provides additional information about the compensation of Investment Committee members, other accounts managed by members of the Investment Committee and ownership by members of the Investment Committee of shares of the Funds.

## Management Fee

For providing management services, each Fund pays First Trust an annual Fund management fee of 0.60% of average daily net assets. Each Fund is responsible for all of its expenses, including the investment advisory fees, costs of transfer agency, custody, fund administration, legal, audit and other services, interest, taxes, brokerage commissions and other expenses connected with the execution of portfolio transactions, distribution and service fees pursuant to a 12b-1 plan, if any, acquired fund fees and/or expenses, and extraordinary expenses. First Trust has agreed to waive fees and/or pay Fund expenses to the extent necessary to prevent the annual operating expenses of the Class I shares and Class II shares (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes, and extraordinary expenses) from exceeding 1.20% and 0.95%, respectively, (the "*Expense Caps*") at least until May 1, 2019. Expenses borne and fees waived by First Trust are subject to reimbursement by the Fund up to three years from the date the fee or expense was incurred by a Fund, but no reimbursement payment will be made by such Fund at any time if it would result in a Class's expenses (excluding interest expense, brokerage commissions and other trading expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, if any, taxes and extraordinary expenses) exceeding its Expense Cap. Pursuant to a contractual agreement between the Trust, on behalf of the First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio, and First Trust, First Trust will waive management fees in the amount of 0.37% of the Fund's average daily net assets until May 1, 2019. The agreement may be terminated by the Board on behalf of the Fund at any time and by First Trust only after May 1, 2019 upon 60 days' written notice. Information regarding the Board's approval of the continuation of the investment management agreement for First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio and the continuation of the investment management and sub-advisory agreements for First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio is available in the Funds' Semi-Annual Report to Shareholders for the period ended June 30, 2017.

## Share Classes

Each Fund currently offers two classes of shares: Class I and Class II. Each class represents an interest in the same portfolio of investments but with a different combination of expenses. Consult with your Participating Insurance Company representative for additional information on whether the shares are an appropriate investment choice. Not all Participating Insurance Companies may offer both classes of shares. Contact your Participating Insurance Company or refer to your plan documents for instructions on how to purchase, exchange, or redeem shares. With certain limited exceptions, the Fund is available only to U.S. citizens or residents.

Please refer to the SAI for more information about Class I and Class II shares, including more detailed program descriptions. If your Participating Insurance Company offers more than one class of shares, you should carefully consider which class of shares to purchase. A certain class may have higher expenses than another, which may lower the return on your investment. Additional information is also available from your Participating Insurance Company.



## **Class I Shares**

You can purchase Class I shares at the offering price, which is the net asset value per share without any sales charge. Class I shares are subject to an annual service fee pursuant to a 12b-1 service plan of 0.25% of the Fund's average daily net assets attributable to Class I shares. The annual 0.25% service fee compensates your Participating Insurance Company for providing ongoing service to you. Class I shares are not subject to a distribution fee.

## **Class II Shares**

You can purchase Class II shares at the offering price, which is the net asset value per share without any sales charge. Class II shares are not subject to ongoing service or distribution fees and therefore have lower ongoing expenses than Class I shares.

## **Investment in Fund Shares**

Shares of the Funds are sold only to Accounts to fund the benefits of the variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts issued by a Participating Insurance Company. Each Account purchases shares of a Fund in accordance with variable account allocation instructions received from owners of the Contracts. First Trust then uses the proceeds to buy securities for the Funds. The Accounts, as shareholders, have an ownership interest in the Funds' investments.

Shares of a Fund may be offered to insurance company separate Accounts of both variable annuity and variable life insurance Contracts. Due to differences in tax treatment and other considerations, the interests of various Contract owners participating in a Fund may conflict. The Board will monitor events in order to identify the existence of any material irreconcilable conflicts and determine what action, if any, should be taken in response to such conflict. The Board will appoint a monitor (the "Monitor") who may be the Chief Compliance Officer or another officer of the Trust to review all reports made by Participating Insurance Companies to the Fund and such other information received from Participating Insurance Companies with respect to any current or potential material irreconcilable conflict. If the Monitor reports to the Board that a current or potential material irreconcilable conflict may exist, it will be the duty of the Board to determine whether such conflict in fact exists and determine what action, if any, should be taken in response to such conflict.

The Funds do not issue share certificates. Individual investors may not purchase or redeem shares in a Fund directly; shares may be purchased or redeemed only through the Accounts. There are no minimum investment requirements. All investments in a Fund are credited to the shareholder's account in the form of full and fractional shares of such Fund (rounded to the nearest 1/1000 of a share). For a discussion of how Contract owners may purchase Fund shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account. Owners of the Contracts may direct purchase or redemption instructions to their Participating Insurance Company.

The price received for purchase requests will depend on when the order is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day's closing price, otherwise the next business day's price will be used. A business day is any day the New York Stock Exchange is open for business and normally ends at 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time. See "Net Asset Value" for a discussion of how shares are priced.

## **Redemption of Fund Shares**

Each Fund offers to buy back (redeem) shares of the Fund from an Account at any time at net asset value. The Account will redeem shares to make benefit or surrender payments under the terms of the variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts or to effect transfers among investment options. Redemptions are processed on any day on which the Fund is open for business and are effected at the net asset value next determined after the redemption order, in proper form, is received. Orders received before the close of trading on a business day will receive that day's closing price, otherwise the next business day's price will be used. For a discussion of how Contract owners may redeem shares, please refer to the prospectus for the Account.

A Fund may suspend the right of redemption only under the following unusual circumstances:

- when the New York Stock Exchange is closed (other than weekends and holidays) or trading is restricted;
- when trading in the markets utilized is restricted, or when an emergency exists, as determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission, so that disposal of a Fund's investments or determination of its net asset value is not reasonably practicable; or
- during any period when the Securities and Exchange Commission may permit.

## Distributions and Taxes

### Automatic Reinvestment

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid semi-annually by the Funds in June and December. Each Fund distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually. All dividends payable by a Fund will be reinvested in the Fund.

### Certain Federal Income Tax Matters

Each Fund intends to qualify annually and to elect to be treated as a "regulated investment company" under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"). This section does not discuss the federal income tax consequences of investing in the Fund or of owning the Contracts. This may not be sufficient for the purpose of avoiding penalties under federal tax law. Participating Insurance Companies and owners of Contracts should seek advice based on their individual circumstances from their own tax advisor. Tax disclosure relating to the Contracts that offer the Fund as an investment alternative is to be contained in the prospectus for those Contracts.

Failure to satisfy certain diversification standards under the Code at any time would result in imposition of Federal income tax on a Contract owner in a manner different from, and generally less favorable than, the federal income tax treatment otherwise applicable to owners of variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts. Generally, if all of the beneficial interests in the Fund are held by segregated asset accounts of insurance companies and public access to the Fund is available exclusively through the purchase of certain variable contracts, the segregated asset accounts are treated as holding a pro rata portion of each asset of the Fund directly for purposes of the diversification rules of the Code.

Section 817(h)(2) of the Code provides that a segregated asset account upon which contracts such as the Contracts is based is treated as meeting the diversification standards if, as of the close of each quarter: (i) the assets in the account meet the diversification requirements for a regulated investment company; (ii) no more than 55% of the value of those assets consist of cash, cash items, U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies; and (iii) the segregated asset account meets a number of further requirements under the Treasury Regulations.

Each Fund will be managed with the intention of complying with these diversification requirements. It is possible that, in order to comply with these requirements, less desirable investment decisions may be made which could affect the investment performance of the Fund.

Please see "Certain Federal Income Tax Matters" in the Fund's SAI for a more complete discussion of the federal tax matters concerning the Fund.

## Rule 12b-1 Service Plan

FTP serves as the selling agent and distributor of a Fund's shares. In this capacity, FTP manages the offering of a Fund's shares and is responsible for all sales and promotional activities. In order to compensate FTP for its costs in connection with these activities, each Fund has adopted a service plan under Rule 12b-1 of the 1940 Act. For Class I shares, each Fund may spend up to 0.25% per year of its average daily net assets as a 12b-1 service fee. Class II shares are not subject to the 12b-1 service fee. FTP uses the 12b-1 service fee to compensate the Participating Insurance Companies for providing account services to Contract owners. These services include establishing and maintaining Contract owners' accounts, supplying information to Contract owners, delivering Fund materials to Contract owners, answering inquiries, and providing other personal services to Contract owners. Because these fees are paid out of a Fund's assets on an on-going basis, over time these fees will increase the cost of an investment in Class I shares and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges. In addition, the plan allows First Trust to use a portion of its advisory fee to compensate FTP for other expenses, including printing and distributing prospectuses to persons other than shareholders or Contract owners, and the expenses of compensating its sales force and preparing, printing and distributing advertising, sales literature and reports to shareholders and Contract owners used in connection with the sale of shares. The Board of the Trust reserves the right to suspend payments under the 12b-1 service plan at any time.

## Net Asset Value

The net asset value is determined for each class of shares of the Funds as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time) on each day the NYSE is open for business. Net asset value for each class is calculated for the Funds by taking the market price of a Fund's total assets attributable to such class, including interest or dividends accrued but not yet collected, less all

liabilities attributable to such class, and dividing such amount by the total number of shares of the class outstanding. The result, rounded to the nearest cent, is the net asset value per share. Differences in net asset value of each class of a Fund's shares are generally expected to be due to the daily expense accruals of the specified distribution and service fees and transfer agency costs applicable to such class of shares and the differential in the dividends that may be paid on each class of shares. All valuations are subject to review by the Board or its delegate.

Each Fund's investments are valued daily at market value or, in the absence of market value with respect to any portfolio securities, at fair value, in accordance with valuation procedures adopted by the Board and in accordance with the 1940 Act. Portfolio securities listed on any exchange other than Nasdaq Stock Market LLC and the London Stock Exchange Alternative Investment Market ("*AIM*") are valued at the last sale price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. Securities listed on Nasdaq Stock Market LLC or AIM are valued at the official closing price on the business day as of which such value is being determined. If there has been no sale on such day, or no official closing price in the case of securities traded on Nasdaq Stock Market LLC or AIM, the securities are fair valued at the mean of their most recent bid and ask price on such day.

Portfolio securities traded on more than one securities exchange are valued at the last sale price or official closing price, as applicable, on the business day as of which such value is being determined at the close of the exchange representing the principal market for such securities. Portfolio securities traded in the over-the-counter market, but excluding securities trading on Nasdaq Stock Market LLC or AIM, are fair valued at the mean of their most recent bid and asked price, if available, and otherwise at the closing bid price. Short-term investments that mature in less than 60 days when purchased are fair valued at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discount, provided the Advisor's Pricing Committee has determined that the use of amortized cost is an appropriate reflection of fair value given market and issuer-specific conditions existing at the time of the determination.

Mortgage-Related Investments will generally be valued by using a third-party pricing service. If a pricing service does not cover a particular Mortgage-Related Investment, or discontinues covering a Mortgage-Related Investment, the security will be priced using a broker quote. To derive values, pricing services and broker-dealers may use matrix pricing and valuation models, as well as recent market transactions for the same or similar assets. Occasionally, the Advisor's pricing committee (the "*Pricing Committee*") may determine that a pricing service price does not represent an accurate value of a Mortgage-Related Investment, based on the broker quote it receives, a recent trade in the security by the Fund, information from a portfolio manager, or other market information. In the event that the Pricing Committee determines that the pricing service price is unreliable or inaccurate based on such other information, the broker quote may be used. Additionally, if the Pricing Committee determines that the price of a Mortgage-Related Investment obtained from a pricing service and the available broker quote is unreliable or inaccurate due to market conditions or other reasons, or if a pricing service price or broker quote is unavailable, the security will be valued using fair value pricing, as described below.

Floating rate loans in which a Fund invests are not listed on any securities exchange or board of trade. Floating rate loans are typically bought and sold by institutional investors in individually negotiated private transactions that function in many respects like an over-the-counter secondary market, although typically no formal market-makers exist. This market, while having grown substantially since its inception, generally has fewer trades and less liquidity than the secondary market for other types of securities. Some floating rate loans have few or no trades, or trade infrequently, and information regarding a specific floating rate loan may not be widely available or may be incomplete. Accordingly, determinations of the market value of floating rate loans may be based on infrequent and dated information. Because there is less reliable, objective data available, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of floating rate loans than for other types of securities. Typically, floating rate loans are fair valued using information provided by a third-party pricing service. The third-party pricing service primarily uses over-the-counter pricing from dealer runs and broker quotes from indicative sheets to value the floating rate loans.

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by pre-established pricing methods. Such securities may be valued by the Board or its delegate, the Advisor's Pricing Committee, at fair value. The use of fair value pricing by a Fund is governed by valuation procedures adopted by the Board and in accordance with the provisions of the 1940 Act. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, certain restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "*Securities Act*")) for which a pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been formally suspended; a security whose market or fair value price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of net asset value of each class of shares of the Funds or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the pricing service, does not reflect the security's fair value. As a general principle, the current fair value of a security would appear



to be the amount which the owner might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. When fair value prices are used, generally they will differ from the current market quotations or official closing prices on the applicable exchange. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities. See the Funds' SAI for details.

Because foreign securities exchanges may be open on different days than the days during which an investor may buy or sell shares of a Fund, the value of the Fund's securities may change on days when investors are not able to buy or sell shares of the Fund. The value of securities denominated in foreign currencies is converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rates in effect at the time of valuation.

Repurchase agreements will be valued as follows: Overnight repurchase agreements will be valued at cost when it represents the best estimate of fair value. Term repurchase agreements (*i.e.*, those whose maturity exceeds seven days) will be valued by the Advisor's Pricing Committee at the average of the bid quotations obtained daily from at least two recognized dealers.

Currency-linked notes, credit-linked notes, interest rate swaps, credit default swaps, and other similar instruments will be valued by the Funds by using a pricing service or, if the pricing service does not provide a value, by quotes provided by the selling dealer or financial institution. When price quotes are not available, fair market value is based on prices of comparable securities. Absent a material difference between the exit price for these instruments and the market rates for similar instruments, currency-linked notes, credit-linked notes, etc. will be valued at the exit price.

## **Fund Service Providers**

The Funds' transfer and dividend paying agent and shareholder services, fund accounting and administrative agent is BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc., 301 Bellevue Parkway, Wilmington, Delaware 19809 ("*BNY*"). BNY performs bookkeeping, data processing, accounting and administrative services for the operation of the Funds and the maintenance of shareholder accounts. The custodian of the assets of the Funds is The Bank of New York Mellon, 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York 10286.

Each Participating Insurance Company performs certain administrative services for the Funds, its Account and the variable annuity and variable life insurance Contracts. Each Fund pays an administrative services fee of 0.20% of average daily net assets to cover expenses incurred by the Participating Insurance Company in connection with these services. For more information on the Funds' expenses, see "Investment Advisory and Other Services" in the Funds' SAI.

## **Borrowing by the Funds**

Each Fund may borrow money for temporary or emergency purposes, including to meet redemption requests or clear portfolio transactions. When a Fund borrows money, it must pay interest and other fees, which may reduce a Fund's returns. In order to facilitate such borrowing, the Trust, on behalf of the Funds, has entered into a Credit Agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia which allows a Fund to borrow money from time to time for the purposes listed above. As prescribed by 1940 Act, a Fund will generally be required to maintain specified asset coverage of at least 300% with respect to any bank borrowing.

## **Shareholder Inquiries**

All inquiries regarding the Funds should be directed to your Participating Insurance Company who can contact a Fund on your behalf by calling (888) 373-5776, or by mail to the Trust, c/o BNY Mellon Investment Servicing (US) Inc., P.O. Box 9788, Providence, RI 02940.

## **Frequent Trading and Market Timing**

Each Fund is intended for long-term investment and discourages frequent trading or market timing. Due to the fact that all shares of a Fund are issued to, and redeemed from, the Account, it is difficult for a Fund to monitor trading by a particular investor. However, FTP has entered into an agreement with each Participating Insurance Company that permits a Fund, or its designee, to receive certain identity and transaction information and requires each Participating Insurance Company to restrict or prohibit certain future purchases or exchanges by shareholders in certain circumstances. In addition, the Funds may rely on each Participating Insurance Company to adopt policies and procedures or may rely on its own policies and procedures with respect to transfers into or from the Account.

Excessive trading in a Fund's shares can disrupt portfolio management, lead to higher operating costs, and cause other operating inefficiencies for the Fund. However, the Fund is also mindful that shareholders may have valid reasons for periodically purchasing and redeeming Fund shares.

Accordingly, the Board of Trustees has adopted a Frequent Trading Policy that seeks to balance a Fund's need to prevent excessive trading in Fund shares while offering investors the flexibility in managing their financial affairs to make periodic purchases and redemptions of Fund shares.

Technical limitations in operational systems at Participating Insurance Companies or at FTP may limit a Fund's ability to detect and prevent frequent trading. In addition, a Fund may permit Participating Insurance Companies to enforce their own internal policies and procedures concerning frequent trading. Such policies may differ from the Funds' Frequent Trading Policy and may be approved for use in instances where a Fund reasonably believes that the Participating Insurance Company's policies and procedures effectively discourage inappropriate trading activity. Shareholders holding their accounts with Participating Insurance Companies may wish to contact the Participating Insurance Company for information regarding its frequent trading policy. Although a Fund does not knowingly permit frequent trading, it cannot guarantee that it will be able to identify and restrict all frequent trading activity.

Each Fund reserves the right in its sole discretion to waive unintentional or minor violations (including transactions below certain dollar thresholds) if it determines that doing so would not harm the interests of the Fund's shareholders. These include, among others, redemptions pursuant to systematic withdrawal plans, redemptions in connection with the total disability or death of the investor and involuntary redemptions by operation of law, redemptions in payment of account or plan fees. The Fund may also modify or suspend the Frequent Trading Policy without notice during periods of market stress or other unusual circumstances.

Each Fund reserves the right to impose restrictions on purchases or exchanges that are more restrictive than those stated above if it determines, in its sole discretion, that a transaction or a series of transactions involves market timing or excessive trading that may be detrimental to Fund shareholders. The Fund also reserves the right to reject any purchase orders, including exchange purchases, for any reason. For example, the Fund may refuse purchase orders if the Fund would be unable to invest the proceeds from the purchase order in accordance with the Fund's investment policies and/or objective, or if the Fund would be adversely affected by the size of the transaction, the frequency of trading in the account or various other factors.

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## Financial Highlights

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Funds' financial performance for the periods shown. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share of each Fund. The total returns represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in a Fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The information for the periods indicated has been derived from financial statements audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, whose report, along with the Funds' financial statements, is included in the Funds' Annual Report to Shareholders dated December 31, 2017 and is incorporated by reference in the Funds' SAI, which is available upon request.

### Financial Highlights

#### For a Share outstanding throughout each period

#### First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio

Class I Shares	Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$ 12.85	\$ 11.94	\$ 12.41	\$ 11.37	\$ 10.31
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>					
Net investment income (loss)	0.18	0.14	0.16	0.15	0.14
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.54	1.25 <sup>(a)</sup>	(0.15)	0.99	1.17
Total from investment operations	1.72	1.39	0.01	1.14	1.31
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>					
Net investment income	(0.18)	(0.13)	(0.27)	(0.10)	(0.09)
Net realized gain	(0.66)	(0.35)	(0.21)	–	(0.16)
Total from distributions	(0.84)	(0.48)	(0.48)	(0.10)	(0.25)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$ 13.73	\$ 12.85	\$ 11.94	\$ 12.41	\$ 11.37
<b>Total return <sup>(b) (c)</sup></b>	13.47%	11.74% <sup>(a)</sup>	0.09%	10.04%	12.75%
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>					
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$737,320	\$543,951	\$243,244	\$195,128	\$106,079
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.23%	1.29%	1.34%	1.43%	1.65%
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%	1.20%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	1.35%	1.29%	1.35%	1.40%	1.27%
Portfolio turnover rate	71%	96%	81%	65%	73%

(a) First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$1,000 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(b) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(c) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

**Financial Highlights**  
**For a Share outstanding throughout each period**

**First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio**

Class II Shares	Year Ended December 31,			Period Ended
	2017	2016	2015	12/31/2014 <sup>(d)</sup>
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$12.87	\$11.95	\$12.43	\$ 11.63
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>				
Net investment income (loss)	0.14	0.19	0.17	0.14
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1.61	1.24 <sup>(a)</sup>	(0.14)	0.77
Total from investment operations	1.75	1.43	0.03	0.91
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>				
Net investment income	(0.21)	(0.16)	(0.30)	(0.11)
Net realized gain	(0.66)	(0.35)	(0.21)	—
Total from distributions	(0.87)	(0.51)	(0.51)	(0.11)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$13.75	\$12.87	\$11.95	\$ 12.43
<b>Total return</b> <sup>(b) (c)</sup>	13.75%	12.07% <sup>(a)</sup>	0.25%	7.82%
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>				
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 202	\$ 17	\$ 16	\$ 11
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.00%	1.04%	1.09%	1.21% <sup>(e)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	0.95%	0.95%	0.95%	0.95% <sup>(e)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	1.88%	1.53%	1.64%	1.69% <sup>(e)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	71%	96%	81%	65%

(a) First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$1,000 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(b) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(c) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

(d) The Fund's Class II shares were seeded on April 30, 2014, and commenced operations on May 1, 2014.

(e) Annualized.

**Financial Highlights**  
**For a Share outstanding throughout each period**  
**First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio**

Class I Shares	Year Ended December 31,			Period
	2017	2016	2015	Ended 12/31/2014 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$ 10.54	\$ 9.86	\$ 10.39	\$ 10.00
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>				
Net investment income (loss)	0.24	0.20	0.19	0.07
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.39	0.71	(0.53) <sup>(b)</sup>	0.39
Total from investment operations	0.63	0.91	(0.34)	0.46
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>				
Net investment income	(0.25)	(0.23)	(0.19)	(0.07)
Net realized gain	(0.03)	—	—	—
Total from distributions	(0.28)	(0.23)	(0.19)	(0.07)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$ 10.89	\$ 10.54	\$ 9.86	\$ 10.39
<b>Total return <sup>(c) (d)</sup></b>	6.04%	9.27%	(3.24)% <sup>(b)</sup>	4.57%
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>				
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$20,083	\$17,965	\$ 12,257	\$ 6,894
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	2.17%	2.22%	2.60%	6.00% <sup>(e)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	0.83%	0.83%	0.90%	1.20% <sup>(e)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	2.24%	2.10%	2.17%	2.35% <sup>(e)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	46%	46%	93%	15%

(a) The Fund's Class I and Class II shares were seeded on April 30, 2014, and commenced operations on May 1, 2014.

(b) First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$5,471 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(c) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(d) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

(e) Annualized.

**Financial Highlights**  
**For a Share outstanding throughout each period**  
**First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio**

Class II Shares	Year Ended December 31,			Period Ended
	2017	2016	2015	12/31/2014 <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$10.54	\$ 9.86	\$ 10.39	\$ 10.00
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>				
Net investment income (loss)	0.27	0.20	0.24	0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.38	0.74	(0.55) <sup>(b)</sup>	0.43
Total from investment operations	0.65	0.94	(0.31)	0.47
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>				
Net investment income	(0.28)	(0.26)	(0.22)	(0.08)
Net realized gain	(0.03)	—	—	—
Total from distributions	(0.31)	(0.26)	(0.22)	(0.08)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$10.88	\$10.54	\$ 9.86	\$ 10.39
<b>Total return <sup>(c) (d)</sup></b>	6.22%	9.53%	(3.01)% <sup>(b)</sup>	4.74%
<b>Ratios to average net assets/supplemental data:</b>				
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$ 159	\$ 156	\$ 100	\$ 105
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.92%	1.99%	2.31%	14.44% <sup>(e)</sup>
Ratio of net expenses to average net assets	0.58%	0.58%	0.67%	0.95% <sup>(e)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	2.49%	2.34%	2.32%	0.54% <sup>(e)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate	46%	46%	93%	15%

(a) The Fund's Class I and Class II shares were seeded on April 30, 2014, and commenced operations on May 1, 2014.

(b) First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio received a reimbursement from the Advisor in the amount of \$5,471 in connection with a trade error, which represents less than \$0.01 per share. Since the Advisor reimbursed the Fund, there was no effect on the total return.

(c) Total return is based on the combination of reinvested dividends, capital gain and return of capital distributions, if any. Total return is not annualized for periods of less than one year. The returns for the Fund do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges or the effect of taxes. These expenses would reduce the overall returns above.

(d) Total returns would have been lower if certain fees had not been waived and expenses reimbursed by the investment advisor.

(e) Annualized.



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## First Trust/Dow Jones Dividend & Income Allocation Portfolio First Trust Multi Income Allocation Portfolio

### **For More Information**

This prospectus is intended for use in connection with variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts. For more detailed information on the Funds, several additional sources of information are available to you. The SAI, incorporated by reference into this prospectus, contains detailed information on the Funds' policies and operation. Additional information about the Funds' investments is available in the annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders. In the Funds' annual reports, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly impacted the Funds' performance during the last fiscal year. The Funds' most recent SAI, annual or semi-annual reports and certain other information are available free of charge by calling the Funds at (800) 621-1675, on the Funds' website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com) or through your financial advisor. Shareholders may call the toll-free number above with any inquiries.

You may obtain this and other information regarding the Fund, including the SAI and Codes of Ethics adopted by First Trust, FTP and the Trust, directly from the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Information on the SEC's website is free of charge. Visit the SEC's on-line EDGAR database at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) or in person at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C., or call the SEC at (202) 551-8090 for information on the Public Reference Room. You may also request information regarding the Fund by sending a request (along with a duplication fee) to the SEC's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549-1520 or by sending an electronic request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

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