Securities Act File No. 333-238475 Investment Company Act File No. 811-23570

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

# FORM N-1A

# ☑ REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 □ Pre-Effective Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ ☑ Post-Effective Amendment No. 157

and/or

☑ REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940 ☑ Amendment No. 158

# **Simplify Exchange Traded Funds**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F Las Vegas, NV 89135 (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code: 646-585-0476

The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (Name and address of agent for service)

Copy to: JoAnn M. Strasser Thompson Hine LLP 41 South High Street, Suite 1700 Columbus, Ohio 43215

It is proposed that this filing will become effective:

- □ Immediately upon filing pursuant to paragraph (b)
- ☑ On May 19, 2025 pursuant to paragraph (b)
- $\Box$  60 days after filing pursuant to paragraph (a)(1)
- $\Box$  On (date) pursuant to paragraph (a)(1)
- $\Box$  75 days after filing pursuant to paragraph (a)(2)
- $\Box$  On (date) pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of Rule 485

If appropriate, check the following box:

□ This post-effective amendment designates a new effective date for a previously filed post-effective amendment.

# Fund Name

# Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF

Ticker Symbol (Exchange)

KNRG (NYSE Arca, Inc.)

a series of Simplify Exchange Traded Funds

PROSPECTUS

May 19, 2025

Advised by:

# SIMPLIFY

Simplify Asset Management Inc. 10845 Griffith Peak Drive 2/F Las Vegas, NV 89135

www.simplify.us/etfs

Sub-Advised by:

KAYNE ANDERSON

Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. 717 Texas Avenue, 22nd Floor Houston, TX 77002

phone: 1 (855) 772-8488

This Prospectus provides important information about the Fund that you should know before investing. Please read it carefully and keep it for future reference.

These securities have not been approved or disapproved by the Securities and Exchange Commission nor has the Securities and Exchange Commission passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The Fund's shares are listed and traded on the Exchange listed above.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

FUND SUMMARY – SIMPLIFY KAYNE ANDERSON ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT ETF	1
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RELATED RISKS	8
Investment Objective	8
Principal Investment Strategies	8
Principal Investment Risks	10
Portfolio Holdings Disclosure	14
<u>Cybersecurity</u>	15
MANAGEMENT	15
Investment Adviser	15
<u>Sub-Adviser</u>	15
Portfolio Managers	16
HOW SHARES ARE PRICED	16
HOW TO BUY AND SELL SHARES	17
FREQUENT PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS OF FUND SHARES	18
DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLAN	18
DIVIDENDS, OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES	19
FUND SERVICE PROVIDERS	20
OTHER INFORMATION	21
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS	22

i

# FUND SUMMARY – SIMPLIFY KAYNE ANDERSON ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE CREDIT ETF

Investment Objective: The Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF (the "Fund" or "KNRG") primarily seeks current income and secondarily seeks capital appreciation.

Fees and Expenses of the Fund: This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy, sell, and hold shares of the Fund. You may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the table or examples below.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	
Management Fees	0.75%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.00%
Other Expenses <sup>(1)</sup>	0.00%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses <sup>(2)</sup>	0.01%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	0.76%

- (1) Other Expenses are estimated for the Fund's initial fiscal year.
- (2) Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses, which are estimated for the Fund's initial fiscal year, are the indirect costs of investing in other investment companies. The operating expenses in this fee table will not correlate to the expense ratio in the Fund's financial highlights because the financial statements include only the direct operating expenses incurred by the Fund.

*Example:* This Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds.

The Example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based upon these assumptions your costs would be:

1 Year	3 Years
\$78	\$243

**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 and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. The Fund is a new fund and has no portfolio turnover information as of the date of this Prospectus.

# **Principal Investment Strategies:**

The Fund is an actively managed exchange-traded fund ("ETF"). The Fund's investment adviser, Simplify Asset Management Inc. (the "Adviser"), collaborates with the Fund's sub-adviser, Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. (the "Sub-Adviser"), to seek to achieve the Fund's investment objective. The Sub-Adviser employs an opportunistic strategy that focuses on relative value among credit instruments of energy and infrastructure companies. The Adviser may employ a hedging strategy using derivatives.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in credit instruments issued by energy companies and infrastructure companies. The Fund defines credit instruments as: (i) debt, (ii) bonds, (iii) notes, (iv) loans, (v) loan participations, (vi) credit facility commitments, (vii) preferred shares, (viii) hybrid securities, and (ix) derivatives linked to the preceding instruments. Hybrid securities are those with a conversion feature such a convertible bond that may be converted to common stock. Credit instruments maybe secured, senior, subordinated, callable, and/or convertible. The Fund defines energy companies as those deriving a majority of their revenue or profits from; or having a majority of their assets in energy-related endeavours such as the (A) production, (B) generation, (C) development, (D) transmission, (E) storage, (F) refining/processing, or (G) sale of: (i) oil, (ii) natural gas (including liquified natural gas, or LNG), (iii) natural gas liquids, (iv) refined petroleum products, (v) coal, (vi) biofuels, (vii) hydrogen, (viii) hydro power, (ix) solar power, (x) wind power, (xi) geothermal power, as well as (xii) electricity generation by other means. The Fund defines infrastructure companies as those deriving a majority of their revenue or profits from; or having a majority of their assets: (i) toll roads, (ii) bridges, (iii) tunnels, (iv) parking facilities, (v) railroads, (vi) rapid transit links, (vii) airports, (viii) refueling facilities, and (ix) seaports; (B) utility assets: (i) electric transmission and distribution lines, (ii) power generation facilities, (iii) gas and water distribution facilities, (iv) waste collection, (v) broadcast and wireless towers, (vi) energy infrastructure assets, and (vii) cable and satellite networks. The Fund concentrates its investments (i.e., invests more than 25% of its net assets) in the securities of issuers from the energy and infrastructure group of industries.

The Fund invests without restriction as to issuer capitalization, credit quality, country, currency, instrument maturity or duration. However, securities of emerging market issuers are not part of the Fund's principal investment strategy. The Fund is classified as a "non-diversified" investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, which means that the Fund may invest a higher percentage of its assets in a fewer number of issuers than is permissible for a "diversified" Fund.

# Sub-Adviser's Energy and Infrastructure Credit Strategy

The Sub-Adviser selects credit instruments, which it believes present an attractive combination of yield and potential capital appreciation among peers of the same credit quality, maturity, and issuer type. The Sub-Adviser focuses on bottom-up fundamental analysis to assess credit quality. The Sub-Adviser's measure of credit quality is informed by: (i) interest payment coverage ratio, (ii) debt to assets ratio, (iii) debt to cash flow, (iv) free cash flow analysis and sensitivity, (v) assessment of the likelihood of default under stressed economic or sector-specific conditions, and (vi) an estimate of recovery percentage in the event of default. The Sub-Adviser sells an instrument when it believes its investment profile no longer represents relative value or to fund a more attractive investment.

#### Adviser's Hedging Strategy

To manage the default risk of the Fund's portfolio and to generate gains from changes in credit spreads on credit instruments, the Adviser may employ a hedging strategy. This strategy may use over-the-counter total return swaps, and exchange-traded and over-the-counter credit default swaps and options. In a credit default swap, one party makes a stream of payments to another party in exchange for the right to receive a specified return in the event of a default by a third party on its debt obligation or an index of debt obligations. The Fund may use credit default swaps to provide a measure of protection against defaults of issuers (i.e., to reduce risk where the Fund owns or has exposure to the issuer or group of issuers) and may also use credit default swaps to take an active long (i.e. writes credit protection) or short (i.e. buys credit protection) position with respect to the likelihood of a particular issuers or group of issuers default. Total return swaps are used to capture the interest and price performance of a debt obligation or an index of debt obligations and may be used to capture narrowing credit spreads as well as to profit from widening credit spreads. The Fund may purchase put options and put options spreads to protect against a drop in a reference asset's price. The Fund may purchase call option spreads to capture gains in the reference asset's price typically driven by improved credit spreads.

When the Fund purchases a call option, the Fund has the right, but not the obligation, to buy an asset at a specified price (strike price) within a specific time period. When the Fund purchases a put option, the Fund has the right, but not the obligation, to sell an asset at a specified price (strike price) within a specific time period.

# Call Spread Sub-Strategy

When the Adviser believes a credit instrument's price will increase it employs a call spread strategy. In this call option spread, the Fund purchases an at-the-money or slightly out-of-the-money call option; while selling (writing) a further out-of-the-money (above current market price) call option to partially offset the cost of the purchased option.

## Put Spread Sub-Strategy

When the Adviser believes a credit instrument's price will decrease it employs a put spread strategy. In this put option spread, the Fund purchases an at-the-money or slightly out-of-the-money put option; while selling (writing) a further out-of-the-money (below current market price) put option to partially offset the cost of the purchased option. The Adviser typically hedges at least a portion of the Fund's credit risk and opportunistically pursues additional gains from changes in credit spreads. While the use of derivatives is intended to improve the Fund's performance, there is no guarantee that it will do so.

When using certain derivatives, the Fund is required to post collateral to assure its performance to the counterparty. The Fund will hold cash and cash-like instruments or high-quality short term fixed income securities (collectively, "Collateral"). The Collateral may consist of (i) U.S. Government securities, such as bills, notes and bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury; (ii) money market funds; (iii) fixed income ETFs; and/or (iv) corporate debt securities, such as commercial paper and other short-term unsecured promissory notes issued by companies that are rated investment grade or of comparable quality. The Adviser considers an unrated security to be of comparable quality to a security rated investment grade if it believes it has a similar low risk of default.

**Principal Investment Risks:** As with all funds, there is the risk that you could lose money through your investment in the Fund. Many factors affect the Fund's net asset value and price of shares and performance. The following describes the risks the Fund bears with respect to its investments. As with any fund, there is no guarantee that the Fund will achieve its goal.

Active Management Risk. The Fund is subject to the risk that the investment management strategy may not produce the intended results and may negatively impact Fund performance. The Sub-Adviser's strategy may not produce positive results and the Adviser's credit hedge strategy may not fully protect the Fund's portfolio from declines in price or from defaults.

*Credit Risk.* The Fund will lose money if the issuer or guarantor of a credit instrument goes bankrupt or is unable or unwilling to make interest payments and/or repay principal. The value of a security may decline if there are concerns about an issuer's ability or willingness to make interest and or principal payments. Changes in an issuer's financial strength or in an issuer's or security's credit rating also may affect a security's value and thus have an impact on Fund performance. The Fund considers all derivatives and non-U.S. Treasury debt instruments as subject to credit risk. Subordinated credit instruments may receive little or no recovery if the issuer or guarantor of a credit instrument goes bankrupt.

*High Yield Risk.* The Fund may invest in high yield debt also known as "junk bonds". High yield securities and unrated securities of similar credit quality are subject to greater levels of credit, call, and liquidity risks. High yield securities are considered primarily speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments, and may be more volatile than higher-rated securities of similar maturity.



Interest Rate Risk. The value of the Fund's investment in credit securities will fall when interest rates rise. The effect of increased interest rates is more pronounced for any intermediate-term or longer-term obligations owned by the Fund.

*Industry Concentration Risk.* The Fund focuses its investments in securities of a group of two industries. Economic, legislative or regulatory developments may occur that significantly affect the group of industries. This may cause the Fund's share price to fluctuate more than that of a fund that does not focus in a group of industries.

- Energy Industry Risk. Securities and instruments of energy companies are susceptible to adverse economic or regulatory developments. The performance of the Fund is tied closely to and affected by developments in the energy sector. Energy companies are subject to the risks specific to the sector they serve including: (i) fluctuations in commodity prices; (ii) reduced volumes of natural gas or other energy commodities available for transporting, processing, storing or distributing; (iii) new construction risk and facility acquisition risk; (iv) reduced demand for crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, refined petroleum products, and power; (v) depletion of the oil or natural gas reserves or lower than expected wind, solar, or hydro resources; (vi) changes in the regulatory environment; (vii) extreme weather; (viii) rising interest rates and a higher cost of capital; (ix) attack by terrorists; (x) price policies of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries); and (xi) changing preferences for fuel sources.
- Infrastructure Industry Risk. Securities and instruments of infrastructure companies are susceptible to adverse economic or regulatory developments. Infrastructure companies may be subject to a variety of factors that may adversely affect their business or operations, such as high interest costs in connection with capital construction, high debt leverage, environmental and other regulations, economic slowdown, surplus capacity, increased competition, volatile fuel or power prices, energy conservation policies and other factors. Infrastructure companies may also be subject to: (i) technological innovations that may render production facilities obsolete, (ii) changes in market sentiment towards infrastructure assets, (iii) high interest costs in connection with capital construction and improvement programs, (iv) difficulty in raising capital, (v) competition resulting from a developing deregulatory environment, (vi) cost of compliance with environmental and other regulations, (vii) adverse actions by various government authorities (viii) government regulation of rates charged to customers, (ix) service interruption due to environmental or operational mishaps, and (x) special tariffs and changes in tax laws.

*Convertible Securities Risk.* Convertible securities that are rated below investment grade are subject to the risks associated with high-yield investments. The reference common stock of a convertible security may fail to reach a price that makes the conversion feature valuable.

*Foreign Currency Risk.* The Fund may hold investments that have exposure to non-U.S. currency exchange rates. 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 your investment in the Fund may experience losses.

Foreign Investment Risk. The Fund may invest in securities domiciled in countries outside the U.S. that may experience more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies. These companies may be subject to additional risks, including political and economic risks, civil conflicts and war, greater volatility, expropriation and nationalization risks, currency fluctuations, higher transaction costs, delayed settlement, and less stringent investor protection and disclosure standards than those of the U.S. market. The potential departure of one or more other countries from the European Union could have significant political and financial consequences for global markets.



*Small and Medium Capitalization Risk.* The earnings and prospects of small and medium sized companies are more volatile than larger companies and may experience higher failure rates than larger companies. Small and medium sized companies normally have a lower trading volume than larger companies, which may tend to make their market price fall more disproportionately than larger companies in response to selling pressures and may have limited markets, product lines, or financial resources and lack management experience.

Derivatives Risk. Options and swaps are derivative investments. The use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. These risks include (i) the risk that the counterparty to a derivative transaction may not fulfil its contractual obligations; (ii) risk of mispricing or improper valuation; and (iii) the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate or index. Derivative prices are highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time. Such prices are influenced by numerous factors that affect the markets, including, but not limited to: changing supply and demand relationships; government programs and policies; national and international political and economic events, changes in interest rates, inflation and deflation and changes in supply and demand relationships. Trading derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities.

- Options Risk. As the buyer of a put or call option, the Fund risks losing the entire premium invested in the option if the Fund does not exercise the option.
- Swaps Risk. Swaps are subject to tracking risk because they may not be perfect substitutes for the instruments they are intended to hedge or replace. Over the counter swaps are subject to counterparty default. Leverage inherent in derivatives will tend to magnify the Fund's losses. Written credit default swaps expose the Fund to a potential total loss with respect to the reference credit asset.

*Cash or Cash Equivalents Risk.* At any time, the Fund may have significant investments in cash or cash equivalents. When a substantial portion of a portfolio is held in cash or cash equivalents, there is the risk that the value of the cash account, including interest, will not keep pace with inflation, thus reducing purchasing power over time. Additionally, in rising markets, holding cash or cash equivalents may adversely affect the Fund's performance and the Fund may not achieve its investment objective.

*Counterparty Risk.* Counterparty risk is the risk that a counterparty to a financial instrument held by the Fund or by a special purpose or structured vehicle invested in by the Fund may become insolvent or otherwise fail to perform its obligations, and the Fund may obtain no or limited recovery of its investment, and any recovery may be significantly delayed.

Limited History Risk. The Fund is a new ETF and has a limited history of operations for investors to evaluate.

*Market and Geopolitical Risk.* The increasing interconnectivity between global economies and financial markets increases the likelihood that events or conditions in one region or financial market may adversely impact issuers in a different country, region or financial market. Securities in the Fund's portfolio may underperform due to inflation (or expectations for inflation), interest rates, global demand for particular products or resources, natural disasters, climate change and climate-related events, pandemics, epidemics, terrorism, regulatory events and governmental or quasi-governmental actions. The occurrence of global events similar to those in recent years may result in market volatility and may have long term effects on both the U.S. and global financial markets.

*Non-Diversified Fund Risk.* Because the Fund is non-diversified and may invest a greater portion of its assets in fewer issuers than a diversified fund, changes in the market value of a single portfolio holding could cause greater fluctuations in the Fund's share price than would occur in a diversified fund. This may increase the Fund's volatility and cause the performance of a single portfolio holding or a relatively small number of portfolio holdings to have a greater impact on the Fund's performance.

*Over-the-Counter Market Risk.* Securities and options traded in over-the-counter markets may trade less frequently and in limited volumes and thus exhibit more volatility and liquidity risk, and the prices paid by the Fund in over-the-counter transactions may include an undisclosed dealer markup. The Fund is also exposed to default by the over-the-counter option writer who may be unwilling or unable to perform its contractual obligations to the Fund.

*Preferred Stock Risk.* The value of preferred stocks will fluctuate with changes in interest rates. Typically, a rise in interest rates causes a decline in the value of preferred stock. Preferred stocks are also subject to credit risk, which is the possibility that an issuer of preferred stock will fail to make its dividend payments. The reference common stock of a convertible preferred stock may fail to reach a price that makes the conversion feature valuable.

U.S. Treasury and Agency Market Risk. The U.S. Treasury and agency market can be volatile, and the value of instruments correlated with these markets may fluctuate dramatically from day to day. U.S. Treasury and agency obligations may provide relatively lower returns than those of other securities. Similar to other debt instruments, U.S. Treasury and agency obligations are subject to debt instrument risk and interest rate risk. In addition, changes to the financial condition or credit rating of the U.S. Government may cause the value of U.S. Treasury and agency obligations to decline.

*Early Close/Trading Halt Risk.* An exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities, or the ability to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments may be restricted, which may prevent the Fund from buying or selling certain securities or financial instruments. In these circumstances, the Fund may be unable to rebalance its portfolio, may be unable to accurately price its investments and may incur substantial trading losses.

ETF Structure Risk. The Fund is structured as an ETF and will invest in underlying ETFs. As a result, the Fund is subject to the special risks, including:

- Not Individually Redeemable. The Fund's shares ("Shares") are not redeemable by retail investors and may be redeemed only by Authorized Participants at net asset value ("NAV") and only in Creation Units. A retail investor generally incurs brokerage costs when selling Shares.
- *Trading Issues.* Trading in Shares on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "Exchange") may be halted due to market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in Shares inadvisable, such as extraordinary market volatility. There can be no assurance that Shares will continue to meet the listing requirements of the Exchange which may result in the Shares being delisted. An active trading market for the Shares may not be developed or maintained. If the Shares are traded outside a collateralized settlement system, the number of financial institutions that can act as Authorized Participants that can post collateral on an agency basis is limited, which may limit the market for the Shares.
- *Market Price Variance Risk.* The market prices of Shares will fluctuate in response to changes in NAV and supply and demand for Shares and will include a "bid-ask spread" charged by the exchange specialists, market makers or other participants that trade the Shares. There may be times when the market price and the NAV vary significantly. This means that Shares may trade at a discount to NAV.
  - In times of market stress, market makers may step away from their role market making in the Shares and in executing trades, which can lead to differences between the market value of the Shares and the Fund's NAV.
  - The market price of the Shares may deviate from the Fund's NAV, particularly during times of market stress, with the result that investors may pay significantly more or significantly less the Shares than the Fund's NAV, which is reflected in the bid and ask price for the Shares or in the closing price.



- In stressed market conditions, the market for the Shares may become less liquid in response to the deteriorating liquidity of the Fund's portfolio. This adverse effect on the liquidity of the Shares may, in turn, lead to differences between the market value of the Shares and the Fund's NAV.
- Cash Creation Unit Transactions Risk. Like other ETFs, the Fund sells and redeems its Shares only in large blocks called Creation Units and only to "Authorized Participants." However, unlike many other ETFs, the Fund expects to effect its creations and redemptions at least partially or fully for cash, rather than in-kind securities. Thus, an investment in the Fund may be less tax-efficient than an investment in other ETFs as the Fund may recognize a capital gain that it could have avoided by making redemptions in-kind. As a result, the Fund may pay out higher capital gains distributions than ETFs that redeem in-kind. Further, paying redemption proceeds in cash rather than through in-kind delivery of portfolio securities may require the Fund to dispose of or sell portfolio investments to obtain the cash needed to distribute redemption proceeds at an inopportune time.
- Authorized Participant Risk. Only an Authorized Participant may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the Fund. The Fund has a limited number of institutions that may act as an Authorized Participant on an agency basis (i.e., on behalf of other market participants). To the extent that Authorized Participants exit the business or are unable to proceed with creation or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other Authorized Participant is able to step forward to create or redeem Creation Units, Fund Shares may be more likely to trade at a premium or discount to net asset value and possibly face trading halts or delisting. Authorized Participant concentration risk may be heightened for securities or instruments that have lower trading volumes.

**Performance:** Because the Fund has only recently commenced investment operations, no performance information is presented for the Fund at this time. In the future, performance information will be presented in this section of the Prospectus. Also, shareholder reports containing financial and performance information will be mailed to shareholder semi-annually. Updated performance information will be available at no cost by visiting www.simplify.us or by calling 1 (855) 772-8488.

Investment Adviser: Simplify Asset Management Inc. ("SAMI").

Sub-Adviser: Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P.

**Portfolio Managers:** Jim Baker, Portfolio Manager, Managing Partner and Co-Head of the Sub-Adviser's energy infrastructure business; Michael Schimmel, Portfolio Manager for the Sub-Adviser's energy infrastructure credit strategies; and David Berns, Chief Investment Officer of the Adviser are the portfolio managers of the Fund. Each has served the Fund as a portfolio manager since it commenced operations and are jointly and primarily responsible for the management of the Fund.

**Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares:** The Fund will issue and redeem Shares at NAV only in large blocks of 25,000 Shares (each block of Shares is called a "Creation Unit"). Creation Units are issued and redeemed primarily in-kind for securities or cash. Individual Shares may only be purchased and sold in secondary market transactions through brokers. Except when aggregated in Creation Units in transactions with Authorized Participants, the Shares are not redeemable securities of the Fund.

Shares of the Fund are listed for trading on the Exchange and trade at market prices rather than NAV. Shares of the Fund may trade at a price that is greater than, at, or less than NAV.

Tax Information: The Fund's distributions generally will be taxable as ordinary income or long-term capital gains. A sale of Shares may result in capital gain or loss.

Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries: If you purchase the Fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its 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 ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RELATED RISKS

# **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE:**

The Fund primarily seeks current income and secondarily seeks capital appreciation. The Fund's investment objective may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") upon written notice to shareholders. The Fund's 80% investment policy may be changed by the Board upon at least 60 days' written notice to shareholders.

# PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES:

The Fund is an actively managed exchange-traded fund ("ETF"). The Fund's investment adviser, Simplify Asset Management Inc. (the "Adviser"), collaborates with the Fund's sub-adviser, Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. (the "Sub-Adviser"), to seek to achieve the Fund's investment objective. The Sub-Adviser employs an opportunistic strategy that focuses on relative value among credit instruments of energy and infrastructure companies. The Adviser may employ a hedging strategy using derivatives.

Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in credit instruments issued by energy companies and infrastructure companies. The Fund defines credit instruments as: (i) debt, (ii) bonds, (iii) notes, (iv) loans, (v) loan participations, (vi) credit facility commitments, (vii) preferred shares, (viii) hybrid securities, and (ix) derivatives linked to the preceding instruments. Hybrid securities are those with a conversion feature such a convertible bond that may be converted to common stock. Credit instruments maybe secured, senior, subordinated, callable, and/or convertible. The Fund defines energy companies as those deriving a majority of their revenue or profits from; or having a majority of their assets in energy-related endeavours such as the (A) production, (B) generation, (C) development, (D) transmission, (E) storage, (F) refining/processing, or (G) sale of: (i) oil, (ii) natural gas (including liquified natural gas, or LNG), (iii) natural gas liquids, (iv) refined petroleum products, (v) coal, (vi) biofuels, (vii) hydrogen, (viii) hydro power, (ix) solar power, (x) wind power, (xi) geothermal power, as well as (xii) electricity generation by other means. The Fund defines infrastructure companies as those deriving a majority of their revenue or profits from; or having a majority of their assets: (i) toll roads, (ii) bridges, (iii) tunnels, (iv) parking facilities, (v) railroads, (vi) rapid transit links, (vii) airports, (viii) refueling facilities, and (ix) seaports; (B) utility assets: (i) electric transmission and distribution lines, (ii) power generation facilities, (iii) gas and water distribution facilities, (iv) waste collection, (v) broadcast and wireless towers, (vi) energy infrastructure assets, and (vii) cable and satellite networks. The Fund concentrates its investments (i.e., invests more than 25% of its net assets) in the securities of issuers from the energy and infrastructure group of industries.

The Fund invests without restriction as to issuer capitalization, credit quality, country, currency, instrument maturity or duration. However, securities of emerging market issuers are not part of the Fund's principal investment strategy. The Fund is classified as a "non-diversified" investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"), which means that the Fund may invest a higher percentage of its assets in a fewer number of issuers than is permissible for a "diversified" Fund.

# Sub-Adviser's Energy and Infrastructure Credit Strategy

The Sub-Adviser selects credit instruments, which it believes present an attractive combination of yield and potential capital appreciation among peers of the same credit quality, maturity, and issuer type. The Sub-Adviser focuses on bottom-up fundamental analysis to assess credit quality. The Sub-Adviser's measure of credit quality is informed by: (i) interest payment coverage ratio, (ii) debt to assets ratio, (iii) debt to cash flow, (iv) free cash flow analysis and sensitivity, (v) assessment of the likelihood of default under stressed economic or sector-specific conditions, and (vi) an estimate of recovery percentage in the event of default. The Sub-Adviser sells an instrument when it believes its investment profile no longer represents relative value or to fund a more attractive investment.



# Adviser's Hedging Strategy

To manage the default risk of the Fund's portfolio and to generate gains from changes in credit spreads on credit instruments, the Adviser may employ a hedging strategy. This strategy may use over-the-counter total return swaps, and exchange-traded and over-the-counter credit default swaps and options. In a credit default swap, one party makes a stream of payments to another party in exchange for the right to receive a specified return in the event of a default by a third party on its debt obligation or an index of debt obligations. The Fund may use credit default swaps to provide a measure of protection against defaults of issuers (i.e., to reduce risk where the Fund owns or has exposure to the issuer or group of issuers) and may also use credit default swaps to take an active long (i.e. writes credit protection) or short (i.e. buys credit protection) position with respect to the likelihood of a particular issuers or group of issuers default. Total return swaps are used to capture the interest and price performance of a debt obligation or an index of debt obligations and may be used to capture narrowing credit spreads as well as to profit from widening credit spreads. The Fund may purchase put options and put options spreads to protect against a drop in a reference asset's price. The Fund may purchase call option spreads to capture gains in the reference asset's price typically driven by improved credit spreads.

Total return swaps are used to capture the interest and price performance of a debt obligation or an index of debt obligations and may be used to capture narrowing credit spreads as well as to profit from widening credit spreads. The Fund may purchase put options to protect against a drop in a reference asset's price. The Fund may purchase call options to capture gains in the reference asset's price typically driven by improved credit spreads.

The Fund may use credit default swaps to provide a measure of protection against defaults of issuers (i.e., to reduce risk where the Fund owns or has exposure to the issuer or group of issuers) and may also use credit default swaps to take an active long or short position with respect to the likelihood of a particular issuers or group of issuers default. The Fund may also purchase or write credit default swaps on indexes ("CDX"), which are credit derivatives used to hedge credit risk and/or take a position on a basket of credit entities. A CDX is exchange-traded instrument. Each CDX is designed to track a basket of credit entities, which may be standard or customized. This means that it may be more liquid than an over-the-counter credit default swap, and it may be cheaper to hedge the Fund's portfolio with a CDX than it would be to buy many single name credit default swaps to achieve a similar effect. The Fund anticipates that it will use a market-standard high yield reference portfolio commonly referred to as the CDX high yield index. The CDX high yield index (composed of 5-year credit default swaps on 100 relatively liquid high yield fixed income securities issued by BB and B rated North American corporate entities) is selected and maintained by Markit Group Limited using specific-issue recommendations and current market-based default swap rates provided by major high yield market participants such as commercial banks and broker-dealers. Markit Group also provides daily updates of the then-current average credit default swap rate associated with each of the securities in the CDX high yield index.

When the Fund purchases a call option, the Fund has the right, but not the obligation, to buy an asset at a specified price (strike price) within a specific time period. When the Fund purchases a put option, the Fund has the right, but not the obligation, to sell an asset at a specified price (strike price) within a specific time period. The Adviser selects options based upon its evaluation of relative value based on cost, strike price (price that the option can be bought or sold by the option holder) and maturity (the last date the option contract is valid) and will exercise or close the options based typically prior to maturity.

# Call Spread Sub-Strategy

When the Adviser believes a credit instrument's price will increase, it employs a call spread strategy. In this call option spread, the Fund purchases an at-the-money or slightly out-of-the-money call option; while selling (writing) a further out-of-the-money (above current market price) call option to partially offset the cost of the purchased option.

#### Put Spread Sub-Strategy

When the Adviser believes a credit instrument's price will decrease it employs a put spread strategy. In this put option spread, the Fund purchases an at-the-money or slightly out-of-the-money put option; while selling (writing) a further out-of-the-money (below current market price) put option to partially offset the cost of the purchased option.



The Adviser typically hedges at least a portion of the Fund's credit risk and opportunistically pursues additional gains form changes in credit spreads. While the use of derivatives is intended to improve the Fund's performance, there is no guarantee that it will do so.

When using certain derivatives, the Fund is required to post collateral to assure its performance to the counterparty. The Fund will hold cash and cash-like instruments or high-quality short term fixed income securities (collectively, "Collateral"). The Collateral may consist of (i) U.S. Government securities, such as bills, notes and bonds issued by the U.S. Treasury; (ii) money market funds; (iii) fixed income ETFs; and/or (iv) corporate debt securities, such as commercial paper and other short-term unsecured promissory notes issued by companies that are rated investment grade or of comparable quality. The Adviser considers an unrated security to be of comparable quality to a security rated investment grade if it believes it has a similar low risk of default.

# **Temporary Defensive Positions**

From time to time, the Fund may take temporary defensive positions, which are inconsistent with the Fund's principal investment strategies, in attempting to respond to adverse market, economic, political, or other conditions. For example, the Fund may hold all or a portion of its assets in money market instruments, including cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities, other investment grade fixed income securities, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, commercial paper, money market funds and repurchase agreements. While the Fund is in a defensive position, the opportunity to achieve its investment objective will be limited. If the Fund invests in a money market fund, the shareholders of the Fund generally will be subject to duplicative management fees. Although the Fund would do this only in seeking to avoid losses, the Fund will be unable to pursue its investment objective during that time, and it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market.

#### Manager-of-Managers Order

Simplify Exchange Traded Funds (the "Trust") and SAMI have received an exemptive order from the SEC that permits SAMI, with the Board approval, to enter into sub-advisory agreements with one or more sub-advisers without obtaining shareholder approval. The exemptive order permits SAMI, subject to the approval of the Board to replace sub-advisers or amend sub-advisory agreements, including fees, without shareholder approval whenever SAMI and the Board believe such action will benefit the applicable Fund and its shareholders.

# PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT RISKS:

Active Management Risk. The Fund is subject to the risk that the investment management strategy may not produce the intended results and may negatively impact Fund performance. The Sub-Adviser's strategy may not produce positive results and the Adviser's credit hedge strategy may not fully protect the Fund's portfolio from declines in price or from defaults.

*Cash or Cash Equivalents Risk.* At any time, the Fund may have significant investments in cash or cash equivalents. When a substantial portion of a portfolio is held in cash or cash equivalents, there is the risk that the value of the cash account, including interest, will not keep pace with inflation, thus reducing purchasing power over time. Additionally, in rising markets, holding cash or cash equivalents may adversely affect the Fund's performance and the Fund may not achieve its investment objective.

*Convertible Securities Risk.* Convertible securities that are rated below investment grade are subject to the risks associated with high-yield investments. The reference common stock of a convertible security may fail to reach a price that makes the conversion feature valuable.

*Counterparty Risk.* The Fund may engage in transactions in securities and financial instruments that involve counterparties. Counterparty risk is the risk that a counterparty (the other party to a transaction or an agreement or the party with whom the Fund executes transactions) to a transaction with the Fund may be unable or unwilling to make timely principal, interest or settlement payments, or otherwise honour its obligations. To limit the counterparty risk associated with such transactions, the Fund conducts business only with financial institutions judged by the Adviser to present acceptable credit risk.



*Credit Risk.* The Fund will lose money if the issuer or guarantor of a credit instrument goes bankrupt or is unable or unwilling to make interest payments and/or repay principal. The value of a security may decline if there are concerns about an issuer's ability or willingness to make interest and or principal payments. Changes in an issuer's financial strength or in an issuer's or security's credit rating also may affect a security's value and thus have an impact on Fund performance. The Fund considers all derivatives and non-U.S. Treasury debt instruments as subject to credit risk. Credit risk usually applies to most debt securities, but generally is not a material factor for U.S. government obligations. Subordinated credit instruments may receive little or no recovery if the issuer or guarantor of a credit instrument goes bankrupt.

Derivatives Risk. Options and swaps are derivative investments. The use of derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risk associated with investing directly in securities and other traditional investments. These risks include (i) the risk that the counterparty to a derivative transaction may not fulfil its contractual obligations; (ii) the risk of mispricing or improper valuation; and (iii) the risk that changes in the value of the derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate or index. Derivative prices are highly volatile and may fluctuate substantially during a short period of time. Such prices are influenced by numerous factors that affect the markets, including, but not limited to: changing supply and demand relationships; government programs and policies; national and international political and economic events, changes in interest rates, inflation and deflation and changes in supply and demand relationships. Trading derivative instruments involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities.

- Put Options. When the Fund purchases a put option, it receives, in return for the premium it pays, the right to sell to the writer of the option the underlying security at a specified price at any time before the option expires. The Fund purchases put options in anticipation of a decline in the market value of the underlying security. During the life of the put option, the Fund is able to sell the underlying security at the exercise price regardless of any decline in the market price of the underlying security. In order for a put option to result in a gain, the market price of the underlying security must decline, during the option period, below the exercise price enough to cover the premium and transaction costs.
- Call Options. When the Fund purchases a call option, it receives, in return for the premium it pays, the right to buy from the writer of the option
  the underlying security at a specified price at any time before the option expires. The Fund purchases call options in anticipation of an increase in
  the market value of securities that it intends ultimately to buy. During the life of the call option, the Fund is able to buy the underlying security at
  the exercise price regardless of any increase in the market price of the underlying security. In order for a call option to result in a gain, the market
  price of the underlying security must exceed the sum of the exercise price, the premium paid, and transaction costs.
- Swaps Risk. Swaps are subject to tracking risk because they may not be perfect substitutes for the instruments they are intended to hedge or replace. Over the counter swaps are subject to counterparty default. Leverage inherent in derivatives will tend to magnify the Fund's losses. Written credit default swaps expose the Fund to a potential total loss with respect to the reference credit asset.

*Early Close/Trading Halt Risk.* An exchange or market may close or issue trading halts on specific securities, or the ability to buy or sell certain securities or financial instruments may be restricted, which may prevent the Fund from buying or selling certain securities or financial instruments. In these circumstances, the Fund may be unable to rebalance its portfolio, may be unable to accurately price its investments and may incur substantial trading losses.

ETF Structure Risk: The Fund is structured as an ETF and may invest in underlying ETFs. As a result, the Fund is subject to special risks, including:

• Not Individually Redeemable. The Fund's Shares ("Shares") are not redeemable by retail investors and may be redeemed only by the Authorized Participant at NAV and only in Creation Units. A retail investor generally incurs brokerage costs when selling Shares.

- *Trading Issues.* Trading in Shares on the Exchange may be halted due to market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of the Exchange, make trading in Shares inadvisable, such as extraordinary market volatility. There can be no assurance that Shares will continue to meet the listing requirements of the Exchange, which may result in the Fund's Shares being delisted. An active trading market for the Shares may not be developed or maintained. If the Shares are traded outside a collateralized settlement system, the number of financial institutions that can act as Authorized Participants that can post collateral on an agency basis is limited, which may limit the market for the Shares.
- *Market Price Variance Risk.* Individual Shares of the Fund that are listed for trading on the Exchange can be bought and sold in the secondary market at market prices. The market prices of Shares will fluctuate in response to changes in NAV and supply and demand for Shares. There may be times when the market price and the NAV vary significantly and you may pay more than NAV when buying Shares on the secondary market, and you may receive less than NAV when you sell those Shares. The market price of Shares, like the price of any exchange-traded security, includes a "bid-ask spread" charged by the exchange specialists, market makers or other participants that trade the particular security. In times of severe market disruption, the bid-ask spread often increases significantly. This means that Shares may trade at a discount to NAV and the discount is likely to be greatest when the price of Shares is falling fastest, which may be the time that you most want to sell your Shares. The Fund's investment results are measured based upon the daily NAV of the Fund over a period of time. Investors purchasing and selling Shares in the secondary market may not experience investment results consistent with those experienced by those Authorized Participants creating and redeeming directly with the Fund.
  - In times of market stress, market makers may step away from their role market making in shares of ETFs and in executing trades, which can lead to differences between the market value of Shares and the Fund's NAV.
  - The market price for the Shares may deviate from the Fund's NAV, particularly during times of market stress, with the result that investors
    may pay significantly more or significantly less for Shares than the Fund's NAV, which is reflected in the bid and ask price for Fund Shares or
    in the closing price.
  - In stressed market conditions, the market for the Shares may become less liquid in response to the deteriorating liquidity of the Fund's portfolio. This adverse effect on the liquidity of the Shares may, in turn, lead to differences between the market value of the Shares and the Fund's NAV.
  - Cash Creation Unit Transactions Risk. Like other ETFs, the Fund sells and redeems its Shares only in large blocks called Creation Units and only to "Authorized Participants." However, unlike many other ETFs, the Fund expects to effect its creations and redemptions at least partially or fully for cash, rather than in-kind securities. Thus, an investment in the Fund may be less tax-efficient than an investment in other ETFs as the Fund may recognize a capital gain that it could have avoided by making redemptions in-kind. As a result, the Fund may pay out higher capital gains distributions than ETFs that redeem in-kind. Further, paying redemption proceeds in cash rather than through in-kind delivery of portfolio securities may require the Fund to dispose of or sell portfolio investments to obtain the cash needed to distribute redemption proceeds at an inopportune time.
- Authorized Participant Risk. Only an Authorized Participant may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the Fund. The Fund has a limited number of institutions that may act as an Authorized Participant on an agency basis (*i.e.*, on behalf of other market participants). To the extent that Authorized Participants exit the business or are unable to proceed with creation or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other Authorized Participant is able to step forward to create or redeem Creation Units, the Fund's Shares may be more likely to trade at a premium or discount to NAV and possibly face trading halts or delisting. Authorized Participant concentration risk may be heightened for securities or instruments that have lower trading volumes.

*Foreign Currency Risk.* The Fund may hold investments that provide exposure to certain currencies, currency exchange rates or interest rates denominated in such currencies. Changes in currency exchange rates and the relative value of 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 your investment in the Fund may experience losses.

Foreign Investment Risk. The Fund may invest in securities domiciled in countries outside the U.S. that may experience more rapid and extreme changes in value than a fund that invests exclusively in securities of U.S. companies. These companies may be subject to additional risks, including political and economic risks, civil conflicts and war, greater volatility, expropriation and nationalization risks, currency fluctuations, higher transaction costs, delayed settlement, and less stringent investor protection and disclosure standards than those of the U.S. market. The potential departure of one or more other countries from the European Union could have significant political and financial consequences for global markets.

*High Yield Risk.* The Fund may invest in high yield debt also known as "junk bonds". High yield securities and unrated securities of similar credit quality are subject to greater levels of credit, call, and liquidity risks. High yield securities are considered primarily speculative with respect to the issuer's continuing ability to make principal and interest payments, and may be more volatile than higher-rated securities of similar maturity. High yield securities are more sensitive to economic conditions and more likely to default.

*Industry Concentration Risk.* The Fund focuses its investments in securities of a group of two industries. Economic, legislative or regulatory developments may occur that significantly affect the group of industries. This may cause the Fund's share price to fluctuate more than that of a fund that does not focus in a group of industries.

- Energy Industry Risk. Securities and instruments of energy companies are susceptible to adverse economic or regulatory developments. The performance of the Fund is tied closely to and affected by developments in the energy sector. Energy companies are subject to the risks specific to the sector they serve including: (i) fluctuations in commodity prices; (ii) reduced volumes of natural gas or other energy commodities available for transporting, processing, storing or distributing; (iii) new construction risk and facility acquisition risk; (iv) reduced demand for crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, refined petroleum products, and power; (v) depletion of the oil or natural gas reserves or lower than expected wind, solar, or hydro resources; (vi) changes in the regulatory environment; (vii) extreme weather; (viii) rising interest rates and a higher cost of capital; (ix) attack by terrorists; (x) price policies of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries); and (xi) changing preferences for fuel sources.
- Infrastructure Industry Risk. Securities and instruments of infrastructure companies are susceptible to adverse economic or regulatory developments. Infrastructure companies may be subject to a variety of factors that may adversely affect their business or operations, such as high interest costs in connection with capital construction, high debt leverage, environmental and other regulations, economic slowdown, surplus capacity, increased competition, volatile fuel or power prices, energy conservation policies and other factors. Infrastructure companies may also be subject to: (i) technological innovations that may render production facilities obsolete, (ii) changes in market sentiment towards infrastructure assets, (iii) high interest costs in connection with capital construction and improvement programs, (iv) difficulty in raising capital, (v) competition resulting from a developing deregulatory environment, (vi) cost of compliance with environmental and other regulations, (vii) adverse actions by various government authorities (viii) government regulation of rates charged to customers, (ix) service interruption due to environmental or operational mishaps, and (x) special tariffs and changes in tax laws.

Interest Rate Risk. The value of the Fund's investment in credit securities will fall when interest rates rise. The effect of increased interest rates is more pronounced for any intermediate-term or longer-term obligations owned by the Fund.

Limited History Risk. The Fund is a new ETF and therefore does not yet have a history of operations for investors to evaluate. Investors in the Fund bear the risk that the Fund may not be successful in implementing its investment strategies, may be unable to implement certain of its investment strategies or may fail to attract sufficient assets, any of which could result in the Fund being liquidated and terminated at any time without shareholder approval and at a time that may not be favorable for all shareholders. Such a liquidation could have negative tax consequences for shareholders and will cause shareholders to incur expenses of liquidation. The Adviser may not achieve its intended result in managing the Fund.

*Market and Geopolitical Risk.* The increasing interconnectivity between global economies and financial markets increases the likelihood that events or conditions in one region or financial market may adversely impact issuers in a different country, region or financial market. Securities in the Fund's portfolio may underperform due to inflation (or expectations for inflation), interest rates, global demand for particular products or resources, natural disasters, climate change and climate-related events, pandemics, epidemics, terrorism, international conflicts, regulatory events and governmental or quasi-governmental actions. The occurrence of global events similar to those in recent years may result in market volatility and may have long term effects on both the U.S. and global financial markets. It is not known how long such impacts, or any future impacts of other significant events described above, will or would last, but there could be a prolonged period of global economic slowdown, which may impact your Fund investment. Therefore, the Fund could lose money over short periods due to short-term market movements and over longer periods during more prolonged market downturns. During a general market downturn, multiple asset classes may be negatively affected. Changes in market conditions and interest rates can have the same impact on all types of securities and instruments. In times of severe market disruptions, you could lose your entire investment.

*Non-Diversified Fund Risk.* Because the Fund is non-diversified and may invest a greater portion of its assets in fewer issuers than a diversified fund, changes in the market value of a single portfolio holding could cause greater fluctuations in the Fund's share price than would occur in a diversified fund. This may increase the Fund's volatility and cause the performance of a single portfolio holding or a relatively small number of portfolio holdings to have a greater impact on the Fund's performance.

*Over-the-Counter Market Risk.* Securities and derivatives traded in over-the-counter markets may trade less frequently and in limited volumes and thus exhibit more volatility and liquidity risk, and the prices paid by the Fund in over-the-counter transactions may include an undisclosed dealer markup. The Fund is also exposed to default by the over-the-counter counterparty who may be unwilling or unable to perform its contractual obligations to the Fund.

*Preferred Stock Risk.* Preferred stocks are subject not only to issuer-specific and market risks generally applicable to equity securities, but also risks associated with fixed-income securities, such as interest rate risk. A company's preferred stock, which may pay fixed or variable rates of return, generally pays dividends only after the company makes required payments to creditors, including vendors, depositors, counterparties, holders of its bonds and other fixed-income securities. As a result, the value of a company's preferred stock will react more strongly than bonds and other debt to actual or perceived changes in the company's financial condition or prospects. Preferred stock may be less liquid than many other types of securities, such as common stock, and generally has limited or no voting rights. In addition, preferred stock is subject to the risks that a company may defer or not pay dividends, and, in certain situations, may call or redeem its preferred stock or convert it to common stock. The reference common stock of a convertible preferred stock may fail to reach a price that makes the conversion feature valuable.

*Small and Medium Capitalization Risk.* The earnings and prospects of small to medium sized companies are more volatile than larger companies and may experience higher failure rates than larger companies. Small and medium sized companies normally have a lower trading volume than larger companies, which may tend to make their market price fall more disproportionately than larger companies in response to selling pressures and may have limited markets, product lines, or financial resources and lack management experience.

*U.S. Treasury and Agency Market Risk.* The U.S. Treasury market can be volatile, and the value of instruments correlated with these markets may fluctuate dramatically from day to day. U.S. Treasury obligations may provide relatively lower returns than those of other securities. Similar to other debt instruments, U.S. Treasury obligations are subject to debt instrument risk and interest rate risk. In addition, changes to the financial condition or credit rating of the U.S. Government may cause the value of U.S. Treasury obligations to decline. U.S. Treasury obligations are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the U.S. government and are generally considered to have negligible credit risk. Securities issued or guaranteed by federal agencies or authorities and U.S. government.

**PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS DISCLOSURE:** A description of the Fund's policies and procedures regarding the release of portfolio holdings information is available in the Fund's Statement of Additional Information ("SAI").

**CYBERSECURITY:** The computer systems, networks and devices used by the Fund and its service providers to carry out routine business operations employ a variety of protections designed to prevent damage or interruption from computer viruses, network failures, computer and telecommunication failures, infiltration by unauthorized persons and security breaches. Despite the various protections utilized by the Fund and its service providers, systems, networks, or devices potentially can be breached. The Fund and its shareholders could be negatively impacted as a result of a cybersecurity breach.

Cybersecurity breaches can include unauthorized access to systems, networks, or devices; infection from computer viruses or other malicious software code; and attacks that shut down, disable, slow, or otherwise disrupt operations, business processes, or website access or functionality. Cybersecurity breaches may cause disruptions and impact the Fund's business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses; interference with the Fund's ability to calculate its NAV; impediments to trading; the inability of the Fund, the adviser, and other service providers to transact business; violations of applicable privacy and other laws; regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, or additional compliance costs; as well as the inadvertent release of confidential information.

Similar adverse consequences could result from cybersecurity breaches affecting issuers of securities in which the Fund invests; counterparties with which the Fund engages in transactions; governmental and other regulatory authorities; exchange and other financial market operators, banks, brokers, dealers, insurance companies, and other financial institutions (including financial intermediaries and service providers for the Fund's shareholders); and other parties. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred by these entities in order to prevent any cybersecurity breaches in the future.

# MANAGEMENT

**INVESTMENT ADVISER:** Simplify Asset Management Inc. ("SAMI"), located at 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F, Las Vegas, NV 89135, serves as the Fund's investment adviser. The adviser is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and manages all other series in the Trust.

Subject to the oversight of the Board of Trustees, SAMI provides or oversees the provision of investment advisory, portfolio management and administrative services to the Fund pursuant to an advisory agreement between the Fund and SAMI.

The Fund pays SAMI a monthly management fee at an annual rate (stated as a percentage of the average daily net assets of the Fund) as stated below. The management agreement between the Fund and SAMI provides that SAMI is responsible for paying substantially all operating expenses of the Fund, excluding interest expenses, taxes, brokerage expenses, Rule 12b-1 fees (if any), acquired fund fees and expenses, expenses incidental to a meeting of the Fund's shareholders, and the management fee. In addition to the excluded operating expenses, the Fund also pays non-operating expenses such as litigation and indemnification expenses and other expenses determined to be extraordinary by the Trust.

Fund	Management Fee
Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF	0.75%

**SUB-ADVISER:** Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P., located at 717 Texas Avenue, 22nd Floor, Houston, TX 77002 serves as the Fund's investment subadviser. The Sub-Adviser is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. The Sub-Adviser, founded in 1984, is a leading alternative investment management firm focused on infrastructure, energy, real estate, and credit. As of December 31, 2024, the Sub-Adviser managed over \$36 billion in assets for institutional investors, family offices, high net worth and retail clients and employs over 300 employees in five offices across the U.S. The Sub-Adviser has been an SEC-registered investment adviser since August 1994. Subject to the oversight of the Board, the Sub-Adviser is responsible for management of the Fund's credit portfolio. The Sub-Adviser is paid by the Adviser, not the Fund.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the advisory and sub-advisory agreements will be available in Fund's next available Form N-CSR.

# **PORTFOLIO MANAGERS:**

Jim Baker is a Portfolio Manager, Managing Partner and Co-Head of the Sub-Adviser's energy infrastructure business. He also serves on the Board of Directors and is President and Chief Executive Officer of Kayne Anderson Energy Infrastructure Fund, Inc. (NYSE: KYN). Prior to joining Kayne Anderson in 2004, Mr. Baker was a director in the energy investment banking group at UBS Securities LLC. At UBS, he focused on securities underwriting and mergers and acquisitions in the energy industry. He earned a B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Texas at Austin in 1995 and an M.B.A. in Finance from Southern Methodist University in 1997.

Michael Schimmel is a credit portfolio manager for the Sub-Adviser's energy infrastructure business. Prior to joining Kayne Anderson in 2005, Mr. Schimmel was an analyst/trader at Akanthos Capital Management, LLC, a Los Angeles based hedge fund that specializes in convertible arbitrage and capital structure arbitrage. From 1994 to 1999 and from 2001 to 2003, he worked as a high yield analyst at Trust Company of the West, where he followed the chemical, paper/packaging, telecommunications tower, and waste management and lodging/leisure industries. Mr. Schimmel earned a B.A. in Economics from Pomona College in 1993 and an M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson School of Management in 2001.

David Berns, PhD, is the Chief Investment Officer and co-founder of SAMI. Prior to co-founding SAMI in 2020, he founded Portfolio Designer, LLC, a company that specializes in portfolio design and from 2018 to 2019 was a managing director at Nasdaq Dorsey Wright. Prior to joining Nasdaq Dorsey Wright, Inc., he founded and developed a company that specializes in proprietary trading. He has specialized in developing asset allocation, portfolio management, and risk management systems for managing private and institutional wealth. Mr. Berns has a PhD in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the field of Quantum Computation.

The SAI provides additional information about the Portfolio Managers' compensation, other accounts managed and ownership of Fund Shares.

# HOW SHARES ARE PRICED

The NAV of the Fund is determined at the close of regular trading (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on each day the Exchange is open for business. NAV is computed by determining, the aggregate market value of all assets of the Fund, less its liabilities, divided by the total number of Shares outstanding ((assets-liabilities)/number of Shares = NAV). The Exchange is closed on weekends and New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day ("Exchange Close"). The NAV takes into account, the expenses and fees of the Fund, including management, administration, and distribution fees, which are accrued daily. The determination of NAV for the Fund for a particular day is applicable to all applications for the purchase of Shares, as well as all requests for the redemption of Creation Units, received by the Fund (or an authorized broker or agent, or its authorized designee) before the close of trading on the Exchange on that day.

Generally, the Fund's portfolio securities, including securities issued by ETFs, are valued each day at the last quoted sales price on each security's primary exchange. Securities traded or dealt in upon one or more securities exchanges (whether domestic or foreign) for which market quotations are readily available and not subject to restrictions against resale shall be valued at the last quoted sales price on the primary exchange or, in the absence of a sale on the primary exchange, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on such exchange. Securities primarily traded in the National Association of Securities Dealers' Automated Quotation System ("NASDAQ") National Market System for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. Securities that are not traded on any securities exchange (whether domestic or foreign) and for which over-the-counter market quotations are readily available generally shall be valued at the last sale price or, in the absence of a sale, at the mean between the current bid and ask price on such over-the-counter market. Debt securities not traded on an exchange may be valued at prices supplied by a pricing agent(s) based on broker or dealer supplied valuations or matrix pricing, a method of valuing securities by reference to the value of other securities with similar characteristics, such as rating, interest rate and maturity.



If market quotations are not readily available, securities will be valued at their fair market value as determined using the "fair value" procedures approved by the Board. Fair value pricing involves subjective judgments and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security may be materially different than the value that could be realized upon the sale of that security. The fair value prices can differ from market prices when they become available or when a price becomes available. The Board has delegated execution of these procedures to a fair value committee composed of one or more representatives from SAMI. The Adviser may enlist third party consultants such as an audit firm or financial officer of a security issuer on an as-needed basis to assist in determining a security-specific fair value. The Board reviews and ratifies the execution of this process and the resultant fair value prices at least quarterly to assure the process produces reliable results.

The Fund may use independent pricing services to assist in calculating the value of the Fund's portfolio securities. In addition, market prices for foreign securities are not determined at the same time of day as the NAV for the Fund.

In computing the NAV, the Fund values foreign securities held by the Fund at the latest closing price on the exchange in which they are traded immediately prior to closing of the Exchange. Prices of foreign securities quoted in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars at current rates. If events materially affecting the value of a security in the Fund's portfolio, particularly foreign securities, occur after the close of trading on a foreign market but before the Fund prices its Shares, the security will be valued at fair value. For example, if trading in a portfolio security is halted and does not resume before the Fund calculates its NAV, SAMI may need to price the security using the Fund's fair value pricing guidelines. Without a fair value price, short-term traders could take advantage of the arbitrage opportunity and dilute the NAV of long-term investors. Fair valuation of the Fund's portfolio securities can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that fair value pricing policies will prevent dilution of the Fund's NAV by short term traders. The determination of fair value involves subjective judgments. As a result, using fair value to price a security may result in a price materially different from the prices used by other mutual funds to determine NAV, or from the price that may be realized upon the actual sale of the security.

# HOW TO BUY AND SELL SHARES

Shares of the Fund are listed for trading on the Exchange, as stated below. Share prices are reported in dollars and cents per Share. Shares can be bought and sold on the secondary market throughout the trading day like other publicly traded shares, and Shares typically trade in blocks of less than a Creation Unit. There is no minimum investment required. Shares may only be purchased and sold on the secondary market when the Exchange is open for trading. The Exchange is open for trading Monday through Friday and is closed on weekends and the following holidays, as observed: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

When buying or selling Shares through a broker, you will incur customary brokerage commissions and charges, and you may pay some or all of the spread between the bid and the offered price in the secondary market on each leg of a round trip (purchase and sale) transaction.

Authorized Participants that have entered into a contract with the Fund's distributor may acquire Shares from the Fund, and Authorized Participants may tender their Shares for redemption directly to the Fund, at NAV per Share only in large blocks, or Creation Units, of 25,000 Shares. Purchases and redemptions directly with the Fund must follow the Fund's procedures, which are described in the SAI.

The Fund may be liquidated and terminated at any time without shareholder approval.

# **Share Trading Prices**

The approximate value of Shares, an amount representing on a per share basis the sum of the current market price of the securities accepted by the Fund in exchange for Shares and an estimated cash component, will be disseminated every 15 seconds throughout the trading day through the facilities of the Consolidated Tape Association. This approximate value should not be viewed as a "real-time" update of the NAV per Share because the approximate value may not be calculated in the same manner as the NAV, which is computed once a day, generally at the end of the business day. The Fund is not involved in, or responsible for, the calculation or dissemination of the approximate value of the Shares, and the Fund does not make any warranty as to the accuracy of these values.

# **Book Entry**

Shares are held in book entry form, which means that no stock certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

Investors owning Shares are beneficial owners as shown on the records of DTC or its participants. DTC serves as the securities depository for all Shares. Participants in DTC include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other institutions that directly or indirectly maintain a custodial relationship with DTC. As a beneficial owner of Shares, you are not entitled to receive physical delivery of stock certificates or to have Shares registered in your name, and you are not considered a registered owner of Shares. Therefore, to exercise any right as an owner of Shares, you must rely upon the procedures of DTC and its participants. These procedures are the same as those that apply to any other securities that you hold in book entry or "street name" form.

# FREQUENT PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS OF FUND SHARES

Shares can only be purchased and redeemed directly from the Fund in Creation Units by Authorized Participants that have entered into a contract with the Fund's distributor. The vast majority of trading in Shares occurs on the secondary market. Because the secondary market trades do not directly involve the Fund, it is unlikely those trades would cause the harmful effects of market timing, including dilution, disruption of portfolio management, increases in the Fund's trading costs and the realization of capital gains. With regard to the purchase or redemption of Creation Units directly with the Fund, to the extent effected in-kind (*i.e.*, for securities), those trades do not cause the harmful effects that may result from frequent cash trades. To the extent trades are effected in whole or in part in cash, those trades could result in dilution to the Fund and increased transaction costs, which could negatively impact the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective. However, direct trading by Authorized Participants is critical to ensuring that Shares trade at or close to NAV. The Fund also employs fair valuation pricing to minimize potential dilution from market timing. In addition, the Fund imposes transaction fees on purchases and redemptions of Shares to cover the custodial and other costs incurred by the Fund in effecting trades. These fees increase if an investor substitutes cash in part or in whole for securities, reflecting the fact that the Fund's trading costs increase in those circumstances. Given this structure, the Trust has determined that it is not necessary to adopt policies and procedures to detect and deter market timing of the Shares.

#### DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE PLAN

The Fund has adopted a distribution and service plan ("Plan") pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. Under the Plan, the Fund is authorized to pay distribution fees to the distributor and other firms that provide distribution and shareholder services ("Service Providers"). If a Service Provider provides these services, the Fund may pay fees at an annual rate not to exceed 0.25% of average daily net assets, pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act.

No distribution or service fees are currently paid by the Fund and will not be paid by the Fund unless authorized by the Board. There are no current plans to impose these fees. In the event Rule 12b-1 fees were charged, over time they would increase the cost of an investment in the Fund.

# DIVIDENDS, OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES

Shares are traded throughout the day in the secondary market on a national securities exchange on an intra-day basis and are created and redeemed in-kind and/or for cash in Creation Units at each day's next calculated NAV. In-kind arrangements are designed to protect ongoing shareholders from the adverse effects on the Fund's portfolio that could arise from frequent cash redemption transactions. In a conventional mutual fund, redemptions can have an adverse tax impact on taxable shareholders if the mutual fund needs to sell portfolio securities to obtain cash to meet net fund redemptions. These sales may generate taxable gains for the ongoing shareholders of the mutual fund, whereas the Shares in-kind redemption mechanism generally will not lead to a tax event for the Fund or its ongoing shareholders.

Ordinarily, dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid monthly by the Fund. The Fund distributes net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders annually. The Fund may also pay a special distribution at the end of a calendar year to comply with federal tax requirements.

No dividend reinvestment service is provided by the Fund. Broker-dealers may make available the DTC book-entry Dividend Reinvestment Service for use by beneficial owners of the Fund for reinvestment of their dividend distributions. Beneficial owners should contact their broker to determine the availability and costs of the service and the details of participation therein. Brokers may require beneficial owners to adhere to specific procedures and timetables. If this service is available and used, dividend distributions of both income and realized gains will be automatically reinvested in additional whole Shares of the Fund purchased in the secondary market.

Distributions in cash may be reinvested automatically in additional whole Shares only if the broker through whom you purchased Shares makes such option available.

# Taxes

As with any investment, you should consider how your investment in Shares will be taxed. The tax information in this Prospectus is provided as general information. You should consult your own tax professional about the tax consequences of an investment in Shares.

Unless your investment in Shares is made through a tax-exempt entity or tax-deferred retirement account, such as an individual retirement account, you need to be aware of the possible tax consequences when:

- The Fund makes distributions,
- You sell your Shares listed on the Exchange, and
- You purchase or redeem Creation Units.

## **Taxes on Distributions**

Distributions from the Fund's net investment income, including net short-term capital gains, if any, are taxable to you as ordinary income, except that the Fund's dividends attributable to its "qualified dividend income" (*i.e.*, dividends received on stock of most domestic and certain foreign corporations with respect to which the Fund satisfies certain holding period and other restrictions), if any, generally are subject to federal income tax for non-corporate shareholders who satisfy those restrictions with respect to their Shares at the rate for net capital gain. A part of the Fund's dividends also may be eligible for the dividends-received deduction allowed to corporations -- the eligible portion may not exceed the aggregate dividends the Fund receives from domestic corporations subject to federal income tax (excluding Real Estate Investment Trusts) and excludes dividends from foreign corporations -- subject to similar restrictions. However, dividends a corporate shareholder deducts pursuant to that deduction are subject indirectly to the federal alternative minimum tax.



In general, your distributions are subject to federal income tax when they are paid, whether you take them in cash or reinvest them in the Fund (if that option is available). Distributions reinvested in additional Shares through the means of a dividend reinvestment service, if available, will be taxable to shareholders acquiring the additional Shares to the same extent as if such distributions had been received in cash. Distributions of net long-term capital gains, if any, in excess of net short-term capital losses are taxable as long-term capital gains, regardless of how long you have held the Shares.

Distributions in excess of the Fund's current and accumulated earnings and profits are treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of your basis in the Shares and as capital gain thereafter. A distribution will reduce the Fund's NAV per Share and may be taxable to you as ordinary income or capital gain (as described above) even though, from an investment standpoint, the distribution may constitute a return of capital.

By law, the Fund is required to withhold 28% of your distributions and redemption proceeds if you have not provided the Fund with a correct Social Security number or other taxpayer identification number and in certain other situations.

#### **Taxes on Exchange-Listed Share Sales**

Any capital gain or loss realized upon a sale of Shares is generally treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held for more than one year and as short-term capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held for one year or less. The ability to deduct capital losses from sales of Shares may be limited.

# Taxes on Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units

An Authorized Participant who exchanges securities for Creation Units generally will recognize a gain or a loss equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time of the exchange and the sum of the exchanger's aggregate basis in the securities surrendered plus any Cash Component it pays. An AP who exchanges Creation Units for securities will generally recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between the exchanger's basis in the Creation Units and the sum of the aggregate market value of the securities received plus any cash equal to the difference between the NAV of the Shares being redeemed and the value of the securities. The Internal Revenue Service ("Service"), however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units cannot be deducted currently under the rules governing "wash sales" or for other reasons. Persons exchanging securities should consult their own tax advisor with respect to whether wash sale rules apply and when a loss might be deductible.

Any capital gain or loss realized upon redemption of Creation Units is generally treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held for more than one year and as short-term capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held for one year or less.

If you purchase or redeem Creation Units, you will be sent a confirmation statement showing how many Shares you purchased or sold and at what price. See "Tax Status" in the SAI for a description of the newly effective requirement regarding basis determination methods applicable to Share redemptions and the Fund's obligation to report basis information to the Service.

The foregoing discussion summarizes some of the possible consequences under current federal tax law of an investment in the Fund. It is not a substitute for personal tax advice. Consult your personal tax advisor about the potential tax consequences of an investment in the Shares under all applicable tax laws. See "Tax Status" in the SAI for more information.

# FUND SERVICE PROVIDERS

Bank of New York Mellon is the Fund's administrator, transfer agent, custodian and fund accountant. It has its principal office at 240 Greenwich St., New York, NY 10286, and is primarily in the business of providing administrative, fund accounting and transfer agent services to retail and institutional mutual funds.



Foreside Financial Services, LLC (the "Distributor"), located at Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101, is the distributor for the Shares of the Fund. The Distributor is a registered broker-dealer and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA").

Thompson Hine LLP, 41 South High Street, 17th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, serves as legal counsel to the Trust.

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 1350 Euclid Ave., Suite 800, Cleveland, OH 44115, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for auditing the annual financial statements of the Fund.

# **OTHER INFORMATION**

# **Continuous Offering**

The method by which Creation Units of Shares are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Units of Shares are issued and sold by the Fund on an ongoing basis, a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), may occur at any point. Broker-dealers and other persons are cautioned that some activities on their part may, depending on the circumstances, result in their being deemed participants in a distribution in a manner which could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery requirement and liability provisions of the Securities Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Units after placing an order with the Distributor, breaks them down into constituent Shares and sells the Shares directly to customers or if it chooses to couple the creation of a supply of new Shares with an active selling effort involving solicitation of secondary market demand for Shares. A determination of whether one is an underwriter for purposes of the Securities Act must take into account all the facts and circumstances pertaining to the activities of the broker-dealer or its client in the particular case, and the examples mentioned above should not be considered a complete description of all the activities that could lead to a characterization as an underwriter.

Broker dealers who are not "underwriters" but are participating in a distribution (as contrasted to ordinary secondary trading transactions), and thus dealing with Shares that are part of an "unsold allotment" within the meaning of Section 4(3)(C) of the Securities Act, would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(3) of the Securities Act. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(3) of the Securities Act. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(3) of the Securities Act is not available in respect of such transactions as a result of Section 24(d) of the 1940 Act. As a result, broker dealer firms should note that dealers who are not underwriters but are participating in a distribution (as contrasted with ordinary secondary market transactions) and thus dealing with Shares that are part of an overallotment within the meaning of Section 4(3)(A) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(3) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the grospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(3)(A) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(3) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(3) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(3) of the Securities Act would be unable to take advantage of the Rule 153 of the Securities Act, a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the Securities Act owed to an exchange member in connection with a sale on the Exchange is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available at the Exchange upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is only available with respect to transactions on an exchange.

# Dealers effecting transactions in the Shares, whether or not participating in this distribution, are generally required to deliver a Prospectus. This is in addition to any obligation of dealers to deliver a Prospectus when acting as underwriters.

# Certain Conditions on Certain Shareholder Legal Actions

Pursuant to the Trust's primary governing document, the Agreement and Declaration of Trust, shareholders wishing to pursue a derivative action (a suit brought by a shareholder on behalf of a fund) are subject to various conditions including: (i) Trustees must have a reasonable amount of time to assess a request for action, (ii) at least 10% of shareholders must participate in the action, (iii) expenses of a failed action are borne by the complaining shareholders. However, these provisions do not apply to actions brought under federal securities laws. In addition, all shareholder legal complaints must be brought in courts of the State of Delaware sitting in Kent County and the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, which may be inconvenient for some shareholders.



Because the Fund has only recently commenced investment operations, no financial highlights are available for the Fund at this time. In the future, financial highlights will be presented in this section of the Prospectus.

Adviser	Simplify Asset Management Inc. 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F Las Vegas, NV 89135	Distributor	Foreside Financial Services, LLC Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101
Sub-Adviser	Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. 717 Texas Avenue, 22nd Floor Houston, TX 77002	Legal Counsel	<b>Thompson Hine LLP</b> 41 South High Street, Suite 1700 Columbus, OH 43215
Custodian, Administrator & Transfer Agent	Bank of New York Mellon 240 Greenwich St. New York, NY 10286	Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	Cohen & Company, Ltd. 1350 Euclid Ave., Suite 800 Cleveland, OH 44115

Additional information about the Fund is included in the Fund's SAI dated May 19, 2025. The SAI is incorporated into this Prospectus by reference (i.e., legally made a part of this Prospectus). The SAI provides more details about the Fund's policies and management. Additional information about the Fund's investments is also available in the Fund's Annual and Semi-Annual Reports to Shareholders. In the Fund's Annual Tailored Shareholder Report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Fund's performance during the last fiscal year.

To obtain a free copy of the SAI and the Annual and Semi-Annual Reports to Shareholders, or other information about the Fund, or to make shareholder inquiries about the Fund, please call 1 (855) 772-8488. You may also write to:

Simplify Exchange Traded Funds 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F Las Vegas, NV 89135

Reports and other information about the Fund are available on the EDGAR Database on the SEC's Internet site at http://www.sec.gov.

Investment Company Act File # 811-23570

# Fund Name

# Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF

# Ticker Symbol (Exchange)

KNRG (NYSE Arca, Inc.)

# a series of Simplify Exchange Traded Funds

# STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### May 19, 2025

# Listed and traded on the exchange indicated above

This Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") is not a prospectus and should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of the Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF (the "Fund") dated May 19, 2025. The Fund's Prospectus is hereby incorporated by reference, which means it is legally part of this document. You can obtain copies of the Fund's Prospectus, annual or semi-annual reports without charge by contacting the Fund's Distributor, Foreside Financial Services, LLC or by calling 1 (855) 772-8488. You may also obtain a Prospectus by visiting the website at <u>www.simplify.us/etfs</u>.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE FUND	1
TYPES OF INVESTMENTS	2
INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS	20
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS	21
MANAGEMENT	23
DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS	27
CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS	28
INVESTMENT ADVISER	28
SUB-ADVISER	29
THE DISTRIBUTOR	30
PORTFOLIO MANAGERS	32
ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIO BROKERAGE	33
PORTFOLIO TURNOVER	34
OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS	34
DESCRIPTION OF SHARES	35
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM	36
PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES	36
TAX STATUS	45
INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM	49
LEGAL COUNSEL	49
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	49
PROXY VOTING POLICY	A-1

i

# THE FUND

The Fund is a series of Simplify Exchange Traded Funds, a Delaware statutory trust organized on February 28, 2020 (the "Trust"). The Trust is registered as an open-end management investment company. The Trust is governed by its Board of Trustees (the "Board" or "Trustees"). The Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF is a non-diversified series of the Trust.

The Fund may issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest ("Shares"). All Shares have equal rights and privileges. Each Share is entitled to one vote on all matters as to which Shares are entitled to vote. In addition, each Share is entitled to participate equally with other Shares (i) in dividends and distributions declared by the Fund and (ii) on liquidation to its proportionate share of the assets remaining after satisfaction of outstanding liabilities. Shares are fully paid, non-assessable and fully transferable when issued and have no pre-emptive, conversion or exchange rights.

The Fund is managed by Simplify Asset Management Inc. (the "Adviser") and sub-advised by Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. (the "Sub-Adviser"). The Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF seeks primarily seeks current income and secondarily seeks capital appreciation. The Board may start other series and offer shares of a new fund under the Trust at any time.

The Fund is an exchange traded fund ("ETF"). ETFs are registered open-end management companies that issue (and redeem) creation units ("Creation Units") to (and from) authorized participants ("Authorized Participants") in exchange for a basket and a cash balancing amount (if any) and the shares of which are listed on a national securities exchange and traded at market-determined prices. An Authorized Participant is a financial institution that is a member or participant of a clearing agency registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") which has a written agreement with the Fund or one of its service providers that allows the financial institution to place orders for the purchase and redemption of Creation Units. The Fund issues and redeem shares on a continuous basis at net asset value per share ("NAV") in aggregations of a specified number of shares called "Creation Units." Creation Units are a specified number of the Fund's shares (e.g., 25,000 or 10,000) that the Fund will issue to (or redeem from) an Authorized Participant in exchange for the deposit (or delivery) of a basket and a cash balancing amount if any. Shares trade in the secondary market at market prices that may differ from the shares' NAV. Shares are not individually redeemable, but are redeemable only in Creation Unit aggregations, and generally in exchange for portfolio securities and a specified cash payment. A Creation Unit of the Fund consists of a block of 25,000 shares. Shareholders who are not Authorized Participants will not be able to purchase or redeem shares directly with or from the Fund.

The Fund reserves the right to offer creations and redemptions of Shares for cash. In addition, Shares may be issued in advance of receipt of deposit securities subject to various conditions, including a requirement to maintain on deposit with the Trust cash equal to up to 115% of the market value of the missing deposit securities. In each instance of such cash creations or redemptions, transaction fees, may be imposed and may be higher than the transaction fees associated with in-kind creations or redemptions. See PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES below.

#### **Exchange Listing and Trading**

There can be no assurance that the requirements of the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the "Arca Exchange") necessary to maintain the listing of shares of the Fund will continue to be met. The Arca Exchange may, but is not required to, remove the shares of the Fund from listing if, among other things: (i) following the initial 12-month period beginning upon the commencement of trading of Fund shares, there are fewer than 50 record and/or beneficial owners of shares of the Fund for 30 or more consecutive trading days, or (ii) any other event shall occur or condition shall exist that, in the opinion of the Arca Exchange, makes further dealings on the Arca Exchange inadvisable. The Arca Exchange will also remove shares of the Fund from listing and trading upon termination of the Fund.

#### TYPES OF INVESTMENTS

A discussion of the risks associated with an investment in the Fund is contained in the Prospectus under the headings "Fund Summary—Principal Investment Strategies" with respect to the Fund, and "Additional Information About the Principal Investment Strategies and Risks." The discussion below supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, such sections of the Prospectus.

#### **General Risks and Considerations**

An investment in the Fund should be made with an understanding of the risks inherent in an investment in securities, including the risk that the general condition of the securities market may deteriorate. Securities are susceptible to general securities market fluctuations and to volatile increases and decreases in value as market confidence change. These investor perceptions are based on various and unpredictable factors, including expectations regarding government, economic, monetary and fiscal policies, inflation and interest rates, economic expansion or contraction, and global or regional political, economic or banking crises.

The existence of a liquid trading market for certain securities may depend on whether dealers will make a market in such securities. There can be no assurance that a market will be made or maintained or that any such market will be or remain liquid. The price at which securities may be sold and the value of the Shares will be adversely affected if trading markets for the Fund's portfolio securities are limited or absent, or if bid/ask spreads are wide.

# Securities of Other Investment Companies

Investments in closed-end investment companies, exchange traded funds and mutual funds involve certain additional expenses and certain tax results, which would not be present in a direct investment in such funds. The Fund intends to limit its investments in accordance with Section 12(d)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act") or as permitted by Rule 12d1-1, Rule 12d1-3 and Rule 12d1-4. Among other things, Section 12(d)(1) would limit these investments so that, as determined immediately after a securities purchase is made by the Fund: (a) not more than 5% of the value of its total assets will be invested in the securities of any one investment company (the "5% Limitation"); (b) not more than 10% of the value of its total assets will be invested in the aggregate in securities of investment companies as a group (the "10% Limitation"); (c) not more than 3% of the outstanding voting stock of any one investment company will be owned by the Fund (the 3% Limitation"); and (d) not more than 10% of the outstanding voting stock of any one closed-end investment company will be owned by the Fund together with all other investment company, the Fund would bear, along with other shareholders, its pro rata portion of that investment company's expenses, including advisory fees. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory and other expenses that the Funs bears directly in connection with its own operations. Investment companies in which the Fund may invest may also impose a sales or distribution charge in connection with the purchase or redemption of their Shares and other types of commissions or charges. Such charges will be payable by the Fund and, therefore, will be borne directly by Shareholders.

The Fund also intend to rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) under the 1940 Act which in conjunction with one another allow registered investment companies (such as the Fund) to exceed the 5% and 10% Limitations, provided the aggregate sales loads any investor pays (i.e., the combined distribution expenses of both the acquiring fund and the acquired funds) does not exceed the limits on sales loads established by Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") for funds of funds, and the registered investment company "mirror votes" any securities purchased pursuant to Section 12(d)(1)(F). The Fund may rely on Rule 12d1-4 to exceed the 3%, 5%, and 10% Limitations, subject to the conditions of Rule 12d1-4.

Investments in ETFs and mutual funds involve certain additional expenses and certain tax results, which would not be present in a direct investment in such funds. Due to legal limitations the Fund will be prevented from: (1) purchasing more than 3% of an investment company's (including ETFs) outstanding shares; (2) investing more than 5% of the Fund's assets in any single such investment company, and (3) investing more than 10% of the Fund's assets in investment company and/or the Fund has received an order for exemptive relief from such limitations from the SEC; and (ii) the underlying investment company and the Fund take appropriate steps to comply with any conditions in such order. In the alternative, the Fund may rely on Section 12(d)(1)(F) and Rule 12d1-3, which allows unaffiliated mutual funds to exceed the 5% limitation and the 10% limitation, provided the aggregate sales loads any investor pays (i.e., the combined distribution expenses of both the acquiring fund and the acquired fund) does not exceed the limits on sales loads established by FINRA for funds of funds. In addition to ETFs, the Fund may invest in other investment companies such as open-end mutual funds or exchange-traded funds, within the limitations described above. Each investment company is subject to specific risks, depending on the nature of the Fund. ETFs and mutual funds may employ leverage, which magnifies the changes in the underlying stock or other index upon which they are based. The Fund may also rely upon Rule 12d1-4 which under certain circumstances allows the Fund to exceed the 3%, 5%, and 10% limitations described above.

# Business Development Companies ("BDCs")

To qualify as a BDC, a company must be organized under the laws of, and have its principal place of business in, the United States, be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and have elected to be regulated as a BDC under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "1940 Act"). BDCs are a type of closed-end fund regulated under the 1940 Act, which typically invest in and lend to small-and medium-sized private companies that may lack access to public equity markets for capital raising or thinly traded U.S. public companies. Under the 1940 Act, BDCs must invest at least 70% of the value of their total assets in certain asset types, which are typically the securities of private U.S. businesses. Additionally, BDCs must make available significant managerial assistance to the issuers of such securities. BDCs are not taxed on income distributed to shareholders provided they qualify as a regulated investment company under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). The Fund will indirectly bear their proportionate share of any management and other expenses charged by the BDCs in which it invests.

# Risk of Investing in BDCs

Because BDCs typically invest in small and medium-sized companies, a BDC's portfolio is subject to the risks inherent in investing in smaller companies, including that portfolio companies may be dependent on a small number of products or services and may be more adversely affected by poor economic or market conditions. Some BDCs invest substantially, or even exclusively, in one sector or industry group and therefore the BDC may be susceptible to adverse conditions and economic or regulatory occurrences affecting the sector or industry group, which tends to increase volatility and result in higher risk. Investments in BDCs are also subject to management risk, including management's ability to meet the BDC's investment objective, and management's ability to manage the BDC's portfolio during periods of market turnoil and as investors' perceptions regarding a BDC or its underlying investments change.

BDCs generally invest in less mature U.S. private companies or thinly traded U.S. public companies which involve greater risk than well-established publicly-traded companies. The Fund will indirectly bear its proportionate share of any management fees and other operating expenses incurred by the BDCs and of any performance-based or incentive fees payable by the BDCs in which it invests, in addition to the expenses paid by the Fund. A BDC's incentive fee may be very high, vary from year to year and be payable even if the value of the BDC's portfolio declines in a given time period. Incentive fees may create an incentive for a BDC's manager to make investments that are risky or more speculative than would be the case in the absence of such compensation arrangements, and may also encourage the BDC's manager to use leverage to increase the return on the BDC's investments. Any incentive fee payable by a BDC that relates to its net investment income may be computed and paid on income that may include interest that has been accrued but not yet received. If a portfolio company defaults on a loan that is structured to provide accrued interest income, it is possible that accrued interest income previously included in the calculation of the



incentive fee will become uncollectible. A BDC's manager may not be obligated to reimburse the BDC's shareholder for any part of the incentive fee it received that was based on accrued interest income that was never received as a result of a subsequent default, and such circumstances would result in the BDC's shareholders (including the Fund) paying an incentive fee on income that was never received by the BDC. Such incentive fees may also create an incentive for a BDC's manager to make investments in securities with deferred interest features. The use of leverage by BDCs magnifies gains and losses on amounts invested and increases the risks associated with investing in BDCs. A BDC may make investments with a larger amount of risk of volatility and loss of principal than other investment options and may also be highly speculative and aggressive.

Additionally, a BDC may only incur indebtedness in amounts such that the BDC's asset coverage ratio of total assets to total senior securities equals at least 150% after such incurrence. These limitations on asset mix and leverage may affect the way that the BDC raises capital. BDCs compete with other entities for the types of investments they make, and such entities are not necessarily subject to the same investment constraints as BDCs.

To comply with provisions of the 1940 Act and Securities and Exchange Commission regulations thereunder, the adviser may be required to vote BDC shares in the same general proportion as shares held by other shareholders of the BDC.

To qualify and remain eligible for the special tax treatment accorded to regulated investment companies and their shareholders under the Code, the BDCs in which the Fund invests must meet certain source-of-income, asset diversification and annual distribution requirements. If a BDC in which the Fund invests fails to qualify as a regulated investment company, such BDC would be liable for federal, and possibly state, corporate taxes on its taxable income and gains. Such failure by a BDC could substantially reduce the BDC's net assets and the amount of income available for distribution to the Fund, which would in turn decrease the total return of the Fund.

# **Open-End Investment Companies**

The Fund and any "affiliated persons," as defined by the 1940 Act may purchase in the aggregate only up to 3% of the total outstanding securities of any underlying fund. Accordingly, when affiliated persons hold shares of any of the underlying fund, the Fund's ability, respectively, to invest fully in shares of those funds is restricted, and the Adviser must then, in some instances, select alternative investments that would not have been its first preference. The 1940 Act also provides that an underlying fund whose shares are purchased by the Fund will be obligated to redeem shares held by the Fund only in an amount up to 1% of the underlying fund's outstanding securities during any period of less than 30 days. Shares in excess of 1% of an underlying fund's outstanding securities therefore, will be considered not readily marketable securities, which, together with other such securities, may not exceed 15% of the Fund's total assets

Under certain circumstances an underlying fund may determine to make payment of a redemption by the Fund wholly or partly by a distribution in kind of securities from its portfolio, in lieu of cash, in conformity with the rules of the SEC. In such cases, the Fund may hold securities distributed by an underlying fund until the Adviser determines that it is appropriate to dispose of such securities.

Investment decisions by the investment advisers of the underlying fund(s) are made independently of the Fund and the Adviser. Therefore, the investment adviser of one underlying fund may be purchasing shares of the same issuer whose shares are being sold by the investment adviser of another such fund. The result would be an indirect expense to the Fund without accomplishing any investment purpose.

#### Exchange Traded Funds

ETFs are often passive funds that track their related index and have the flexibility of trading like a security. They are managed by professionals and typically provide the investor with diversification, cost and tax efficiency, liquidity, marginability, are useful for hedging, have the ability to go long and short, and some provide quarterly dividends. Actively managed ETFs do not seek to track the performance of a particular market index. Additionally, some ETFs are unit investment trusts. Under certain circumstances, the adviser may invest in ETFs, known as "inverse funds," which are designed to produce results opposite to market trends. Inverse ETFs are funds designed to rise in price when stock prices are falling.

ETFs have two markets. The primary market is where institutions swap "creation units" in block-multiples of, for example, 25,000 or 10,000 shares for in-kind securities and cash in the form of dividends. The secondary market is where individual investors can trade as little as a single share during trading hours on the exchange. This is different from open-ended mutual funds that are traded after hours once the NAV is calculated. ETFs share many similar risks with open-end and closed-end funds.

#### Closed-End Investment Companies

The Fund may invest its assets in closed-end investment companies (or "closed-end funds"), subject to the investment restrictions set forth above. Shares of closed-end funds are typically offered to the public in a one-time initial public offering by a group of underwriters who retain a spread or underwriting commission of between 4% or 6% of the initial public offering price. Such securities are then listed for trading on the NYSE Arca, Inc. the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System (commonly known as "NASDAQ") or, in some cases, may be traded in other over-the-counter markets. Because the shares of closed-end funds cannot be redeemed upon demand to the issuer like the shares of an open-end investment company (such as the Fund), investors seek to buy and sell shares of closed-end funds in the secondary market.

The Fund generally will purchase shares of closed-end funds only in the secondary market. The Fund will incur normal brokerage costs on such purchases similar to the expenses the Fund would incur for the purchase of securities of any other type of issuer in the secondary market. The Fund may, however, also purchase securities of a closed-end fund in an initial public offering when, in the opinion of the Adviser, based on a consideration of the nature of the closed-end fund's proposed investments, the prevailing market conditions and the level of demand for such securities, they represent an attractive opportunity for growth of capital. The initial offering price typically will include a dealer spread, which may be higher than the applicable brokerage cost if the Fund purchased such securities in the secondary market.

The shares of many closed-end funds, after their initial public offering, frequently trade at a price per share, which is less than the net asset value per share, the difference representing the "market discount" of such shares. This market discount may be due in part to the investment objective of long-term appreciation, which is sought by many closed-end funds, as well as to the fact that the shares of closed-end funds are not redeemable by the holder upon demand to the issuer at the next determined net asset value but rather are subject to the principles of supply and demand in the secondary market. A relative lack of secondary market purchasers of closed-end fund shares also may contribute to such shares trading at a discount to their net asset value.

The Fund may invest in shares of closed-end funds that are trading at a discount to net asset value or at a premium to NAV. There can be no assurance that the market discount on shares of any closed-end fund purchased by the Fund will ever decrease. In fact, it is possible that this market discount may increase and the Fund may suffer realized or unrealized capital losses due to further decline in the market price of the securities of such closed-end funds, thereby adversely affecting the net asset value of the Fund's shares. Similarly, there can be no assurance that any shares of a closed-end fund purchased by the Fund at a premium will continue to trade at a premium or that the premium will not decrease subsequent to a purchase of such shares by the Fund.

Closed-end funds may issue senior securities (including preferred stock and debt obligations) for the purpose of leveraging the closed-end fund's common shares in an attempt to enhance the current return to such closed-end fund's common shareholders. The Fund's investment in the common shares of closed-end funds that are financially leveraged may create an opportunity for greater total return on its investment, but at the same time may be expected to exhibit more volatility in market price and net asset value than an investment in shares of investment companies without a leveraged capital structure.

# Foreign Securities

Investing in securities of foreign companies and countries involves certain considerations and risks that are not typically associated with investing in U.S. government securities and securities of domestic companies. There may be less publicly available information about a foreign issuer than a domestic one, and foreign companies are not generally subject to uniform accounting, auditing and financial standards and requirements comparable to those applicable to U.S. companies. There may also be less government supervision and regulation of foreign securities exchanges, brokers and listed companies than exists in the United States. Interest and dividends paid by foreign issuers may be subject to withholding and other foreign taxes, which may decrease the net return on such investments as compared to dividends and interest paid to the Fund by domestic companies or the U.S. government. There may be the possibility of expropriations, seizure or nationalization of foreign deposits, confiscatory taxation, political, economic or social instability or diplomatic developments that could affect assets of the Fund held in foreign countries. Finally, the establishment of exchange controls or other foreign governmental laws or restrictions could adversely affect the payment of obligations.

To the extent currency exchange transactions do not fully protect the Fund against adverse changes in currency exchange rates, decreases in the value of currencies of the foreign countries in which the Fund will invest relative to the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding decrease in the U.S. dollar value of the Fund's assets denominated in those currencies (and possibly a corresponding increase in the amount of securities required to be liquidated to meet distribution requirements). Conversely, increases in the value of currencies of the foreign countries in which the Fund invests relative to the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding increase in the U.S. dollar will result in a corresponding increase in the U.S. dollar value of the Fund's assets (and possibly a corresponding decrease in the amount of securities to be liquidated).

# Short Sales

The Fund may sell securities short as an outright investment strategy and to offset potential declines in long positions in similar securities. A short sale is a transaction in which the Fund sells a security it does not own or have the right to acquire (or that it owns but does not wish to deliver) in anticipation that the market price of that security will decline.

When the Fund makes a short sale, the broker-dealer through which the short sale is made must borrow the security sold short and deliver it to the party purchasing the security. The Fund is required to make a margin deposit in connection with such short sales; the Fund may have to pay a fee to borrow particular securities and will often be obligated to pay over any dividends and accrued interest on borrowed securities.

If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Fund covers its short position, the Fund will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Fund will realize a capital gain. Any gain will be decreased, and any loss increased, by the transaction costs described above. The successful use of short selling may be adversely affected by imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the security sold short and the securities being hedged.

To the extent the Fund sells securities short, it may provide collateral to the broker-dealer and (except in the case of short sales "against the box") may maintain additional asset coverage in the form of cash, U.S. government securities or other liquid securities with its custodian in a segregated account. A short sale is "against the box" to the extent the Fund contemporaneously owns, or has the right to obtain at no added cost, securities identical to those sold short.

# Equity Stock

Equity securities include common stocks, preferred stocks, and securities convertible into common stocks, such as convertible securities, warrants, rights, and options. The value of equity securities varies in response to many factors, including the activities and financial condition of individual companies, the business market in which investment companies compete and general market and economic conditions. Equity securities fluctuate in value, often based on factors unrelated to the value of the issuer of the securities, and such fluctuations can be significant.



# Common Stock

Common stock represents an equity (ownership) interest in a company, and usually possesses voting rights and earns dividends. Dividends on common stock are not fixed but are declared at the discretion of the issuer. Common stock generally represents the riskiest investment in a company. In addition, common stock generally has the greatest appreciation and depreciation potential because increases and decreases in earnings are usually reflected in a company's stock price.

# Preferred Stock

Preferred stock is a class of stock having a preference over common stock as to the payment of dividends and the recovery of investment should a company be liquidated, although preferred stock is usually junior to the debt securities of the issuer. Preferred stock typically does not possess voting rights and its market value may change based on changes in interest rates.

A fundamental risk of investing in common and preferred stock is the risk that the value of the stock might decrease. Stock values fluctuate in response to the activities of an individual company or in response to general market and/or economic conditions. Historically, common stocks have provided greater long-term returns and have entailed greater short-term risks than preferred stocks, fixed-income securities and money market investments. The market value of all securities, including common and preferred stocks, is based upon the market's perception of value and not necessarily the book value of an issuer or other objective measures of a company's worth.

# **Convertible Securities**

Convertible securities include fixed income securities that may be exchanged or converted into a predetermined number of shares of the issuer's underlying common stock at the option of the holder during a specified period. Convertible securities may take the form of convertible preferred stock, convertible bonds or debentures, units consisting of "usable" bonds and warrants or a combination of the features of several of these securities. Convertible securities are senior to common stocks in an issuer's capital structure, but are usually subordinated to similar non-convertible securities. While providing a fixed-income stream (generally higher in yield than the income derivable from common stock but lower than that afforded by a similar nonconvertible security), a convertible security also gives an investor the opportunity, through its conversion feature, to participate in the capital appreciation of the issuing company depending upon a market price advance in the convertible security's underlying common stock. A convertible security matures or is redeemed, converted or exchanged. Convertible securities have unique investment characteristics in that they generally (i) have higher yields than common stocks, but lower yields than comparable non-convertible securities; (ii) are less subject to fluctuation in value than the underlying common stock due to their fixed-income characteristics; and (iii) provide the potential for capital appreciation if the market price of the underlying common stock increases.

#### Bonds

A bond is an interest-bearing security issued by a U.S. or non-U.S. company, or U.S. or non-U.S. governmental unit. The issuer of a bond has a contractual obligation to pay interest at a stated rate on specific dates and to repay principal (the bond's face value) periodically or on a specified maturity date. Bonds generally are used by corporations and governments to borrow money from investors.

An issuer may have the right to redeem or "call" a bond before maturity, in which case the Fund may have to reinvest the proceeds at lower market rates. Similarly, the Fund may have to reinvest interest income or payments received when bonds mature, sometimes at lower market rates. Most bonds bear interest income at a "coupon" rate that is fixed for the life of the bond. The value of a fixed-rate bond usually rises when market interest rates fall, and falls when market interest rates rise. Accordingly, a fixed-rate bond's yield (income as a percent of the bond's current value) may differ from its coupon rate as its value rises or falls. When an investor purchases a fixed-rate bond at a price that is greater than its face value, the investor is purchasing the bond at a discount. Fixed-rate bonds that are purchased at a discount pay less current income than securities with comparable yields that are purchased at face value, with the result that prices for such fixed-rate securities can be more volatile than prices for such securities that are purchased at face value. Other types of bonds bear interest at an interest rate that is adjusted periodically. Interest rates on "floating rate" or "variable rate" bonds may be higher or lower than current market rates for fixed-rate bonds of comparable quality with similar final maturities.

Because of their adjustable interest rates, the value of "floating rate" or "variable rate" bonds fluctuates much less in response to market interest rate movements than the value of fixed-rate bonds, but their value may decline if their interest rates do not rise as much, or as quickly, as interest rates in general. The Fund may treat some of these bonds as having a shorter maturity for purposes of calculating the weighted average maturity of its investment portfolio. Generally, prices of higher quality issues tend to fluctuate less with changes in market interest rates than prices of lower quality issues and prices of longer maturity issues tend to fluctuate more than prices of shorter maturity issues. Bonds may be senior or subordinated obligations. Senior obligations generally have the first claim on a corporation's earnings and assets and, in the event of liquidation, are paid before subordinated obligations. Bonds may be unsecured (backed only by the issuer's general creditworthiness) or secured (backed by specified collateral).

#### Corporate Bonds

The investment return of corporate bonds reflects interest earned on the security and changes in the market value of the security. The market value of a corporate bond may be affected by changes in the market rate of interest, the credit rating of the corporation, the corporation's performance and perceptions of the corporation in the marketplace. There is a risk that the issuers of the securities may not be able to meet their obligations on interest or principal payments at the time called for by an instrument.

#### Real Estate Investment Trusts

The Fund may invest in securities of real estate investment trusts ("REITs"). REITs are publicly traded corporations or trusts that specialize in acquiring, holding and managing residential, commercial or industrial real estate. A REIT is not taxed at the entity level on income distributed to its shareholders or unitholders if it distributes to shareholders or unitholders at least 95% of its taxable income for each taxable year and complies with regulatory requirements relating to its organization, ownership, assets and income.

REITs generally can be classified as "Equity REITs", "Mortgage REITs" and "Hybrid REITs." An Equity REIT invests the majority of its assets directly in real property and derives its income primarily from rents and from capital gains on real estate appreciation, which are realized through property sales. A Mortgage REIT invests the majority of its assets in real estate mortgage loans and services its income primarily from interest payments. A Hybrid REIT combines the characteristics of an Equity REIT and a Mortgage REIT. Although the Fund can invest in all three kinds of REITs, its emphasis is expected to be on investments in Equity REITs.

Investments in the real estate industry involve particular risks. The real estate industry has been subject to substantial fluctuations and declines on a local, regional and national basis in the past and may continue to be in the future. Real property values and income from real property continue to be in the future. Real property values and income from real property may decline due to general and local economic conditions, overbuilding and increased competition, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, casualty or condemnation losses, regulatory limitations on rents, changes in neighborhoods and in demographics, increases in market interest rates, or other factors. Factors such as these may adversely affect companies that own and operate real estate directly, companies that lend to such companies, and companies that service the real estate industry.

Investments in REITs also involve risks. Equity REITs will be affected by changes in the values of and income from the properties they own, while Mortgage REITs may be affected by the credit quality of the mortgage loans they hold. In addition, REITs are dependent on specialized management skills and on their ability to generate cash flow for operating purposes and to make distributions to shareholders or unitholders REITs may have limited diversification and are subject to risks associated with obtaining financing for real property, as well as to the risk of self-liquidation. REITs also can be adversely affected by their failure to qualify for tax-free pass-through treatment of their income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or their failure to maintain an exemption from registration under the 1940 Act. By investing in REITs indirectly through the Fund, a shareholder bears not only a proportionate share of the expenses of the Fund, but also may indirectly bear similar expenses of some of the REITs in which it invests.

### Warrants

Warrants are options to purchase common stock at a specific price (usually at a premium above the market value of the optioned common stock at issuance) valid for a specific period of time. Warrants may have a life ranging from less than one year to twenty years, or they may be perpetual. However, most warrants have expiration dates after which they are worthless. In addition, a warrant is worthless if the market price of the common stock does not exceed the warrant's exercise price during the life of the warrant. Warrants have no voting rights, pay no dividends, and have no rights with respect to the assets of the corporation issuing them. The percentage increase or decrease in the market price of the warrant may tend to be greater than the percentage increase or decrease in the market price of the optioned common stock.

#### **Depositary Receipts**

Sponsored and unsponsored American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs"), are receipts issued by an American bank or trust company evidencing ownership of underlying securities issued by a foreign issuer. ADRs, in registered form, are designed for use in U.S. securities markets. Unsponsored ADRs may be created without the participation of the foreign issuer. Holders of these ADRs generally bear all the costs of the ADR facility, whereas foreign issuers typically bear certain costs in a sponsored ADR. The bank or trust company depositary of an unsponsored ADR may be under no obligation to distribute shareholder communications received from the foreign issuer or to pass through voting rights. Many of the risks described below regarding foreign securities apply to investments in ADRs.

#### **Emerging Markets Securities**

Investing in emerging market securities imposes risks different from, or greater than, risks of investing in foreign developed countries. These risks include: smaller market capitalization of securities markets, which may suffer periods of relative illiquidity; significant price volatility; restrictions on foreign investment; possible repatriation of investment income and capital. In addition, foreign investors may be required to register the proceeds of sales; future economic or political crises could lead to price controls, forced mergers, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, seizure, nationalization, or creation of government monopolies. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience significant declines against the U.S. dollar, and devaluation may occur subsequent to investments in these currencies by the Fund. Inflation and rapid fluctuations in inflation rates have had, and may continue to have, negative effects on the economies and securities markets of certain emerging market countries.

Additional risks of emerging markets securities may include: greater social, economic and political uncertainty and instability; more substantial governmental involvement in the economy; less governmental supervision and regulation; unavailability of currency hedging techniques; companies that are newly organized and small; differences in auditing and financial reporting standards, which may result in unavailability of material information about issuers; and less developed legal systems. In addition, emerging securities markets may have different clearance and settlement procedures, which may be unable to keep pace with the volume of securities transactions or otherwise make it difficult to engage in such transactions. Settlement problems may cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities, hold a portion of its assets in cash pending investment, or be delayed in disposing of a portfolio security. Such a delay could result in possible liability to a purchaser of the security.

### Certificates of Deposit and Bankers' Acceptances

Certificates of deposit are receipts issued by a depository institution in exchange for the deposit of funds. The issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the bearer of the receipt on the date specified on the certificate. The certificate usually can be traded in the secondary market prior to maturity. Bankers' acceptances typically arise from short-term credit arrangements designed to enable businesses to obtain funds to finance commercial transactions. Generally, an acceptance is a time draft drawn on a bank by an exporter or an importer to obtain a stated amount of funds to pay for specific merchandise. The draft is then "accepted" by a bank that, in effect, unconditionally guarantees to pay the face value of the instrument on its maturity date. The acceptance may then be held by the accepting bank as an earning asset or it may be sold in the secondary market at the going rate of discount for a specific maturity. Although maturities for acceptances can be as long as 270 days, most acceptances have maturities of six months or less.



### Commercial Paper

Commercial paper consists of short-term (usually from 1 to 270 days) unsecured promissory notes issued by corporations in order to finance their current operations. It may be secured by letters of credit, a surety bond or other forms of collateral. Commercial paper is usually repaid at maturity by the issuer from the proceeds of the issuance of new commercial paper. As a result, investment in commercial paper is subject to the risk the issuer cannot issue enough new commercial paper to satisfy its outstanding commercial paper, also known as rollover risk. Commercial paper may become illiquid or may suffer from reduced liquidity in certain circumstances. Like all fixed income securities, commercial paper prices are susceptible to fluctuations in interest rates. If interest rates rise, commercial paper prices will decline. The short-term nature of a commercial paper investment makes it less susceptible to interest rate risk than many other fixed income securities because interest rate risk typically increases as maturity lengths increase. Commercial paper tends to yield smaller returns than longer-term corporate debt because securities with shorter maturities typically have lower effective yields than those with longer maturities. As with all fixed income securities, there is a chance that the issuer will default on its commercial paper obligation.

### Information on Time Deposits and Variable Rate Notes

Time deposits are issued by a depository institution in exchange for the deposit of funds. The issuer agrees to pay the amount deposited plus interest to the depositor on the date specified with respect to the deposit. Time deposits do not trade in the secondary market prior to maturity. However, some time deposits may be redeemable prior to maturity and may be subject to withdrawal penalties.

The commercial paper obligations are typically unsecured and may include variable rate notes. The nature and terms of a variable rate note (i.e., a "Master Note") permit the Fund to invest fluctuating amounts at varying rates of interest pursuant to a direct arrangement between the Fund and the issuer. It permits daily changes in the amounts invested. The Fund, typically, has the right at any time to increase, up to the full amount stated in the note agreement, or to decrease the amount outstanding under the note. The issuer may prepay at any time and without penalty any part of or the full amount of the note. The note may or may not be backed by one or more bank letters of credit. Because these notes are direct investment arrangements between the Fund and the issuer, it is not generally contemplated that they will be traded; moreover, there is currently no secondary market for them. Except as specifically provided in the Prospectus, there is no limitation on the type of issuer from whom these notes may be purchased; however, in connection with such purchase and on an ongoing basis, the Adviser will consider the earning power, cash flow and other liquidity ratios of the issuer, and its ability to pay principal and interest on demand, including a situation in which all holders of such notes made demand simultaneously. Variable rate notes are subject to the Fund's investment restriction on illiquid securities unless such notes can be put back to the issuer (redeemed) on demand within seven days.

### Insured Bank Obligations

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insures the deposits of federally insured banks and savings and loan associations (collectively referred to as "banks") up to \$250,000. The Fund may elect to purchase bank obligations in small amounts so as to be fully insured as to principal by the FDIC. Currently, to remain fully insured as to principal, these investments must be limited to \$250,000 per bank; if the principal amount and accrued interest together exceed \$250,000, the excess principal and accrued interest will not be insured. Insured bank obligations may have limited marketability.

### United States Government Obligations

These consist of various types of marketable securities issued by the United States Treasury, i.e., bills, notes and bonds. Such securities are direct obligations of the United States government and differ mainly in the length of their maturity. Treasury bills, the most frequently issued marketable government security, have a maturity of up to one year and are issued on a discount basis.

U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities ("TIPS"), are debt instruments issued by the by the United States Department of the Treasury. The principal of TIPS increases with inflation and decreases with deflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index. When TIPS mature, investors are paid the adjusted principal or original principal, whichever is greater. Interest payments on TIPS are unpredictable and will fluctuate as the principal and corresponding interest payments are adjusted for inflation. Inflation-indexed bonds generally pay a lower nominal interest rate than a comparable non-inflation-indexed bond. There can be no assurance that the CPI will accurately measure the real rate of inflation in the prices of goods and services. Any increases in the principal amount of TIPS will be considered taxable ordinary income, even though the Fund or applicable underlying ETF will not receive the principal until maturity. As a result, the Fund may make income distributions to shareholders that exceed the cash it receives. In addition, TIPS are subject to credit risk, interest rate risk, and maturity risk.

#### Debt Issued by United States Government Agencies

These consist of debt securities issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the United States government, including the various types of instruments currently outstanding or which may be offered in the future. Agencies include, among others, the Federal Housing Administration, Government National Mortgage Association ("Ginnie Mae"), Farmer's Home Administration, Export-Import Bank of the United States, Maritime Administration, and General Services Administration. Instrumentalities include, for example, each of the Federal Home Loan Banks, the National Bank for Cooperatives, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("Freddie Mac"), the Farm Credit Banks, the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), and the United States Postal Service. These securities are either: (i) backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government (e.g., United States Treasury Bills); (ii) guaranteed by the United States Treasury (e.g., Ginnie Mae mortgage-backed securities); (iii) supported by the issuing agency's or instrumentality's right to borrow from the United States Treasury (e.g., Fannie Mae Discount Notes); or (iv) supported only by the issuing agency's or instrumentality's own credit (e.g., Tennessee Valley Association).

Government-related guarantors (i.e. not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government) include Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Fannie Mae is a government-sponsored corporation owned entirely by private stockholders. It is subject to general regulation by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Fannie Mae purchases conventional (i.e., not insured or guaranteed by any government agency) residential mortgages from a list of approved seller/servicers which include state and federally chartered savings and loan associations, mutual savings banks, commercial banks and credit unions and mortgage bankers. Pass-through securities issued by Fannie Mae are guaranteed as to timely payment of principal and interest by Fannie Mae but are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government.

Freddie Mac was created by Congress in 1970 for the purpose of increasing the availability of mortgage credit for residential housing. It is a government-sponsored corporation formerly owned by the twelve Federal Home Loan Banks and now owned entirely by private stockholders. Freddie Mac issues participation certificates ("PCs"), which represent interests in conventional mortgages from Freddie Mac's national portfolio. Freddie Mac guarantees the timely payment of interest and ultimate collection of principal, but PCs are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government. Commercial banks, savings and loan institutions, private mortgage insurance companies, mortgage bankers and other secondary market issuers also create pass-through pools of conventional residential mortgage loans. Such issuers may, in addition, be the originators and/or servicers of the underlying mortgage loans as well as the guarantors of the mortgage-related securities. Pools created by such nongovernmental issuers generally offer a higher rate of interest than government and government-related pools because there are no direct or indirect government or agency guarantees of payments in the former pools. However, timely payment of interest and principal of these pools may be supported by various forms of insurance or guarantees, including individual loan, title, pool and hazard insurance and letters of credit. The insurance and guarantees are issued by governmental entities, private insurers and the mortgage poolers.



### Mortgage-Backed Securities

The Fund may invest in mortgage-backed securities, such as those issued by the Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA"), Federal National Mortgage Association ("FNMA"), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation ("FHLMC") or certain foreign issuers. Mortgage-backed securities represent direct or indirect participations in, or are secured by and payable from, mortgage loans secured by real property. The mortgages backing these securities include, among other mortgage instruments, conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgages, 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, graduated payment mortgages and adjustable rate mortgages. The government or the issuing agency typically guarantees the payment of interest and principal of these securities. However, the guarantees do not extend to the securities' yield or value, which are likely to vary inversely with fluctuations in interest rates, nor do the guarantees extend to the yield or value of the Fund's shares. These securities generally are "pass-through" instruments, through which the holders receive a share of all interest and principal payments from the mortgages underlying the securities, net of certain fees. Yields on pass-through securities are typically quoted by investment dealers and vendors based on the maturity of the underlying instruments and the associated average life assumption. The average life of pass-through pools varies with the maturities of the underlying mortgage loans. A pool's term may be shortened by unscheduled or early payments of principal on the underlying mortgages. The occurrence of mortgage prepayments is affected by various factors, including the level of interest rates, general economic conditions, the location, scheduled maturity and age of the mortgage and other social and demographic conditions. Because prepayment rates of individual pools vary widely, it is not possible to predict accurately the average life of a particular pool. For pools of fixed-rate 30-year mortgages in a stable interest rate environment, a common industry practice in the U.S. has been to assume that prepayments will result in a 12-year average life, although it may vary depending on numerous factors. At present, pools, particularly those with loans with other maturities or different characteristics, are priced on an assumption of average life determined for each pool. In periods of falling interest rates, the rate of prepayment tends to increase, thereby shortening the actual average life of a pool of mortgagerelated securities. Conversely, in periods of rising rates the rate of prepayment tends to decrease, thereby lengthening the actual average life of the pool. However, these effects may not be present, or may differ in degree, if the mortgage loans in the pools have adjustable interest rates or other special payment terms, such as a prepayment charge. Actual prepayment experience may cause the yield of mortgage-backed securities to differ from the assumed average life yield. Reinvestment of prepayments may occur at higher or lower interest rates than the original investment, thus affecting the Fund's yield.

The rate of interest on mortgage-backed securities is lower than the interest rates paid on the mortgages included in the underlying pool due to the annual fees paid to the servicer of the mortgage pool for passing through monthly payments to certificate holders and to any guarantor, such as GNMA, and due to any yield retained by the issuer. Actual yield to the holder may vary from the coupon rate, even if adjustable, if the mortgage-backed securities are purchased or traded in the secondary market at a premium or discount. In addition, there is normally some delay between the time the issuer receives mortgage payments from the servicer and the time the issuer makes the payments on the mortgage-backed securities, and this delay reduces the effective yield to the holder of such securities.

### Asset-Backed Securities

The Fund may invest in asset-backed securities, which represent participations in, or are secured by and payable from, assets such as motor vehicle installment sales, installment loan contracts, leases of various types of real and personal property and receivables from revolving credit (credit card) agreements. Such assets are securitized through the use of trusts and special purpose corporations. Payments or distributions of principal and interest may be guaranteed up to certain amounts and for a certain time period by a letter of credit or a pool insurance policy issued by a financial institution unaffiliated with the trust or corporation.

Asset-backed securities present certain risks that are not presented by other securities in which the Fund may invest. Automobile receivables generally are secured by automobiles. Most issuers of automobile receivables permit the loan servicers to retain possession of the underlying obligations. If the servicer were to sell these obligations to another party, there is a risk that the purchaser would acquire an interest superior to that of the holders of the asset-backed securities. In addition, because of the large number of vehicles involved in a typical issuance and technical requirements under state laws, the trustee for the holders of the automobile receivables may not have a proper security interest in the underlying automobiles. Therefore, there is the possibility that recoveries on repossessed collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on these securities. Credit card receivables are generally unsecured, and the debtors are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws, many of which give such debtors the right to set off certain amounts owed on the credit cards, thereby reducing the balance due. In addition, there is no assurance that the security interest in the collateral can be realized.

Asset-backed securities in which the Fund may invest also include collateralized debt obligations ("CDOs"), collateralized loan obligations ("CLOs") and privately-offered collateralized loans. CDOs and CLOs are securities backed by an underlying portfolio of debt and loan obligations, respectively. CDOs and CLOs issue classes or "tranches" that vary in risk and yield and may experience substantial losses due to actual defaults, decrease of market value due to collateral defaults and removal of subordinate tranches, market anticipation of defaults and investor aversion to CDO and CLOs securities as a class. The risks of investing in CDOs and CLOs depend largely on the tranche invested in and the type of the underlying debts and loans in the tranche of the CDO or CLO, respectively, in which the Fund invests. CDOs and CLOs also carry risks including, but not limited to, interest rate risk and credit risk.

# Securities Options

The Fund may purchase and write (*i.e.*, sell) put and call options. Such options may relate to particular securities or stock indices, and may or may not be listed on a domestic or foreign securities exchange and may or may not be issued by the Options Clearing Corporation. Options trading is a highly specialized activity that entails greater than ordinary investment risk. Options may be more volatile than the underlying instruments, and therefore, on a percentage basis, an investment in options may be subject to greater fluctuation than an investment in the underlying instruments themselves.

A call option for a particular security gives the purchaser of the option the right to buy, and the writer (seller) the obligation to sell, the underlying security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration of the option, regardless of the market price of the security. The premium paid to the writer is in consideration for undertaking the obligation under the option contract. A put option for a particular security gives the purchaser the right to sell the security at the stated exercise price at any time prior to the expiration date of the option, regardless of the market price of the security.

Stock index options are put options and call options on various stock indices. In most respects, they are identical to listed options on common stocks. The primary difference between stock options and index options occurs when index options are exercised. In the case of stock options, the underlying security, common stock, is delivered. However, upon the exercise of an index option, settlement does not occur by delivery of the securities comprising the index. The option holder who exercises the index option receives an amount of cash if the closing level of the stock index upon which the option is based is greater than, in the case of a call, or less than, in the case of a put, the exercise price of the option. This amount of cash is equal to the difference between the closing price of the stock index and the exercise price of the option expressed in dollars times a specified multiple. A stock index fluctuates with changes in the market value of the stocks included in the index. For example, some stock index options are based on a broad market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 500®. Index or the Value Line Composite Index or a narrower market index, such as the Standard & Poor's 100®. Indices may also be based on an industry or market segment, such as the NYSE Arca Oil and Gas Index or the Computer and Business Equipment Index. Options on stock indices are currently traded on the Chicago Board Options Exchange, the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ PHLX.



The Fund's obligation to sell an instrument subject to a call option written by it, or to purchase an instrument subject to a put option written by it, may be terminated prior to the expiration date of the option by the Fund's execution of a closing purchase transaction, which is effected by purchasing on an exchange an option of the same series (*i.e.*, same underlying instrument, exercise price and expiration date) as the option previously written. A closing purchase transaction will ordinarily be effected to realize a profit on an outstanding option, to prevent an underlying instrument from being called, to permit the sale of the underlying instrument or to permit the writing of a new option containing different terms on such underlying instrument. The cost of such a liquidation purchase plus transactions costs may be greater than the premium received upon the original option. An option writer unable to effect a closing purchase transaction will not be able to sell the underlying instrument or liquidate the assets held in a segregated account, as described below, until the option expires or the optioned instrument is delivered upon exercise. In such circumstances, the writer will be subject to the risk of market decline or appreciation in the instrument during such period.

If an option purchased by the Fund expires unexercised, the Fund realizes a loss equal to the premium paid. If the Fund enters into a closing sale transaction on an option purchased by it, the Fund will realize a gain if the premium received by the Fund on the closing transaction is more than the premium paid to purchase the option, or a loss if it is less. If an option written by the Fund expires on the stipulated expiration date or if the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction, it will realize a gain (or loss if the cost of a closing purchase transaction exceeds the net premium received when the option is sold). If an option written by the Fund is exercised, the proceeds of the sale will be increased by the net premium originally received and the Fund will realize a gain or loss.

#### Certain Risks Regarding Options

There are several risks associated with transactions in options. For example, there are significant differences between the securities and options markets that could result in an imperfect correlation between these markets, causing a given transaction not to achieve its objectives. In addition, a liquid secondary market for particular options, whether traded over-the-counter or on an exchange, may be absent for reasons which include the following: there may be insufficient trading interest in certain options; restrictions may be imposed by an exchange on opening transactions or closing transactions or both; trading halts, suspensions or other restrictions may be imposed with respect to particular classes or series of options or underlying securities or currencies; unusual or unforeseen circumstances may interrupt normal operations on an exchange; the facilities of an exchange or the Options Clearing Corporation may not at all times be adequate to handle current trading value; or one or more exchanges could, for economic or other reasons, decide or be compelled at some future date to discontinue the trading of options (or a particular class or series of options), in which event the secondary market on that exchange (or in that class or series of options) would cease to exist, although outstanding options that had been issued by the Options Clearing Corporation as a result of trades on that exchange would continue to be exercisable in accordance with their terms.

Successful use by the Fund of options on stock indices will be subject to the ability of the Adviser to correctly predict movements in the directions of the stock market. This requires different skills and techniques than predicting changes in the prices of individual securities. In addition, the Fund's ability to effectively hedge all or a portion of the securities in its portfolio, in anticipation of or during a market decline, through transactions in put options on stock indices, depends on the degree to which price movements in the underlying index correlate with the price movements of the securities held by the Fund. In as much as the Fund's securities will not duplicate the components of an index, the correlation will not be perfect. Consequently, the Fund bears the risk that the prices of its securities being hedged will not move in the same amount as the prices of its put options on the stock indices. It is also possible that there may be a negative correlation between the index and the Fund's securities that would result in a loss on both such securities and the options on stock indices acquired by the Fund.

The hours of trading for options may not conform to the hours during which the underlying securities are traded. To the extent that the options markets close before the markets for the underlying securities, significant price and rate movements can take place in the underlying markets that cannot be reflected in the options markets. The purchase of options is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. The purchase of stock index options involves the risk that the premium and transaction costs paid by the Fund in purchasing an option will be lost as a result of unanticipated movements in prices of the securities comprising the stock index on which the option is based.

There is no assurance that a liquid secondary market on an options exchange will exist for any particular option, or at any particular time, and for some options no secondary market on an exchange or elsewhere may exist. If the Fund is unable to close out a call option on securities that it has written before the option is exercised, the Fund may be required to purchase the optioned securities in order to satisfy its obligation under the option to deliver such securities. If the Fund is unable to effect a closing sale transaction with respect to options on securities that it has purchased, it would have to exercise the option in order to realize any profit and would incur transaction costs upon the purchase and sale of the underlying securities.

# **Options on Futures Contracts**

The Fund may purchase and sell options on the same types of futures in which it may invest. Options on futures are similar to options on underlying instruments except that options on futures give the purchaser the right, in return for the premium paid, to assume a position in a futures contract (a long position if the option is a call and a short position if the option is a put), rather than to purchase or sell the futures contract, at a specified exercise price at any time during the period of the option. Upon exercise of the option, the delivery of the futures position by the writer of the option to the holder of the option will be accompanied by the delivery of the accumulated balance in the writer's futures margin account which represents the amount by which the market price of the futures contract, at exercise, exceeds (in the case of a call) or is less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option on the futures contract. Purchasers of options who fail to exercise their options prior to the exercise date suffer a loss of the premium paid.

#### Dealer and Exchange-Traded Options

The Fund may engage in transactions involving dealer options as well as exchange-traded options. Certain additional risks are specific to dealer options. While the Fund might look to a clearing corporation to exercise exchange-traded options, if the Fund were to purchase a dealer option it would need to rely on the dealer from which it purchased the option to perform if the option were exercised. Failure by the dealer to do so would result in the loss of the premium paid by the Fund as well as loss of the expected benefit of the transaction.

Exchange traded options generally have a continuous liquid market while dealer options may not. Consequently, the Fund may generally be able to realize the value of a dealer option it has purchased only by exercising or reselling the option to the dealer who issued it. Similarly, when the Fund writes a dealer option, it may generally be able to close out the option prior to its expiration only by entering into a closing purchase transaction with the dealer to whom the Fund originally wrote the option. While the Fund will seek to enter into dealer options only with dealers who will agree to and which are expected to be capable of entering into closing transactions with the Fund, there can be no assurance that the Fund will at any time be able to liquidate a dealer option at a favorable price at any time prior to expiration. Unless the Fund, as a covered dealer call option writer, is able to effect a closing purchase transaction, it will not be able to liquidate securities (or other assets) used as cover until the option expires or is exercised. In the event of insolvency of the other party, the Fund may be unable to liquidate a dealer option. With respect to options written by the Fund, the inability to enter into a closing transaction may result in material losses to the Fund. For example, because the Fund must maintain a secured position with respect to any call option on a security it writes, the Fund may not sell the assets, which it has segregated to secure the position while it is obligated under the option. This requirement may impair the Fund's ability to sell portfolio securities at a time when such sale might be advantageous.

The Staff of the SEC has taken the position that purchased dealer options are illiquid securities. The Fund may treat the cover used for written dealer options as liquid if the dealer agrees that the Fund may repurchase the dealer option it has written for a maximum price to be calculated by a predetermined formula. In such cases, the dealer option would be considered illiquid only to the extent the maximum purchase price under the formula exceeds the intrinsic value of the option. Accordingly, the Fund will treat dealer options as subject to the Fund's limitation on illiquid securities. If the SEC changes its position on the liquidity of dealer options, the Fund will change its treatment of such instruments accordingly.

# Spread Transactions

The Fund may purchase covered spread options from securities dealers. These covered spread options are not presently exchange-listed or exchange-traded. The purchase of a spread option gives the Fund the right to put securities that it owns at a fixed dollar spread or fixed yield spread in relationship to another security that the Fund does not own, but which is used as a benchmark. The risk to the Fund, in addition to the risks of dealer options described above, is the cost of the premium paid as well as any transaction costs. The purchase of spread options will be used to protect the Fund against adverse changes in prevailing credit quality spreads, *i.e.*, the yield spread between high quality and lower quality securities. This protection is provided only during the life of the spread options.

#### Option Overlay Strategy

The Fund may purchase exchange-traded and over the counter ("OTC") put and call options on various indexes. When the Fund purchases a call option, the Fund has the right, but not the obligation, to buy an asset at a specified price (strike price) within a specific time period. When the Fund purchases a put option, the Fund has the right, but not the obligation, to sell an asset at a specified price (strike price) within a specific time period. The options are meant to hedge against market moves. The Adviser selects options based upon its evaluation of relative value based on cost, strike price (price that the option can be bought or sold by the option holder) and maturity (the last date the option contract is valid) and will exercise or close the options based on maturity or portfolio rebalancing requirements. While the option overlay is intended to improve the Fund's performance, there is no guarantee that it will do so.

### MLP and MLP-Related Securities.

Investments in MLPs and MLP-related securities involve risks different from those of investing in common stock including risks related to limited control and limited rights to vote on matters affecting the MLP or MLP-related security, risks related to potential conflicts of interest between an MLP and the MLP's general partner, cash flow risks, dilution risks (which could occur if the MLP raises capital and then invests it in projects whose return fails to exceed the cost of capital raised) and risks related to the general partner's limited call right. MLPs and MLP-related securities are generally considered interest-rate sensitive investments. During periods of interest rate volatility, these investments may not provide attractive returns. Depending on the state of interest rates in general, the use of MLPs or MLP-related securities could enhance or harm the overall performance of the Fund.

### MLP Tax Risk.

MLPs, typically, do not pay U.S. federal income tax at the partnership level. Instead, each partner is allocated a share of the partnership's income, gains, losses, deductions and expenses. A change in current tax law or in the underlying business mix of a given MLP could result in an MLP being treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which would result in such MLP being required to pay U.S. federal income tax on its taxable income. The classification of an MLP as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes would have the effect of reducing the amount of cash available for distribution by the MLP. Thus, if any of the MLPs owned by the Fund were treated as corporations for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it could result in a reduction of the value of your investment in the Fund and lower income, as compared to an MLP that is not taxed as a corporation.



# Repurchase Agreements

The Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement, an investor (such as the Fund) purchases a security (known as the "underlying security") from a securities dealer or bank. Any such dealer or bank must be deemed creditworthy by the Adviser. At that time, the bank or securities dealer agrees to repurchase the underlying security at a mutually agreed upon price on a designated future date. The repurchase price may be higher than the purchase price, the difference being income to the Fund, or the purchase and repurchase prices may be the same, with interest at an agreed upon rate due to the Fund on repurchase. In either case, the income to the Fund generally will be unrelated to the interest rate on the underlying securities. Repurchase agreements must be "fully collateralized," in that the market value of the underlying securities (including accrued interest) must at all times be equal to or greater than the repurchase price. Therefore, a repurchase agreement can be considered a loan collateralized by the underlying securities.

Repurchase agreements are generally for a short period of time, often less than a week, and will generally be used by the Fund to invest excess cash or as part of a temporary defensive strategy. Repurchase agreements that do not provide for payment within seven days will be treated as illiquid securities. In the event of a bankruptcy or other default by the seller of a repurchase agreement, the Fund could experience both delays in liquidating the underlying security and losses. These losses could result from: (a) possible decline in the value of the underlying security while the Fund is seeking to enforce its rights under the repurchase agreement; (b) possible reduced levels of income or lack of access to income during this period; and (c) expenses of enforcing its rights.

# Reverse Repurchase Transactions

The Fund may enter into reverse repurchase transactions. In a reverse repurchase transaction, the Fund concurrently agrees to sell portfolio securities to financial institutions such as banks and broker-dealers, and to repurchase the same securities at a later date at a mutually agreed upon price. The repurchase price generally is equal to the original sales price plus interest. The Fund retains record ownership of the securities and the right to receive interest and principal payments. The Fund will enter into a reverse repurchase transaction in order to obtain funds to pursue additional investment opportunities with a return that may be in excess of the cost of the reverse repurchase transaction. Such transactions may increase fluctuations in the market value of Fund assets and are viewed as a form of leverage. Reverse purchase transactions also involve the risk that the market value of the securities sold by the Fund may decline below the price at which the Fund is obligated to repurchase the securities. In the event of bankruptcy or other default by the purchaser, the Fund could experience both delays in repurchasing the portfolio securities and losses. The Fund will enter into reverse purchase transactions are considered by the SEC to be borrowings by the Fund under the 1940 Act or a form of derivative governed by Rule 18f-4.

### Trading in Futures Contracts

A futures contract provides for the future sale by one party and purchase by another party of a specified amount of a specific financial instrument (e.g., units of a stock index) for a specified price, date, time and place designated at the time the contract is made. Brokerage fees are paid when a futures contract is bought or sold and margin deposits must be maintained. Entering into a contract to buy is commonly referred to as buying or purchasing a contract or holding a long position. Entering into a contract to sell is commonly referred to as selling a contract or holding a short position.

Unlike when the Fund purchases or sells a security, no price would be paid or received by the Fund upon the purchase or sale of a futures contract. Upon entering into a futures contract, and to maintain the Fund's open positions in futures contracts, the Fund may be required to deposit with its custodian or futures broker in a segregated account in the name of the futures broker an amount of cash, U.S. government securities, suitable money market instruments, or other liquid securities, known as "initial margin." The margin required for a particular futures contract is set by the exchange on which the contract is traded, and may be significantly modified from time to time by the exchange during the term of the contract. Futures contracts are customarily purchased and sold on margins that may range upward from less than 5% of the value of the contract being traded.

If the price of an open futures contract changes (by increase in underlying instrument or index in the case of a sale or by decrease in the case of a purchase) so that the loss on the futures contract reaches a point at which the margin on deposit does not satisfy margin requirements, the broker will require an increase in the margin. However, if the value of a position increases because of favorable price changes in the futures contract so that the margin deposit exceeds the required margin, the broker will pay the excess to the Fund.

These subsequent payments, called "variation margin," to and from the futures broker, are made on a daily basis as the price of the underlying assets fluctuate making the long and short positions in the futures contract more or less valuable, a process known as "marking to the market." The Fund expects to earn interest income on margin deposits.

Although certain futures contracts, by their terms, require actual future delivery of and payment for the underlying instruments, in practice most futures contracts are usually closed out before the delivery date. Closing out an open futures contract purchase or sale is effected by entering into an offsetting futures contract sale or purchase, respectively, for the same aggregate amount of the identical underlying instrument or index and the same delivery date. If the offsetting purchase price is less than the original sale price, the Fund realizes a gain; if it is more, the Fund realizes a loss. Conversely, if the offsetting sale price is more than the original purchase price, the Fund realizes a gain; if it is less, the Fund realizes a loss. The transaction costs must also be included in these calculations. There can be no assurance, however, that the Fund will be able to enter into an offsetting transaction with respect to a particular futures contract at a particular time. If the Fund is not able to enter into an offsetting transaction, the Fund will continue to be required to maintain the margin deposits on the futures contract.

For example, one contract in the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index future is a contract to buy 25 pounds sterling multiplied by the level of the UK Financial Times 100 Share Index on a given future date. Settlement of a stock index futures contract may or may not be in the underlying instrument or index, then settlement will be made in cash, equivalent over time to the difference between the contract price and the actual price of the underlying asset at the time the stock index futures contract expires.

# Regulation as a Commodity Pool Operator

The Adviser is registered with the National Futures Association as a commodity pool operator under the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended, and the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission promulgated thereunder, with respect to the Fund's operation. The Adviser, on behalf of the Fund, has filed with the National Futures Association, a notice claiming an exemption from the definition of the term "commodity pool operator" in accordance with Rule 4.5 under the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA"), as amended, and the rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission promulgated thereunder, with respect to the Fund's operations. Accordingly, the Fund is not subject, nor will they be subject, to registration or regulation as a commodity pool operator under the CEA.

### When-Issued, Forward Commitments and Delayed Settlements

The Fund may purchase and sell securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed settlement basis. In this event, the Custodian (as defined under the section entitled "Custodian") may segregate liquid assets equal to the amount of the commitment in a separate account. Normally, the Custodian will set aside portfolio securities to satisfy a purchase commitment. In such a case, the Fund may be required subsequently to segregate additional assets in order to assure that the value of the account remains equal to the amount of the Fund's commitment. It may be expected that the Fund's net assets will fluctuate to a greater degree when it sets aside portfolio securities to cover such purchase commitments than when it sets aside cash.

The Fund does not intend to engage in these transactions for speculative purposes but only in furtherance of their investment objectives. Because the Fund may segregate liquid assets to satisfy purchase commitments in the manner described, the Fund's liquidity and the ability of the Adviser to manage them may be affected in the event the Fund's forward commitments, commitments to purchase when-issued securities and delayed settlements ever exceeded 15% of the value of its net assets.

The Fund will purchase securities on a when-issued, forward commitment or delayed settlement basis only with the intention of completing the transaction. If deemed advisable as a matter of investment strategy, however, the Fund may dispose of or renegotiate a commitment after it is entered into, and may sell securities it has committed to purchase before those securities are delivered to the Fund on the settlement date. In these cases the Fund may realize a taxable capital gain or loss. When the Fund engages in when-issued, forward commitment and delayed settlement transactions, it relies on the other party to consummate the trade. Failure of such party to do so may result in the Fund incurring a loss or missing an opportunity to obtain a price credited to be advantageous.

The market value of the securities underlying a when-issued purchase, forward commitment to purchase securities, or a delayed settlement and any subsequent fluctuations in their market value is taken into account when determining the market value of the Fund starting on the day the Fund agrees to purchase the securities. The Fund does not earn interest on the securities it has committed to purchase until it has paid for and delivered on the settlement date.

### **Illiquid and Restricted Securities**

The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in illiquid securities. Illiquid securities include securities subject to contractual or legal restrictions on resale (e.g., because they have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act")) and securities that are otherwise not readily marketable (e.g., because trading in the security is suspended or because market makers do not exist or will not entertain bids or offers). Securities that have not been registered under the Securities Act are referred to as private placements or restricted securities and are purchased directly from the issuer or in the secondary market. Foreign securities that are freely tradable in their principal markets are not considered to be illiquid.

Restricted and other illiquid securities may be subject to the potential for delays on resale and uncertainty in valuation. The Fund might be unable to dispose of illiquid securities promptly or at reasonable prices and might thereby experience difficulty in satisfying redemption requests from shareholders. The Fund might have to register restricted securities in order to dispose of them, resulting in additional expense and delay. Adverse market conditions could impede such a public offering of securities.

A large institutional market exists for certain securities that are not registered under the Securities Act, including foreign securities. The fact that there are contractual or legal restrictions on resale to the general public or to certain institutions may not be indicative of the liquidity of such investments. Rule 144A under the Securities Act allows such a broader institutional trading market for securities otherwise subject to restrictions on resale to the general public. Rule 144A establishes a "safe harbor" from the registration requirements of the Securities Act for resale of certain securities to qualified institutional buyers. Rule 144A has produced enhanced liquidity for many restricted securities, and market liquidity for such securities may continue to expand as a result of this regulation and the consequent existence of the PORTAL system, which is an automated system for the trading, clearance and settlement of unregistered securities of domestic and foreign issuers sponsored by NASDAQ.

Under guidelines adopted by the Board, the Adviser may determine that particular Rule 144A securities, and commercial paper issued in reliance on the private placement exemption from registration afforded by Section 4(a)(2) of the Securities Act, are liquid even though they are not registered. A determination of whether such a security is liquid or not is a question of fact. In making this determination, the Adviser will consider, as it deems appropriate under the circumstances and among other factors: (1) the frequency of trades and quotes for the security; (2) the number of dealers willing to purchase or sell the security; (3) the number of other potential purchasers of the security; (4) dealer undertakings to make a market in the security; (5) the nature of the security (e.g., debt or equity, date of maturity, terms of dividend or interest payments, and other material terms) and the nature of the marketplace trades (e.g., the time needed to dispose of the security, the method of soliciting offers, and the mechanics of transfer); and (6) the rating of the security and the financial condition and prospects of the issuer. In the case of commercial paper, the Adviser will also determine that the paper (1) is not traded flat or in default as to principal and interest, and (2) is rated in one of the two highest rating categories by at least two Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations ("NRSROs") or, if only one NRSRO rates the security, by that NRSRO, or, if the security is unrated, the Adviser determines that it is of equivalent quality.

Rule 144A securities and Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper that have been deemed liquid as described above will continue to be monitored by the Adviser to determine if the security is no longer liquid as the result of changed conditions. Investing in Rule 144A securities or Section 4(a)(2) commercial paper could have the effect of increasing the amount of the Fund's assets invested in illiquid securities if institutional buyers are unwilling to purchase such securities.



## Lending Portfolio Securities

For the purpose of achieving income, the Fund may lend its portfolio securities, provided (1) the loan is secured continuously by collateral consisting of U.S. Government securities or cash or cash equivalents (cash, U.S. Government securities, negotiable certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances or letters of credit) maintained on a daily mark-to-market basis in an amount at least equal to the current market value of the securities loaned, (2) the Fund may at any time call the loan and obtain the return of securities loaned, (3) the Fund will receive any interest or dividends received on the loaned securities, and (4) the aggregate value of the securities loaned will not at any time exceed one-third of the total assets of the Fund.

#### Bank Loans

The Fund may invest in secured and unsecured participations in bank loans and assignments of such loans. In making investments in such loans, which are made by banks or other financial intermediaries to borrowers, the Fund will depend primarily upon the creditworthiness of the borrower for payment of principal and interest which will expose the Fund to the credit risk of both the financial institution and the underlying borrower. The market for bank loans may not be highly liquid and the Fund may have difficulty selling them. The Fund may also experience settlement delays with respect to bank loan trades, resulting in the proceeds from the sale of such loans not being readily available to make additional investments or to meet the Fund's redemption obligations. Participations by the Fund in a lender's portion of a bank loan typically will result in the Fund having a contractual relationship only with such lender, not with the borrower. The Fund may have the right to receive payments of principal, interest and any fees to which it is entitled only from the lender selling a loan participation and only upon receipt by such lender of such payments from the borrower. In connection with purchasing participations, the Fund generally will have no right to enforce compliance by the borrower with the terms of the loan agreement, nor any rights with respect to any funds acquired by other lenders through set-off against the borrower, and the Fund may not directly benefit from any collateral supporting the loan in which it has purchased the participation. As a result, the Fund may assume the credit risk of both the borrower and the lender selling the participation. Further, loans held by the Fund may not be considered securities and, therefore, purchasers, such as the Fund, may not be entitled to rely on the strong anti-fraud protections of the federal securities laws. Some of the loans in which the Fund may invest or obtain exposure to may be "covenant-lite" loans. Covenant-lite loans may contain fewer or no maintenance co

# INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS

The Fund has adopted the following investment restrictions that may not be changed without approval by a "majority of the outstanding shares" of the Fund, which, as used in this SAI, means the vote of the lesser of (a) 67% or more of the shares of the Fund represented at a meeting, if the holders of more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund are present or represented by proxy, or (b) more than 50% of the outstanding shares of the Fund. The Fund may not:

- 1. Issue senior securities, except as otherwise permitted under the 1940 Act, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder;
- Borrow money, except (a) from a bank, provided that immediately after such borrowing there is an asset coverage of 300% for all borrowings of the Fund; or (b) from a bank or other persons for temporary purposes only, provided that such temporary borrowings are in an amount not exceeding 5% of the Fund's total assets at the time when the borrowing is made. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from entering into reverse repurchase transactions;
- 3. Engage in the business of underwriting securities issued by others, except to the extent that the Fund may be considered an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act, in the disposition of restricted securities or in connection with its investments in other investment companies;
- 4. Purchase or sell real estate or interests in real estate. This limitation is not applicable to investments in marketable securities that are secured by or represent interests in real estate. This limitation does not preclude the Fund from investing in mortgage-related securities or investing in companies engaged in the real estate business or that have a significant portion of their assets in real estate (including REITs);

- 5. Invest more than 25% of the market value of its net assets in the securities of companies engaged in any one industry or group of industries, except for issuers from the energy and infrastructure group of industries. This limitation does not apply to investment in the securities of the U.S. Government, its agencies or instrumentalities.
- 6. Purchase or sell commodities (unless acquired as a result of ownership of securities or other investments) or commodity futures contracts, except that the Fund may purchase and sell futures contracts and options to the full extent permitted under the 1940 Act, sell foreign currency contracts in accordance with any rules of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, invest in securities or other instruments backed by commodities, and invest in companies that are engaged in a commodities business or have a significant portion of their assets in commodities; or
- 7. Make loans to others, except that the Fund may, in accordance with its investment objective and policies, (i) lend portfolio securities, (ii) purchase and hold debt securities or other debt instruments, including but not limited to loan participations and sub-participations, assignments, and structured securities, (iii) make loans secured by mortgages on real property, (iv) enter into repurchase agreements, (v) enter into transactions where each loan is represented by a note executed by the borrower, and (vi) make time deposits with financial institutions and invest in instruments issued by financial institutions. For purposes of this limitation, the term "loans" shall not include the purchase of a portion of an issue of publicly distributed bonds, debentures or other securities.

If a restriction on the Fund's investments is adhered to at the time an investment is made, a subsequent change in the percentage of Fund assets invested in certain securities or other instruments of the Fund's investment portfolio, resulting from changes in the value of the Fund's total assets, will not be considered a violation of the restriction; provided, however, that the asset coverage requirement applicable to borrowings shall be maintained in the manner contemplated by applicable law.

With respect to fundamental investment restriction #2 above, if the Fund's asset coverage falls below 300%, the Fund will reduce borrowing within 3 days in order to ensure that the Fund has 300% asset coverage.

# **Non Fundamental Policy**

The Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF adopted a non-fundamental policy that, under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets (plus any borrowings for investment purposes) in credit instruments issued by energy companies and infrastructure companies.

This policy is non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board without shareholder approval. Shareholders will be provided with at least sixty days' written notice of such change.

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR DISCLOSURE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS

The Trust has adopted a policy regarding the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings. The Fund and its service providers may not receive compensation or any other consideration (which includes any agreement to maintain assets in the Fund or in other investment companies or accounts managed by the Adviser or any affiliated person of the Adviser) in connection with the disclosure of portfolio holdings information of the Fund. The Trust's policy is implemented and overseen by the Chief Compliance Officer of the Trust, subject to the oversight of the Board. Periodic reports regarding these procedures will be provided to the Board. The Trust, the Adviser and the Distributor (as defined below) will not disseminate non-public information concerning the Trust. The Board must approve all material amendments to this policy.

Each business day, the Fund's portfolio holdings information will generally be provided for dissemination through the facilities of the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") and/or other fee-based subscription services to NSCC members and/or subscribers to those other fee-based subscription services, including Authorized Participants (as defined below), and to entities that publish and/or analyze such information in connection with the process of purchasing or redeeming Creation Units or trading shares of the Fund in the secondary market. This information typically reflects the Fund's anticipated holdings as of the next Business Day (as defined below).

Access to information concerning the Fund's portfolio holdings may be permitted to personnel of third-party service providers, including the Fund's custodian, transfer agent, auditors and counsel, as may be necessary to conduct business in the ordinary course in a manner consistent with such service providers' agreements with the Trust on behalf of the Fund.



Portfolio holdings information made available in connection with the creation/redemption process may be provided to other entities that provide services to the Fund in the ordinary course of business after it has been disseminated to the NSCC. From time to time, information concerning portfolio holdings other than portfolio holdings information made available in connection with the creation/redemption process, as discussed above, may be provided to other entities that provide services to the Fund, including rating or ranking organizations, in the ordinary course of business, no earlier than one business day following the date of the information.

The Fund discloses on the Adviser's website at www.simplify.us/etfs at the start of each Business Day the identities and quantities of the securities and other assets held by the Fund that will form the basis of the Fund's calculation of its NAV on that Business Day. The portfolio holdings so disclosed will be based on information as of the close of business on the prior Business Day and/or trades that have been completed prior to the opening of business on that Business Day and that are expected to settle on that Business Day. The Fund may also concurrently disclose this portfolio holdings information directly to ratings agencies on a daily basis.

Quarterly Portfolio Schedule. The Trust is required to disclose the complete schedule of the Fund's portfolio holdings with the SEC on Form N-PORT. The Trust also discloses a complete schedule of the Fund's portfolio holdings with the SEC on Form N-CSR after its second and fourth quarters.

Form N-PORT and Form N-CSR for the Fund is available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. The Fund's Form N-PORT and Form N-CSR is available without charge, upon request, by calling 1 (855) 772-8488 or by writing to: Simplify Exchange Traded Funds 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F, Las Vegas, NV 89135.

### **Other Service Providers**

Adviser. Personnel of the Adviser, including personnel responsible for managing the Fund's portfolio, may have full daily access to Fund portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for the Adviser to provide its management, administrative, and investment services to the Fund. As required for purposes of analyzing the impact of existing and future market changes on the prices, availability, as demand and liquidity of such securities, as well as for the assistance of portfolio managers in the trading of such securities, the Adviser personnel may also release and discuss certain portfolio holdings with various broker-dealers.

**Sub-Adviser.** Personnel of the Sub-Adviser, including personnel responsible for managing the Fund's portfolio, may have full daily access to Fund portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for the Sub-Adviser to provide its management, administrative, and investment services to the Fund. As required for purposes of analyzing the impact of existing and future market changes on the prices, availability, as demand and liquidity of such securities, as well as for the assistance of portfolio managers in the trading of such securities, Sub-Adviser personnel may also release and discuss certain portfolio holdings with various broker-dealers.

Bank of New York Mellon. Bank of New York Mellon is the fund accountant, administrator, transfer agent and custodian for the Fund; therefore, its personnel have full daily access to the Fund's portfolio holdings since that information is necessary in order for them to provide the agreed-upon services for the Trust.

Cohen & Company, Ltd. Cohen & Company, Ltd. is the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm; therefore, its personnel have access to the Fund's portfolio holdings in connection with auditing of the Fund's annual financial statements and providing assistance and consultation in connection with SEC filings.

Thompson Hine LLP. Thompson Hine LLP is counsel to the Fund; therefore, its personnel have access to the Fund's portfolio holdings in connection with review of the Fund's annual and semi-annual shareholder reports and SEC filings.

### Additions to List of Approved Recipients

The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer is the person responsible, and whose prior approval is required, for any disclosure of the Fund's portfolio securities at any time or to any persons other than those described above. In such cases, the recipient must have a legitimate business need for the information and must be subject to a duty to keep the information confidential. There are no ongoing arrangements in place with respect to the disclosure of portfolio holdings. In no event shall the Fund, Fund affiliates, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser, affiliated persons of the Adviser or Sub-Adviser or any other party receive any direct or indirect compensation in connection with the disclosure of information about the Fund's portfolio holdings, except pursuant to Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, commonly referred to as the Securities Whistleblower Incentives and Protection.

### **Compliance with Portfolio Holdings Disclosure Procedures**

The Trust's Chief Compliance Officer will report periodically to the Board with respect to compliance with the Fund's portfolio holdings disclosure procedures, and from time to time will provide the Board any updates to the portfolio holdings disclosure policies and procedures.

There is no assurance that the Trust's policies on disclosure of portfolio holdings will protect the Fund from the potential misuse of holdings information by individuals or firms in possession of that information.

#### MANAGEMENT

The business of the Trust is managed under the direction of the Board in accordance with the Agreement and Declaration of Trust and the Trust's Bylaws (the "Governing Documents"), which have been filed with the SEC and are available upon request. The Board consists of four (4) individuals, three of whom are not "interested persons" (as defined under the 1940 Act) of the Trust or any investment adviser to any series of the Trust ("Independent Trustees"). One Board member is an interested person Trustee (as defined under the 1940 Act) ("Interested Trustee") pursuant to his ownership of and officer status with the Adviser. Pursuant to the Governing Documents, the Trustees shall elect officers including a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Principal Executive Officer and a Principal Accounting Officer. The Board retains the power to conduct, operate and carry on the business of the Trust and has the power to incur and pay any expenses, which, in the opinion of the Board, are necessary or incidental to carry out any of the Trust's purposes. The Board, officers, employees and agents of the Trust, when acting in such capacities, shall not be subject to any personal liability except for his or her own bad faith, willful misfeasance, gross negligence or reckless disregard of his or her duties.

#### **Board Leadership Structure**

The Trust is led by Paul Kim, who has served as the Chairman of the Board since June 2020. The Board is comprised of three Independent Trustees and one Interested Trustee. Under certain 1940 Act governance guidelines that apply to the Trust, the Independent Trustees will meet in executive session, at least quarterly. Under the Governing Documents, the Chairman of the Board is responsible for (a) presiding at board meetings, (b) calling special meetings on an as-needed basis, (c) executing and administering of Trust policies including (i) setting the agendas for board meetings and (ii) providing information to board meetings. The Trust believes that its Chairman, the independent chair of the Audit Committee, and, as an entity, the full Board, provide effective leadership that is in the best interests of the Trust, its funds and each shareholder.

# **Board Risk Oversight**

The Board has a standing independent Audit Committee. The Board is responsible for overseeing risk management, and the full Board regularly engages in discussions of risk management and receives compliance reports that inform its oversight of risk management from its Chief Compliance Officer at quarterly meetings and on an ad hoc basis, when and if necessary. The Audit Committee considers financial and reporting risk within its area of responsibilities. Generally, the Board believes that its oversight of material risks is adequately maintained through the compliance-reporting chain where the Chief Compliance Officer is the primary recipient and communicator of such risk-related information.

# **Trustee Qualifications**

Generally, the Trust believes that each Trustee is competent to serve because of their individual overall merits including: (i) experience, (ii) qualifications, (iii) attributes and (iv) skills.

Christopher Caltagirone worked for a major service provider to investment managers and mutual funds for more than 9 years, including as a portfolio manager for fixed income securities. His expertise in fixed income securities and portfolio trading enables Mr. Caltagirone to bring a unique perspective to service provider oversight for the Trust.

**Craig Enders** has over 22 years of experience as a professor at two major universities. Mr. Enders' study of multiple imputation and maximum likelihood and Bayesian estimation with incomplete data enables him to provide oversight for the Trust.

**Paul Kim** has worked as a senior director and vice president in ETF strategy and product management for over ten years. His expertise in developing ETF strategies and actively managed ETFs provides him unique insight on the formation and regulatory oversight of ETFs.

Zung Nguyen has more than 22 years' experience in the investment management industry and has extensive investment adviser experience. During the course of his career, Mr. Zung has served as a senior managing director and executive wealth adviser for a large advisory firm. Mr. Zung has excellent communications skills, as well as an ability to work effectively with others. Mr. Zung brings a diversity of viewpoint, background and experience to the Board.

The Trust does not believe any one factor is determinative in assessing a Trustee's qualifications, but that the collective experience of each Trustee makes them each highly qualified.

The following is a list of the Trustees and executive officers of the Trust and each person's principal occupation over the last five years. The business address of each Trustee and Officer is Simplify Exchange Traded Funds 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F, Las Vegas, NV 89135. All correspondence to the Trustees and Officers should be directed to c/o Simplify Exchange Traded Funds 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F, Las Vegas, NV 89135.

### **Independent Trustees**

Name and Year of Birth	Position/ Term of Office*	Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years	Number of Funds in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships held by Trustee during the Past Five Years
Christopher Caltagirone Year of Birth: 1971	Independent Trustee	Deputy Sheriff, Ravalli County Sheriff's Department (2019 to Present); Unemployed (2015 to 2019); Portfolio Manager, PIMCO (2006 to 2015).	40	None
Craig Enders Year of Birth: 1968	Independent Trustee	Professor, University of California Los Angeles (2015 to Present).	40	None
Zung Nguyen Year of Birth: 1955	Independent Trustee	Founder, ZTN Capital Consulting, LLC (2015 to Present).	40	None

\* The term of office for each Trustee and officer listed above will continue indefinitely until the individual resigns or is removed.

# Interested Trustee and Officers

Name and Year of Birth	Position/ Term of Office*	Principal Occupation During the Past Five Years	Number of Funds in Fund Complex** Overseen by Trustee	Other Directorships held by Trustee during the Past Five Years
Paul Kim Year of Birth: 1977	Trustee and President since 2020	Co-Founder, Simplify Asset Management, Inc. (February 2020 to Present); Managing Director, Principal Global Advisors (2015 to 2020).	40	None
David Berns Year of Birth: 1978	Secretary since 2020	Co-Founder, Simplify Asset Management, Inc. (February 2020 to Present); CEO, Portfolio Designer, LLC (2019 to Present); Managing Director, Nasdaq (2018 to 2019); CEO, DMB Trading, LLC (2015 to 2018).	N/A	N/A
James Nash Year of Birth: 1981	Chief Compliance Officer since 2020	Chief Compliance Officer, Simplify Asset Management, Inc. (March 2025 to present); Director, Foreside Financial Group, LLC (2016 to March 2025); Regulatory Administration Advisor, JP Morgan Chase & Co. (2014 to 2016).	N/A	N/A
Fiona Ho Year of Birth: 1974	Treasurer since November 2023	Chief Operating Officer, Simplify Asset Management, Inc. (2021 to Present); Vice President, Strategic Programs, Spring Education Group (2016 – 2000); Vice President, Account Management, Pacific Investment Management Company, LLC (2010 – 2016).	N/A	N/A

\* The term of office for each Trustee and officer listed above will continue indefinitely until the individual resigns or is removed.

\*\* The term "Fund Complex" applies only to the operational series of the Trust.

# **Board Committees**

# Audit Committee

The Board has an Audit Committee that consists of all the Independent Trustees. The Audit Committee's responsibilities include: (i) recommending to the Board the selection, retention or termination of the Trust's independent auditors; (ii) reviewing with the independent auditors the scope, performance and anticipated cost of their audit; (iii) discussing with the independent auditors certain matters relating to the Trust's financial statements, including any adjustment to such financial statements recommended by such independent auditors, or any other results of any audit; (iv) reviewing on a periodic basis a formal written statement from the independent auditors with respect to their independence, discussing with the independent auditors any relationships or services disclosed in the statement that may impact the objectivity and independence; and (v) considering the comments of the independent auditors and management's responses thereto to satisfy itself of the auditor's independence; and (v) considering the comments of the independent auditors and management's responses thereto with respect to the quality and adequacy of the Trust's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices and internal controls. The Audit Committee operates pursuant to an Audit Committee Charter. Christopher Caltagirone serves as the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is also responsible for reviewing and setting Independent Trustee compensation from time to time when considered necessary or appropriate. During the most recent fiscal year, the Audit Committee met five times.

## Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Board has a Nominating and Governance Corporate Committee that consists of all the Independent Trustees. The Committee's responsibilities (which may also be conducted by the Board) include: (i) recommend persons to be nominated or re-nominated as Trustees in accordance with the Independent Trustee's Statement of Policy on Criteria for Selecting Independent Trustees; (ii) review the Fund's officers, and conduct Chief Compliance Officer searches, as needed, and provide consultation regarding other CCO matters, as requested; (iii) reviewing trustee qualifications, performance, and compensation; (iv) review periodically with the Board the size and composition of the Board as a whole; (v) annually evaluate the operations of the Board and its Committees and assist the Board in conducting its annual self-evaluation; (vi) make recommendations on the requirements for, and means of, Board orientation and training; (vii) periodically review the Board's corporate governance policies and practices and recommend, as it deems appropriate, any changes to the Board; (ix) considering any corporate governance issues that arise from time to time, and to develop appropriate recommendations for the Board; and (x) supervising counsel for the independent Trustees. The Nominating and Governance Corporate Committee operates pursuant to a Nominating and Governance Committee Committee operates pursuant to a Nominating and Governance Committee Committee met two times.

### **Compensation**

Each Trustee who is not affiliated with the Trust or an investment adviser to any series of the Trust (each an "Independent Trustee") receives a yearly fee of \$100,000 paid \$25,000 quarterly by the Trust within 10 days of the commencement of each calendar quarter for his service as a Trustee of the Board and for serving in his respective capacity as Chair of the Audit Committee, Nomination and Corporate Governance Committee and Contract Review Committee, as well as reimbursement for any reasonable expenses incurred for attending regularly scheduled Board and Committee meetings.

None of the executive officers or the Interested Trustee receives compensation from the Trust.

The table below details the amount of compensation the Trustees are expected to indirectly receive from the funds through the Adviser for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. Each Independent Trustee is expected to attend all quarterly meetings during the period. The Trust does not have a bonus, profit sharing, pension or retirement plan.

Name and Position	Aggregate Fiscal Year Compensation from the Fund	Pension or Retirement Benefits Accrued as Part of Fund Expenses	Annual Benefits Upon Retirement	Total Compensation From Trust and Fund Complex** Paid to Trustees
Craig Enders	\$*	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Christopher Caltagirone	\$*	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Zung Nguyen	\$*	\$0	\$0	\$100,000

\* Since the Fund has not yet commenced operations, no allocation of compensation is feasible.

\*\* There are currently numerous series comprising the Trust. The term "Fund Complex" refers only to the operational series of the Trust.

# Management and Trustee Ownership

As of December 31, 2024, the Trustees and officers, as a group, owned the following shares of the Fund or any of the Fund Complex's outstanding shares.

Board Member Name	Owned in Fund	Aggregate Dollar Range of Shares Owned in Trust		
Interested Board Member				
Paul Kim	None	Over \$100,000		
Independent Board Members				
Christopher Caltagirone	None	None		
Craig Enders	None	None		
Zung Nguyen	None	Over \$100,000		

# **DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

The following information supplements and should be read in conjunction with the section in the Prospectus entitled "Dividends, Other Distributions, and Taxes."

### **General Policies**

The Fund expects to declare and distribute all of its net investment income, if any, to shareholders as dividends at least monthly. The Fund may distribute such income dividends and capital gains more frequently, if necessary, in order to reduce or eliminate federal excise or income taxes on the Fund.

# **Dividend Distributions**

Dividends and other distributions on Shares are distributed, as described below, on a pro rata basis to Beneficial Owners of such Shares. Dividend payments are made through DTC Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners then of record with proceeds received from the Trust.

# **Dividend Reinvestment Service**

The Trust will not make the DTC book-entry dividend reinvestment service available for use by Beneficial Owners for reinvestment of their cash proceeds, but certain individual broker-dealers may make available the DTC book-entry Dividend Reinvestment Service for use by Beneficial Owners of the Fund through DTC Participants for reinvestment of their dividend distributions. Investors should contact their brokers to ascertain the availability and description of these services. Beneficial Owners should be aware that each broker may require investors to adhere to specific procedures and timetables in order to participate in the dividend reinvestment service and investors should ascertain from their brokers such necessary details. If this service is available and used, dividend distributions of both income and realized gains will be automatically reinvested in additional whole Shares issued by the Trust of the same Fund at NAV per Share. Distributions reinvested in additional Shares of the Fund will nevertheless be taxable to Beneficial Owners acquiring such additional Shares to the same extent as if such distributions had been received in cash.

# CONTROL PERSONS AND PRINCIPAL HOLDERS

A principal shareholder is any person who owns (either of record or beneficially) 5% or more of the outstanding shares of the Fund. A control person is one who owns, either directly or indirectly more than 25% of the voting securities of a company or acknowledges the existence of control.

The DTC or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding shares and is recognized as the owner of all shares for all purposes. Investors owning shares are beneficial owners as shown on the records of DTC or its participants.

### INVESTMENT ADVISER

### Investment Adviser and Advisory Agreement

Simplify Asset Management Inc., located at 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F, Las Vegas, NV 89135, serves as the Fund's investment adviser pursuant to an investment advisory agreement between the Trust and the Adviser (the "Management Agreement"). The Adviser is registered with the SEC as an investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended.

Subject to the supervision of the Board, the Adviser provides or arranges to provide to the Fund such investment advice as the Adviser in its discretion deems advisable and furnishes or arranges to furnish a continuous investment program for the Fund consistent with the Fund's investment objective and policies. The Adviser determines or arranges for others to determine the securities to purchase for the Fund, the portfolio securities held or sold by the Fund and the portion of Fund's assets held uninvested, subject always to the Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions, as each of the same shall be from time to time in effect, and subject further to such policies and instructions as the Board may from time to time establish. The Adviser furnishes such reports, evaluations, information or analyses to the Trust as the Board may request from time to time or as the Adviser may deem to be desirable. The Adviser also advises and assists the officers of the Trust in taking such steps as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the decisions of the Board and the appropriate committees of the Board regarding the conduct of the business of the Trust.

The Fund pays the Adviser a unitary fee ("Management Fee") under the Management Agreement in return for providing its services. The Adviser is paid a monthly Management Fee at an annual rate of 0.75% of the average daily net assets of the Fund.

Under a unitary fee structure, the Adviser is responsible for paying substantially all the operating expenses of the Fund, excluding interest expenses, taxes, brokerage expenses, Rule 12b-1 fees (if any), acquired fund fees and expenses, expenses incidental to a meeting of the Fund's shareholders and the Management Fee. In addition to the excluded operating expenses, the Fund also pay non-operating expenses such as litigation and indemnification expenses and other expenses determined to be extraordinary by the Trust.

The Fund may enter into swap agreements with counterparties where the reference asset of the swap agreement or the composition of the underlying portfolio is provided by Wolfe Research, LLC ("Wolfe"). These counterparties compensate Wolfe for its reference asset or portfolio composition. Because Wolfe is a non-voting minority owner of the Adviser, the payments made by counterparties could be deemed to create an indirect conflict of interest for the Adviser. However, neither the Fund nor the Adviser directly compensate Wolfe, nor does the Adviser have any role in determining the compensation paid by counterparties to Wolfe.

The Management Agreement is in effect for two (2) years initially and shall continue from year to year provided such continuance is approved at least annually by (a) a vote of the majority of the Independent Trustees, cast in person at a meeting specifically called for the purpose of voting on such approval and by (b) the majority vote of either all of the Trustees or the vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Fund. The Management Agreement may be terminated without penalty on 60 days written notice by a vote of a majority of the Trustees or by the Adviser, or by holders of a majority of the Fund's outstanding shares. The Management Agreement shall terminate automatically in the event of its assignment.

The Management Agreement was approved by the Board, including by a majority of the Independent Trustees, at a meeting held on February 20, 2025. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Management Agreement with respect to the Fund, will be available in the Fund's first published financial statements (commonly known as a semi-annual or annual report to shareholders) contained in Form N-CSR.

The Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration") provides that by virtue of becoming a shareholder of the Trust, each shareholder is bound by the provisions of the Declaration. The Declaration provides a detailed process for the bringing of derivative actions by shareholders for claims other than federal securities law claims. Prior to bringing a derivative action, a written demand by the complaining shareholder must first be made on the Trustees. The Declaration details conditions that must be met with respect to the demand. Following receipt of the demand, the Trustees must be afforded a reasonable amount of time to investigate and consider the demand. If the demand is rejected, the complaining shareholder must reimburse the relevant Fund. The foregoing summary of the derivatives claims process is qualified in its entirety by the Declaration, which is incorporated herein by reference.

#### SUB-ADVISER

### Investment Sub-Adviser and Sub-Advisory Agreement

The Adviser has engaged Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. to serve as sub-adviser to the Fund pursuant to Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement (the "Sub-Advisory Agreement"). The Sub-Adviser is responsible for the management of the Fund's securities portfolio subject to the Adviser's oversight and instructions. Richard A. Kayne is deemed to control the Sub-Adviser through indirect majority ownership of the general partner of the Sub-Adviser.

The Sub-Advisory Agreement will continue in effect for two (2) years initially and then from year to year, provided it is approved at least annually by a vote of the majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the agreement or interested persons of any such party, cast in person at a meeting specifically called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Sub-Advisory Agreement may be terminated without penalty at any time by the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser on 60 days' written notice, and will automatically terminate in the event of its "assignment" (as that term is defined in the 1940 Act). The Adviser, not the Fund, pays the Sub-Adviser. The Sub-Advisory Agreement was approved by the Board, including by a majority of the Independent Trustees, at meetings held on February 20, 2025, and May 19, 2025. A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's approval of the Sub-Advisory Agreement with respect to the Fund, will be available in the Fund's first published financial statements (commonly known as a semi-annual or annual report to shareholders) contained in Form N-CSR.

#### **Codes of Ethics**

The Trust, the Adviser, Sub-Adviser, and Distributor have each adopted codes of ethics (each a "Code") under Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act that governs the personal securities transactions of their board members, officers and employees who may have access to current trading information of the Trust. Under the Codes, the Trustees are permitted to invest in securities that may also be purchased by the Fund.

In addition, the Trust has adopted a code of ethics (the "Trust Code"), which applies only to the Trust's executive officers to ensure that these officers promote professional conduct in the practice of corporate governance and management. The purpose behind these guidelines is to promote (i) honest and ethical conduct, including the ethical handling of actual or apparent conflicts of interest between personal and professional relationships; (ii) full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable disclosure in reports and documents that the Trust files with, or submits to, the SEC and in other public communications made by the Fund; (iii) compliance with applicable governmental laws, rule and regulations; (iv) the prompt internal reporting of violations of the Trust Code to an appropriate person or persons identified in the Trust Code; and (v) accountability for adherence to the Trust Code.

# **Proxy Voting Policies**

The Board has adopted Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures ("Policies") on behalf of the Trust, which delegate the responsibility for voting proxies to the Adviser or its designee, subject to the Board's continuing oversight. The Policies require that the Adviser or its designee vote proxies received in a manner consistent with the best interests of the Fund and shareholders. The Policies also require the Adviser or its designee to present to the Board, at least annually, the Adviser's Proxy Policies, or the proxy policies of the Adviser's designee, and a record of each proxy voted by the Adviser or its designee on behalf of the Fund, including a report on the resolution of all proxies identified by the Adviser as involving a conflict of interest.

Where a proxy proposal raises a material conflict between the Adviser's interests (or its designee's interests) and the Fund's interests, the Adviser or its designee will resolve the conflict by voting in accordance with the policy guidelines or at the client's directive using the recommendation of an independent third party. If the third party's recommendations are not received in a timely fashion, the Adviser or its designee will abstain from voting the securities held by that client's account. A copy of the Adviser's proxy voting policies is attached hereto as Appendix A.

*More information*. Information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund during the most recent 12-month period ended June 30 is available (1) without charge, upon request, by calling the Fund at 1 (855) 772-8488; (2) on the SEC's website at <u>http://www.sec.gov</u>, and on the Fund's website at <u>www.simplify.us/etfs</u>. In addition, a copy of the Fund's proxy voting policies and procedures are also available by calling 877.658.9473 and will be sent within three business days of receipt of a request.

### THE DISTRIBUTOR

Foreside Financial Services, LLC (the "Distributor"), serves as the principal underwriter and national distributor for the shares of the Fund pursuant to an ETF Distribution Agreement with the Trust (the "Distribution Agreement"). The Distributor is registered as a broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and each state's securities laws and is a member of FINRA. The offerings of the Shares are continuous and the Distributor acts as an agent for the Trust. The Distributor will deliver a Prospectus to persons purchasing Shares in Creation Units and will maintain records of both orders placed with it and confirmations of acceptance furnished by it. The Distributor has no role in determining the investments or investment policies of the Fund.

The Distribution Agreement provides that, unless sooner terminated, it will continue in effect for two years initially and thereafter shall continue from year to year, subject to annual approval by (a) the Board or a vote of a majority of the outstanding shares, and (b) by a majority of the Trustees who are not parties to the Distribution Agreement or the Trust's distribution plan or interested persons of the Trust or of the Distributor ("Qualified Trustees") by vote cast in person or in reliance on the SEC order at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval.

The Distribution Agreement may at any time be terminated, without penalty by the Trust, by vote of a majority of the Qualified Trustees or by vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of the Trust on 60 days' written notice to the other party. The Distribution Agreement will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment.

The Fund does not pay the Distributor any fees under the Distribution Agreement. However, the Adviser pays an annual fee to the Distributor plus reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Distributor in connection with activities performed for the Fund, including, without limitation, printing and distribution of prospectuses and shareholder reports, out of its own resources.



### Rule 12b-1 Plan

The Trust, with respect to the Fund, has adopted the Trust's Master Distribution and Shareholder Servicing Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act (the "Plan") for Shares pursuant to which the Fund is authorized to pay the Distributor, as compensation for Distributor's account maintenance services under the Plan. The Board has approved a distribution and shareholder servicing fee at the rate of up to 0.25% of Fund's average daily net assets. Such fees are to be paid by the Fund monthly, or at such other intervals as the Board shall determine. Such fees shall be based upon the Fund's average daily net assets during the preceding month, and shall be calculated and accrued daily. The Fund may pay fees to the Distributor at a lesser rate, as agreed upon by the Board and the Distributor. The Plan authorizes payments to the Distributor as compensation for providing account maintenance services to Fund shareholders, including arranging for certain securities dealers or brokers, administrators and others ("Recipients") to provide these services and paying compensation for these services. The Fund will bear its own costs of distribution with respect to its shares. The Plan was adopted in order to permit the implementation of the Fund's method of distribution. No fees are currently paid by the Fund under the Plan, and there are no current plans to impose such fees. In the event such fees were to be charged, over time they would increase the cost of an investment in the Fund.

The services to be provided by Recipients may include, but are not limited to, the following: assistance in the offering and sale of Fund shares and in other aspects of the marketing of the shares to clients or prospective clients of the respective recipients; answering routine inquiries concerning the Fund; assisting in the establishment and maintenance of accounts or sub-accounts in the Fund and in processing purchase and redemption transactions; making the Fund's investment plan and shareholder services available; and providing such other information and services to investors in shares of the Fund as the Distributor or the Trust, on behalf of the Fund, may reasonably request. The distribution services shall also include any advertising and marketing services provided by or arranged by the Distributor with respect to the Fund.

The Distributor is required to provide a written report, at least quarterly to the Board, specifying in reasonable detail the amounts expended pursuant to the Plan and the purposes for which such expenditures were made. Further, the Distributor will inform the Board of any Rule 12b-1 fees to be paid by the Distributor to Recipients.

The Plan may not be amended to increase materially the amount of the Distributor's compensation to be paid by the Fund, unless such amendment is approved by the vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Fund (as defined in the 1940 Act). All material amendments must be approved by a majority of the Board and a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees by votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on the Plan. During the term of the Plan, the selection and nomination of non-interested Trustees of the Trust will be committed to the discretion of current non-interested Trustees. The Distributor will preserve copies of the Plan, any related agreements, and all reports, for a period of not less than six years from the date of such document and for at least the first two years in an easily accessible place.

Any agreement related to the Plan will be in writing and provide that: (a) it may be terminated by the Trust or the Fund at any time upon sixty days written notice, without the payment of any penalty, by vote of a majority of the respective Rule 12b-1 Trustees, or by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities of the Trust or the Fund; (b) it will automatically terminate in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act); and (c) it will continue in effect for a period of more than one year from the date of its execution or adoption only so long as such continuance is specifically approved at least annually by a majority of the Board and a majority of the Rule 12b-1 Trustees by votes cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such agreement.

# Securities Lending

For the purpose of achieving income, the Fund may lend its portfolio securities, provided (1) the loan is secured continuously by collateral consisting of U.S. Government securities or cash or cash equivalents (cash, U.S. Government securities, negotiable certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances or letters of credit) maintained on a daily mark-to-market basis in an amount at least equal to the current market value of the securities loaned, (2) the Fund may at any time call the loan and obtain the return of securities loaned, (3) the Fund will receive any interest or dividends received on the loaned securities, and (4) the aggregate value of the securities loaned will not at any time exceed one-third of the total assets of the Fund.

# PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

As of February 28, 2025, the portfolio managers are responsible for the portfolio management of the following types of accounts in addition to the Fund:

# David Berns

Total Other Accounts By Type	Total Number of Accounts by Account Type	Total Assets By Account Type (in millions)	Number of Accounts by Type Subject to a Performance Fee	Total Assets By Account Type Subject to a Performance Fee (in millions)
Registered Investment Companies	36	\$6,838.2	0	\$0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other Accounts	0	\$0	0	\$0

# Jim Baker

Total Other Accounts By Type	Total Number of Accounts by Account Type	Total Assets By Account Type (in millions)	Number of Accounts by Type Subject to a Performance Fee	Total Assets By Account Type Subject to a Performance Fee (in millions)
Registered Investment Companies	2	\$3,603.57	0	0
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	3	\$762.32	1	\$490.90
Other Accounts	5	\$340.88	1	\$174.20

Michael Schimmel

Total Other Accounts By Type	Total Number of Accounts by Account Type	Total Assets By Account Type (in millions)	Number of Accounts by Type Subject to a Performance Fee	Total Assets By Account Type Subject to a Performance Fee (in millions)
Registered Investment Companies	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	2	\$200.20	1	\$159.80
Other Accounts	2	\$21.11	0	\$0.00

# **Conflicts of Interest**

As a general matter, certain conflicts of interest may arise in connection with a portfolio manager's management of the Fund's investments, on the one hand, and the investments of other accounts for which a portfolio manager is responsible, on the other. For example, it is possible that the various accounts managed could have different investment strategies that, at times, might conflict with one another to the possible detriment of the Fund. Alternatively, to the extent that the same investment opportunities might be desirable for more than one account, possible conflicts could arise in determining how to allocate them. Other potential conflicts might include conflicts created by specific portfolio manager compensation arrangements, and conflicts relating to selection of brokers or dealers to execute the Fund's portfolio trades and/or specific uses of commissions from the Fund's portfolio trades (for example, research, or "soft dollars", if any). The Adviser and Sub-Adviser have adopted policies and procedures and has structured the portfolio managers' compensation in a manner reasonably designed to safeguard the Fund from being negatively affected as a result of any such potential conflicts.

# Potential Conflicts of Interest Related to the Adviser and Sub-Adviser

In addition to controlling the Sub-Adviser, Mr. Richard A. Kayne owns preferred shares of the Adviser. Mr. Kayne's part ownership of the Adviser presents a potential conflict of interest on the part of the Adviser in selecting the Sub-Adviser, as Mr. Kayne will indirectly benefit form fees paid by the Adviser to the Sub-Adviser. These relationships between Mr. Kayne and each of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser were fully disclosed to, discussed with and considered by the Board in approving the appointment of the Sub-Adviser.

# **Compensation**

Mr. Berns is compensated through a salary and equity participation in the Adviser. Mr. Baker is compensated through a salary and equity participation in the Sub-Adviser, as well as a percentage of the net revenue generated by the funds and accounts on the Kayne Energy Infrastructure platform. Mr. Schimmel is compensated through a salary, discretionary bonus and equity participation in the Sub-Adviser.

# **Ownership of Securities**

The following table shows the dollar range of equity securities beneficially owned by the portfolio managers in the Fund as of the date of this SAI.

Dollar Range of Equity Securities in the Fund					
David Berns         Jim Baker         Michael Schimmel					
None	None	None			

# ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIO BROKERAGE

Specific decisions to purchase or sell securities for the Fund is made by the portfolio managers who are employees of the Adviser or Sub-Adviser. The Adviser and Sub-Adviser are each authorized by the Board to allocate the orders placed on behalf of the Fund to brokers or dealers who may, but need not, provide research or statistical material or other services to the Fund or the Adviser or Sub-Adviser for the Fund's use. Such allocation is to be in such amounts and proportions as the Adviser or Sub-Adviser may determine.

In selecting a broker or dealer to execute each particular transaction, the Adviser and Sub-Adviser will take the following into consideration:

- the best net price available;
- the reliability, integrity and financial condition of the broker or dealer;



- the size of and difficulty in executing the order; and
- the value of the expected contribution of the broker or dealer to the investment performance of the Fund on a continuing basis.

Brokers or dealers executing a portfolio transaction on behalf of the Fund may receive a commission in excess of the amount of commission another broker or dealer would have charged for executing the transaction if the Adviser or Sub-Adviser determines in good faith that such commission is reasonable in relation to the value of brokerage and research services provided to the Fund. In allocating portfolio brokerage, the Adviser or Sub-Adviser may select brokers or dealers who also provide brokerage, research and other services to other accounts over which the Adviser or Sub-Adviser exercises investment discretion. Some of the services received as the result of Fund transactions may primarily benefit accounts other than the transacting Fund, while services received as the result of portfolio transactions effected on behalf of those other accounts may primarily benefit the Fund.

## PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The Fund's portfolio turnover rate is calculated by dividing the lesser of purchases or sales of portfolio securities for the fiscal year by the monthly average of the value of the portfolio securities owned by the Fund during the fiscal year. The calculation excludes from both the numerator and the denominator securities with maturities at the time of acquisition of one year or less. High portfolio turnover involves correspondingly greater brokerage commissions and other transaction costs, which will be borne directly by the Fund. A 100% turnover rate would occur if all of the Fund's portfolio securities were replaced once within a one-year period.

# **OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS**

# Fund Administration

Bank of New York Mellon (the "Administrator"), which has its principal office at 240 Greenwich St., New York, NY 10286, is primarily in the business of providing administrative, fund accounting and transfer agent services to retail and institutional mutual funds.

Pursuant to the Fund Services Agreement with the Fund, the Administrator provides administrative services to the Fund, subject to the supervision of the Board. The Administrator may provide persons to serve as officers of the Fund. Such officers may be directors, officers or employees of the Administrator or its affiliates.

The Fund Services Agreement became effective on July 14, 2020, will remain in effect for two years from the effective date, and will continue thereafter in for successive twelve month periods that such continuance if specifically approved at least annually by a majority of the Board. The agreement is terminable by the Board or the Administrator on ninety days' written notice and may be assigned provided the non-assigning party provides prior written consent. This agreement provides that in the absence of willful misfeasance, bad faith or gross negligence on the part of the Administrator or reckless disregard of its obligations thereunder, the Administrator shall not be liable for any action or failure to act in accordance with its duties thereunder.

Under the Fund Services Agreement, the Administrator provides facilitating administrative services, including: (i) providing services of persons competent to perform such administrative and clerical functions as are necessary to provide effective administration of the Fund; (ii) facilitating the performance of administrative and professional services to the Fund by others, including the Custodian; (iii) preparing, but not paying for, the periodic updating of the Fund's Registration Statement, Prospectuses and Statements of Additional Information in conjunction with Fund counsel, including the printing of such documents for the purpose of filings with the SEC and state securities administrators, and preparing reports to Fund shareholders and the SEC; (iv) preparing in conjunction with Fund counsel, but not paying for, all filings under the securities or "Blue Sky" laws of such states or countries as are designated by the Distributor, which may be required to register or qualify, or continue the registration or qualification, of thee Fund and/or its shares under such laws; (v) preparing notices and agendas for meetings of the Board and minutes of such meetings in all matters required by the 1940 Act to be acted upon by the Board; and (vi) monitoring daily and periodic compliance with respect to all requirements and restrictions of the 1940 Act, the Internal Revenue Code and the Prospectus.



The Administrator also provides the Fund with accounting services, including: (i) daily computation of net asset value; (ii) maintenance of security ledgers and books and records as required by the 1940 Act; (iii) production of the Fund's listing of portfolio securities and general ledger reports; (iv) reconciliation of accounting records; (v) calculation of yield and total return for the Fund; (vi) maintenance of certain books and records described in Rule 31a-1 under the 1940 Act, and reconciliation of account information and balances among the Custodian and Adviser; and (vii) monitoring and evaluation of daily income and expense accruals, and sales and redemptions of shares of the Fund.

For administrative services rendered to the Fund under the agreement, the Administrator receives the greater of an annual minimum fee or an assetbased fee, which scales downward based upon net assets. For the fund accounting services rendered to the Fund under the Agreement, the Administrator receives the greater of an annual minimum fee or an asset-based fee, which scales downward based upon net assets. The Administrator is also reimbursed for any out-of-pocket expenses.

#### Transfer Agent

Bank of New York Mellon, located at 240 Greenwich St., New York, NY 10286, acts as transfer, dividend disbursing, and shareholder servicing agent for the Fund pursuant to written agreement with Fund (the "Transfer Agent"). Under the agreement, the Transfer Agent is responsible for administering and performing transfer agent functions, dividend distribution, shareholder administration, and maintaining necessary records in accordance with applicable rules and regulations.

### **Custodian**

Bank of New York Mellon, located at 240 Greenwich St., New York, NY 10286 (the "Custodian"), serves as the custodian of the Fund's assets pursuant to a Custodian and Transfer Agent Agreement by and between the Custodian and the Trust on behalf of the Fund. The Custodian's responsibilities include safeguarding and controlling the Fund's cash and securities, handling the receipt and delivery of securities, and collecting interest and dividends on the Fund's investments. Pursuant to the Custodian and Transfer Agent Agreement, the Custodian also maintains original entry documents and books of record and general ledgers; posts cash receipts and disbursements; and records purchases and sales based upon communications from the Adviser. The Fund may employ foreign sub-custodians that are approved by the Board to hold foreign assets.

### **DESCRIPTION OF SHARES**

Each share of beneficial interest of the Trust has one vote in the election of Trustees. Cumulative voting is not authorized for the Trust. This means that the holders of more than 50% of the shares voting for the election of Trustees can elect 100% of the Trustees if they choose to do so, and, in that event, the holders of the remaining shares will be unable to elect any Trustees.

Shareholders of the current series of the Trust and any other future series of the Trust will vote in the aggregate and not by series except as otherwise required by law or when the Board determines that the matter to be voted upon affects only the interest of the shareholders of a particular series or classes. Matters such as election of Trustees are not subject to separate voting requirements and may be acted upon by shareholders of the Trust voting without regard to series.

The Trust is authorized to issue an unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest. Each share has equal, dividend, distribution and liquidation rights. There are no conversion or preemptive rights applicable to any shares of the Fund. All shares issued are fully paid and non-assessable.

# ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING PROGRAM

The Trust has established an Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Program (the "Program") as required by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001 ("USA PATRIOT Act"). To ensure compliance with this law, the Trust's Program provides for the development of internal practices, procedures and controls, designation of anti-money laundering compliance officers, an ongoing training program and an independent audit function to determine the effectiveness of the Program. The Trust's secretary serves as its Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer.

Procedures to implement the Program include, but are not limited to, determining that the Distributor and Transfer Agent have established proper antimoney laundering procedures, reporting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity and a providing a complete and thorough review of all new opening account applications. The Trust will not transact business with any person or entity whose identity cannot be adequately verified under the provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

As a result of the Program, the Trust may be required to "freeze" the account of a shareholder if the shareholder appears to be involved in suspicious activity or if certain account information matches information on government lists of known terrorists or other suspicious persons, or the Trust may be required to transfer the account or proceeds of the account to a governmental agency.

#### PURCHASE, REDEMPTION AND PRICING OF SHARES

# **Calculation of Share Price**

As indicated in the Prospectus under the heading "How Shares are Priced," the NAV of the Fund's shares is determined by dividing the total value of the Fund's portfolio investments and other assets, less any liabilities, by the total number of shares outstanding of the Fund.

Generally, the Fund's domestic securities (including underlying ETFs which hold portfolio securities primarily listed on foreign (non-U.S.) exchanges) are valued each day at the last quoted sales price on each security's primary exchange. Securities traded or dealt in upon one or more securities exchanges for which market quotations are readily available and not subject to restrictions against resale shall be valued at the last quoted sales price on the primary exchange, or, in the absence of a sale on the primary exchange, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on such exchange. Securities primarily traded in the NASDAQ National Market System for which market quotations are readily available shall be valued using the NASDAQ Official Closing Price. If market quotations are not readily available, securities will be valued at their fair market value as determined in good faith by the Fund's Adviser as the Board's valuation designee in accordance with procedures approved by the Board and as further described below. Securities that are not traded or dealt in any securities exchange (whether domestic or foreign) and for which over-the-counter market quotations are readily available generally shall be valued at the last sale price or, in the absence of a sale, at the mean between the current bid and ask price on such over-the- counter market.

Certain securities or investments for which daily market quotes are not readily available may be valued, pursuant to guidelines established by the Board, with reference to other securities or indices. Debt securities not traded on an exchange may be valued at prices supplied by a pricing agent(s) based on broker or dealer supplied valuations or matrix pricing, a method of valuing securities by reference to the value of other securities with similar characteristics, such as rating, interest rate and maturity. Short-term investments having a maturity of 60 days or less may be generally valued at amortized cost when it approximated fair value.

Exchange traded options are valued at the last quoted sales price or, in the absence of a sale, at the mean between the current bid and ask prices on the exchange on which such options are traded. Futures and options on futures are valued at the settlement price determined by the exchange, or, if no settlement price is available, at the last sale price as of the close of business prior to when the Fund calculates NAV. Other securities for which market quotes are not readily available are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the Adviser acting as the Board's valuation designee. Swap agreements and other derivatives are generally valued daily depending on the type of instrument and reference assets based upon market prices, the mean between bid and asked prices quotations from market makers or by a pricing service or other parties in accordance with the valuation procedures of the Adviser as valuation designee.

Under certain circumstances, the Fund may use an independent pricing service to calculate the fair market value of foreign equity securities on a daily basis by applying valuation factors to the last sale price or the mean price as noted above. The fair market values supplied by the independent pricing service will generally reflect market trading that occurs after the close of the applicable foreign markets of comparable securities or the value of other instruments that have a strong correlation to the fair-valued securities. The independent pricing service will also take into account the current relevant currency exchange rate. A security that is fair valued may be valued at a price higher or lower than actual market quotations or the value determined by other funds using their own fair valuation procedures. Because foreign securities may trade on days when Shares are not priced, the value of securities held by the Fund can change on days when Shares cannot be redeemed or purchased. In the event that a foreign security's market quotations are not readily available or are deemed unreliable (for reasons other than because the foreign exchange on which it trades closed before the Fund's calculation of NAV), the security will be valued at its fair market value as determined in good faith by the Adviser as the Board's valuation designee in accordance with procedures approved by the Board as discussed below. Without fair valuation, it is possible that short-term traders could take advantage of the arbitrage opportunity and dilute the NAV of long-term investors. Fair valuation of the Fund's portfolio securities can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that it will prevent dilution of the Fund's NAV by short-term traders. In addition, because the Fund may invest in underlying ETFs do not price their shares, the value of these portfolio securities may change on days when you may not be able to buy or sell Shares.

Investments initially valued in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted to U.S. dollars using exchange rates obtained from pricing services or other parties in accordance with the valuation procedures of the Adviser as the Board's valuation designee. As a result, the NAV of the Shares may be affected by changes in the value of currencies in relation to the U.S. dollar. The value of securities traded in markets outside the United States or denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar may be affected significantly on a day that the Exchange is closed and an investor is not able to purchase, redeem or exchange Shares.

Shares are valued at the close of regular trading on each Exchange (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) (the "Exchange Close") on each day that each Exchange is open. For purposes of calculating the NAV, the Fund normally use pricing data for domestic equity securities received shortly after the Exchange Close and does not normally take into account trading, clearances or settlements that take place after the Exchange Close. Domestic fixed income and foreign securities are normally priced using data reflecting the earlier closing of the principal markets for those securities. Information that becomes known to the Fund or its agents after the NAV has been calculated on a particular day will not generally be used to retroactively adjust the price of the security or the NAV determined earlier that day.

When market quotations are insufficient or not readily available, the Fund may value securities at fair value or estimate their value as determined in good faith by the Adviser as the Board's valuation designee, pursuant to procedures approved by the Board. Fair valuation may also be used by the Adviser if extraordinary events occur after the close of the relevant market but prior to the Exchange Close.

## **Creation Units**

The Fund sells and redeems Shares in Creation Units on a continuous basis through the Distributor, without a sales load, at the NAV next determined after receipt of an order in proper form on any Business Day. A "Business Day" is any day on which each Exchange is open for business. As of the date of this SAI, each Exchange observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

A Creation Unit is an aggregation of 25,000 Shares. The Board may declare a split or a consolidation in the number of Shares outstanding of the Fund or Trust and make a corresponding change in the number of Shares in a Creation Unit.

### **Authorized Participants**

Only Authorized Participants that have entered into agreements with the Trust or the Distributor may purchase or redeem Creation Units. In order to be an Authorized Participant, a firm must be either a broker-dealer or other participant ("Participating Party") in the Continuous Net Settlement System ("Clearing Process") of the National Securities Clearing Corporation ("NSCC") or a participant in DTC with access to the DTC system ("DTC Participant"), and you must execute an agreement ("Participant Agreement") with the Distributor that governs transactions in the Fund's Creation Units.

Investors who are not Authorized Participants but want to transact in Creation Units may contact the Distributor for the names of Authorized Participants. An Authorized Participant may require investors to enter into a separate agreement to transact through it for Creation Units and may require orders for purchases of shares placed with it to be in a particular form. Investors transacting through a broker that is not itself an Authorized Participant and therefore must still transact through an Authorized Participant may incur additional charges. There are expected to be a limited number of Authorized Participants at any one time.

Orders must be transmitted by an Authorized Participant by telephone or other transmission method acceptable to the Distributor. Market disruptions and telephone or other communication failures may impede the transmission of orders.

# **Transaction Fees**

A fixed fee payable to the Custodian is imposed on each creation and redemption transaction regardless of the number of Creation Units involved in the transaction ("Fixed Fee"). Purchases and redemptions of Creation Units for cash or involving cash-in-lieu (as defined below) are required to pay an additional variable charge to compensate the relevant Fund and its ongoing shareholders for brokerage and market impact expenses relating to Creation Unit transactions ("Variable Charge," and together with the Fixed Fee, the "Transaction Fees"). With the approval of the Board, the Adviser may waive or adjust the Transaction Fees, including the Fixed Fee and/or Variable Charge (shown in the table below), from time to time. In such cases, the Authorized Participant will reimburse the relevant Fund for, among other things, any difference between the market value at which the securities and/or financial instruments were purchased by the Fund and the cash-in-lieu amount, applicable registration fees, brokerage commissions and certain taxes. In addition, purchasers of Creation Units are responsible for the costs of transferring the deposit securities to the account of the relevant Fund.

Investors who use the services of a broker, or other such intermediary may be charged a fee for such services. The Transaction Fees for the Fund are listed in the table below.

Name of Fund	Fee for In-Kind and Cash Purchases	Maximum Additional Variable Charge for Cash Purchases*
Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF	\$500	3%



# **The Clearing Process**

Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a Participating Party using the NSCC system are referred to as transactions "through the Clearing Process." Transactions by an Authorized Participant that is a DTC Participant using the DTC system are referred to as transactions "outside the Clearing Process." The Clearing Process is an enhanced clearing process that is available only for certain securities and only to DTC participants that are also participants in the Continuous Net Settlement System of the NSCC. In-kind (portions of) purchase orders not subject to the Clearing Process will go through a manual clearing process run by DTC. Portfolio Deposits that include government securities must be delivered through the Federal Reserve Bank wire transfer system ("Federal Reserve System"). Fund Deposits that include cash may be delivered through the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System. In-kind deposits of securities for orders outside the Clearing Process must be delivered through the Federal Reserve System (for government securities) or through DTC (for corporate securities).

#### **Foreign Securities**

Because the portfolio securities of the Fund may trade on days that each Exchange is closed or are otherwise not Business Days for the Fund, shareholders may not be able to redeem their shares of the Fund, or to purchase or sell shares of the Fund on each Exchange, on days when the NAV of the Fund could be significantly affected by events in the relevant foreign markets.

### **Purchasing Creation Units**

### Portfolio Deposit

The consideration for a Creation Unit generally consists of the deposit securities and a Cash Component. Together, the deposit securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Portfolio Deposit." The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the net asset value per Creation Unit and the deposit securities. Thus, the Cash Component is equal to the difference between (x) the net asset value per Creation Unit of the relevant Fund and (y) the market value of the deposit securities. If (x) is more than (y), the Authorized Participant will pay the Cash Component to the relevant Fund. If (x) is less than (y), the Authorized Participant will receive the Cash Component from the relevant Fund.

On each Business Day, prior to the opening of business on each Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the Adviser through the Custodian makes available through NSCC the name and amount of each deposit security in the current Portfolio Deposit (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for the Fund and the (estimated) Cash Component, effective through and including the previous Business Day, per Creation Unit. The deposit securities announced are applicable to purchases of Creation Units until the next announcement of deposit securities.

The deposit securities may change and as rebalancing adjustments and corporate action events of a relevant index, if any, are reflected from time to time by the Adviser in the Fund's portfolio. The deposit securities may also change in response to the rebalancing and/or constitution of a relevant index. These adjustments will reflect changes known to the Adviser on the date of announcement to be in effect by the time of delivery of the Portfolio Deposit.

Payment of any stamp duty or the like shall be the sole responsibility of the Authorized Participant purchasing a Creation Unit. The Authorized Participant must ensure that all deposit securities properly denote change in beneficial ownership.



### Custom Orders and Cash-in-Lieu

The Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of an amount of cash ("cash-in-lieu") to be added to the Cash Component to replace any deposit security. The Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu when, for example, a deposit security may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, the Fund may permit or require cash in lieu of deposit securities when, for example, the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities laws or policies from transacting in one or more deposit securities. The Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in accepting deposit securities including that the deposit securities are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the Securities Act. All orders involving cash-in-lieu, as well as certain other types of orders, are considered to be "Custom Orders."

### Purchase Orders

To order a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable purchase order to the Distributor.

#### Timing of Submission of Purchase Orders

An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable purchase order no later than the earlier of (i) 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time or (ii) the closing time of the bond markets and/or the trading session on each Exchange, on any Business Day in order to receive that Business Day's NAV ("Cut-off Time"). The Cut-off Time for Custom Orders is generally two hours earlier. The Business Day the order is deemed received by the Distributor is referred to as the "Transmittal Date." An order to create Creation Units is deemed received on a Business Day if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Cut-off Time on such day and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Persons placing or effectuating custom orders and/or orders involving cash should be mindful of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, such as DTC and/or the Federal Reserve Bank wire system, which may impact the successful processing of such orders to ensure that cash and securities are transferred by the "Settlement Date," which is generally the Business Day immediately following the Transmittal Date ("T+1").

### Orders Using the Clearing Process

If available, (portions of) orders may be settled through the Clearing Process. In connection with such orders, such trade instructions are transmitted on behalf of the Authorized Participant, as necessary to effect the creation order. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Portfolio Deposit to the Fund, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. Cash Components will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System.

#### Orders Outside the Clearing Process

If the Clearing Process is not available for (portions of) an order, Portfolio Deposits will be made outside the Clearing Process. Orders outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the creation of Creation Units will be effected through DTC. The Portfolio Deposit transfer must be ordered by the DTC Participant on the Transmittal Date in a timely fashion so as to ensure the delivery of deposit securities (whether standard or custom) through DTC to the Fund account by 11:00 a.m., Eastern time, on T+1. The Cash Component, along with any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee, must be transferred directly to the Custodian through the Federal Reserve System in a timely manner so as to be received by the Custodian no later than 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. If the Custodian does not receive both the deposit securities and the cash by the appointed time, the order may be cancelled. A cancelled order may be resubmitted the following Business Day but must conform to that Business Day's Portfolio Deposit. Authorized Participants that submit a cancelled order will be liable to the Fund for any losses incurred by the Fund in connection therewith.

Orders involving foreign deposit securities are expected to be settled outside the Clearing Process. Thus, upon receipt of an irrevocable purchase order, the Distributor will notify the Adviser and the Custodian of such order. The Custodian, who will have caused the appropriate local sub-custodian(s) of the Fund to maintain an account into which an Authorized Participant may deliver deposit securities (or cash-in-lieu), with adjustments determined by the Fund, will then provide information of the order to such local sub-custodian(s). The ordering Authorized Participant will then deliver the deposit securities (and any cash-in-lieu) to the Fund's account at the applicable local sub-custodian. The Authorized Participant must also make available on or before the contractual settlement date, by means satisfactory to the Fund, immediately available or same day funds in U.S. dollars estimated by the Fund to be sufficient to pay the Cash Component and Transaction Fee. When a relevant local market is closed due to local market holidays, the local market settlement process will not commence until the end of the local holiday period. Settlement must occur by 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on the contractual settlement date.

#### Acceptance of Purchase Order

All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the deposit securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Fund. The Fund's determination shall be final and binding.

The Fund reserves the right to reject or revoke acceptance of a purchase order transmitted to it under certain circumstances including but not limited to (a) the order is not in proper form; (b) the investor(s), upon obtaining the shares ordered, would own 80% or more of the currently outstanding shares of the Fund; (c) the deposit securities delivered do not conform to the deposit securities for the applicable date; (d) the acceptance of the Portfolio Deposit would, in the opinion of counsel, be unlawful; or (e) in the event that circumstances outside the control of the Trust, the Distributor and the Adviser make it for all practical purposes impossible to process purchase orders. Examples of such circumstances include acts of God; public service or utility problems resulting in telephone, telecopy or computer failures; fires, floods or extreme weather conditions; market conditions or activities causing trading halts; systems failures involving computer or other informational systems affecting the Trust, the Distributor, DTC, NSCC, the Adviser, the Custodian, a sub-custodian or any other participant in the creation process; and similar extraordinary events. The Distributor shall notify an Authorized Participant of its rejection of the order. The Fund, the Custodian, any sub-custodian and the Distributor are under no duty, however, to give notification of any defects or irregularities in the delivery of Portfolio Deposits, and they shall not incur any liability for the failure to give any such notification.

#### Issuance of a Creation Unit

Once the Fund has accepted an order, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Creation Unit, against receipt of payment, at such NAV. A confirmation of acceptance will be transmitted to the Authorized Participant that placed the order.

Except as provided below, a Creation Unit will not be issued until the Fund obtains good title to the deposit securities and the Cash Component, along with any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee. The delivery of Creation Units will generally occur no later than T+1 except with respect to certain foreign securities.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.

With respect to orders involving foreign deposit securities, when the applicable local sub-custodian(s) have confirmed to the Custodian that the deposit securities (or cash-in-lieu) have been delivered to the Fund's account at the applicable local sub-custodian(s), the Distributor and the Adviser shall be notified of such delivery, and the Fund will issue and cause the delivery of the Creation Unit. While, as stated above, Creation Units are generally delivered on T+1, the Fund may settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than T+1, in order to accommodate foreign market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates (that is the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security), and in certain other circumstances.

The Fund may issue a Creation Unit prior to receiving good title to the deposit securities, under the following circumstances. Pursuant to the applicable Participant Agreement, the Fund may issue a Creation Unit notwithstanding that (certain) deposit securities have not been delivered, in reliance on an undertaking by the relevant Authorized Participant to deliver the missing deposit securities as soon as possible, which undertaking is secured by such Authorized Participant's delivery to and maintenance with the Custodian of collateral having a value equal to at least 115% of the value of the missing deposit securities ("Collateral"), as adjusted by time to time by the Adviser. Such Collateral will have a value greater than the NAV of the Creation Unit on the date the order is placed. Such Collateral must be delivered no later than 2:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. The only Collateral that is acceptable to the Fund is cash in U.S. Dollars.

While (certain) deposit securities remain undelivered, the Collateral shall at all times have a value equal to at least 115% (as adjusted by the Adviser) of the daily marked-to-market value of the missing deposit securities. At any time, the Fund may use the Collateral to purchase the missing securities, and the Authorized Participant will be liable to the Fund for any costs incurred thereby or losses resulting therefrom, whether or not they exceed the amount of the Collateral, including any Transaction Fee, any amount by which the purchase price of the missing deposit securities exceeds the market value of such securities on the Transmittal Date, brokerage and other transaction costs. The Trust will return any unused Collateral once all of the missing securities have been received by the relevant Fund. More information regarding the current procedures for collateralization is available from the Distributor.

#### Cash Purchase Method

When cash purchases of Creation Units are available or specified for the Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind purchases. In the case of a cash purchase, the investor must pay the cash equivalent of the Portfolio Deposit. In addition, cash purchases will be subject to Transaction Fees, as described above.

#### **Redeeming a Creation Unit**

### Redemption Basket

The consideration received in connection with the redemption of a Creation Unit generally consists of an in-kind basket of designated securities ("Redemption Securities") and a Cash Component. Together, the Redemption Securities and the Cash Component constitute the "Redemption Basket."

There can be no assurance that there will be sufficient liquidity in Shares in the secondary market to permit assembly of a Creation Unit. In addition, investors may incur brokerage and other costs in connection with assembling a Creation Unit.

The Cash Component serves the function of compensating for any differences between the net asset value per Creation Unit and the Redemption Securities. Thus, the Cash Component is equal to the difference between (x) the net asset value per Creation Unit of the Fund and (y) the market value of the Redemption Securities. If (x) is more than (y), the Authorized Participant will receive the Cash Component from the Fund. If (x) is less than (y), the Authorized Participant will per the Cash Component to the Fund.

If the Redemption Securities on a Business Day are different from the deposit securities, prior to the opening of business on each Exchange (currently 9:30 a.m., Eastern Time), the Adviser through the Custodian makes available through NSCC the name and amount of each Redemption Security in the current Redemption Basket (based on information at the end of the previous Business Day) for the Fund and the (estimated) Cash Component, effective through and including the previous Business Day, per Creation Unit. If the Redemption Securities on a Business Day are different from the deposit securities, all redemption requests that day will be processed outside the Clearing Process.



The Redemption Securities may change as rebalancing adjustments and corporate action events of the Underlying Index are reflected from time to time by the Adviser in the Fund's portfolio. The Redemption Securities may also change in response to the rebalancing and/or reconstitution of a relevant index, if any. These adjustments will reflect changes known to the Adviser on the date of announcement to be in effect by the time of delivery of the Redemption Basket.

The right of redemption may be suspended or the date of payment postponed: (i) for any period during which the NYSE is closed (other than customary weekend and holiday closings); (ii) for any period during which trading on the NYSE is suspended or restricted; (iii) for any period during which an emergency exists as a result of which disposal of the Shares or determination of an ETF's NAV is not reasonably practicable; or (iv) in such other circumstances as permitted by the SEC, including as described below.

# Custom Redemptions and Cash-in-Lieu

The Fund may, in its sole discretion, permit or require the substitution of cash-in-lieu to be added to the Cash Component to replace any Redemption Security. The Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu when, for example, a Redemption Security may not be available in sufficient quantity for delivery or may not be eligible for transfer through the systems of DTC or the Clearing Process. Similarly, the Fund may permit or require cash-in-lieu of Redemption Securities when, for example, the Authorized Participant or its underlying investor is restricted under U.S. or local securities law or policies from transacting in one or more Redemption Securities. The Fund will comply with the federal securities laws in satisfying redemptions with Redemption Securities, including that the Redemption Securities are sold in transactions that would be exempt from registration under the Securities Act. All redemption requests involving cash-in-lieu are considered to be "Custom Redemptions."

### Redemption Requests

To redeem a Creation Unit, an Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption request to the Distributor.

An Authorized Participant submitting a redemption request is deemed to represent to the Fund that it or, if applicable, the investor on whose behalf it is acting, (i) owns outright or has full legal authority and legal beneficial right to tender for redemption the Creation Unit to be redeemed and can receive the entire proceeds of the redemption, and (ii) all of the Shares that are in the Creation Unit to be redeemed have not been borrowed, loaned or pledged to another party nor are they the subject of a repurchase agreement, securities lending agreement or such other arrangement that would preclude the delivery of such Shares to the Fund. The Fund reserves the absolute right, in its sole discretion, to verify these representations, but will typically require verification in connection with higher levels of redemption activity and/or short interest in the Fund. If the Authorized Participant, upon receipt of a verification request, does not provide sufficient verification of the requested representations, the redemption request will not be considered to be in proper form and may be rejected by the Fund.

#### Timing of Submission of Redemption Requests

An Authorized Participant must submit an irrevocable redemption order no later than the Cut-off Time. The Cut-off Time for Custom Orders is generally two hours earlier. The Business Day the order is deemed received by the Distributor is referred to as the "Transmittal Date." A redemption request is deemed received if (i) such order is received by the Distributor by the Cut-off Time on such day and (ii) all other procedures set forth in the Participant Agreement are properly followed. Persons placing or effectuating Custom Redemptions and/or orders involving cash should be mindful of time deadlines imposed by intermediaries, such as DTC and/or the Federal Reserve System, which may impact the successful processing of such orders to ensure that cash and securities are transferred by the Settlement Date, as defined above.

### Requests Using the Clearing Process

If available, (portions of) redemption requests may be settled through the Clearing Process. In connection with such orders, such trade instructions as are necessary to effect the redemption are transmitted on behalf of the Authorized Participant. Pursuant to such trade instructions, the Authorized Participant agrees to deliver the requisite Creation Unit(s) to the Fund, together with such additional information as may be required by the Distributor. Cash Components will be delivered using either the Clearing Process or the Federal Reserve System, as described above.

#### Requests Outside the Clearing Process

If the Clearing Process is not available for (portions of) an order, Redemption Baskets will be delivered outside the Clearing Process. Orders outside the Clearing Process must state that the DTC Participant is not using the Clearing Process and that the redemption will be effected through DTC. The Authorized Participant must transfer or cause to be transferred the Creation Unit(s) of shares being redeemed through the book-entry system of DTC so as to be delivered through DTC to the Custodian by 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time, on received T+1. In addition, the Cash Component must be received by the Custodian by 12:00 p.m., Eastern Time, on T+1. If the Custodian does not receive the Creation Unit(s) and Cash Component by the appointed times on T+1, the redemption will be rejected, except in the circumstances described below. A rejected redemption request may be resubmitted the following Business Day.

Orders involving foreign Redemption Securities are expected to be settled outside the Clearing Process. Thus, the Adviser and the Custodian will be notified upon receipt of an irrevocable redemption request. The Custodian will then provide information of the redemption to the Fund's local sub-custodian(s). The redeeming Authorized Participant, or the investor on whose behalf is acting, will have established appropriate arrangements with a broker-dealer, bank or other custody provider in each jurisdiction in which the Redemption Securities are customarily traded and to which such Redemption Securities (and any cash-in-lieu) can be delivered from the Fund's accounts at the applicable local sub-custodian(s).

#### Acceptance of Redemption Requests

All questions as to the number of shares of each security in the deposit securities and the validity, form, eligibility and acceptance for deposit of any securities to be delivered shall be determined by the Trust. The Trust's determination shall be final and binding.

#### Delivery of Redemption Basket

Once the Fund has accepted a redemption request, upon next determination of the Fund's NAV, the Fund will confirm the issuance of a Redemption Basket, against receipt of the Creation Unit(s) at such NAV, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee. A Creation Unit tendered for redemption and the payment of the Cash Component, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee will be effected through DTC. The Authorized Participant, or the investor on whose behalf it is acting, will be recorded on the book-entry system of DTC.

The Redemption Basket will generally be delivered to the redeeming Authorized Participant within T+1. Except under the circumstances described below, however, a Redemption Basket generally will not be issued until the Creation Unit(s) are delivered to the Fund, along with the Cash Component, any cash-in-lieu and Transaction Fee.

In certain cases, Authorized Participants will create and redeem Creation Units on the same trade date. In these instances, the Trust reserves the right to settle these transactions on a net basis.



With respect to orders involving foreign Redemption Securities, the Fund may settle Creation Unit transactions on a basis other than T+1 in order to accommodate foreign market holiday schedules, to account for different treatment among foreign and U.S. markets of dividend record dates and ex-dividend dates (that is the last day the holder of a security can sell the security and still receive dividends payable on the security), and in certain other circumstances. When a relevant local market is closed due to local market holidays, the local market settlement process will not commence until the end of the local holiday period.

### Cash Redemption Method

When cash redemptions of Creation Units are available or specified for the Fund, they will be effected in essentially the same manner as in-kind redemptions. In the case of a cash redemption, the investor will receive the cash equivalent of the Redemption Basket minus any Transaction Fees, as described above.

## TAX STATUS

The following discussion is general in nature and should not be regarded as an exhaustive presentation of all possible tax ramifications. All shareholders should consult a qualified tax adviser regarding their investment in the Fund.

The Fund intends to qualify and elect to be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Tax Code"), and intends to continue to so qualify, which requires compliance with certain requirements concerning the sources of its income, diversification of its assets, and the amount and timing of its distributions to shareholders. Such qualification does not involve supervision of management or investment practices or policies by any government agency or bureau. By so qualifying, the Fund should not be subject to federal income or excise tax on its net investment income or net capital gain, which are distributed to shareholders in accordance with the applicable timing requirements. Net investment income and net capital gain of the Fund will be computed in accordance with Section 852 of the Tax Code.

Net investment income is made up of dividends and interest less expenses. Net capital gain for a fiscal year is computed by taking into account any capital loss carryforward of the Fund. Capital losses incurred after January 31, 2011 may now be carried forward indefinitely and retain the character of the original loss. Under pre-enacted laws, capital losses could be carried forward to offset any capital gains for eight years, and carried forward as short-term capital, irrespective of the character of the original loss. Capital loss carry forwards are available to offset future realized capital gains. To the extent that these carry forwards are used to offset future capital gains it is probable that the amount offset will not be distributed to shareholders.

The Fund intends to distribute all of its net investment income, any excess of net short-term capital gains over net long-term capital losses, and any excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses in accordance with the timing requirements imposed by the Tax Code and therefore should not be required to pay any federal income or excise taxes. Distributions of net capital gain, if any, will be made annually no later than December 31 of each year. Both types of distributions will be in cash.

To be treated as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Tax Code, the Fund must also (a) derive at least 90% of its gross income from dividends, interest, payments with respect to securities loans, net income from certain publicly traded partnerships and gains from the sale or other disposition of securities or foreign currencies, or other income (including, but not limited to, gains from options, futures or forward contracts) derived with respect to the business of investing in such securities or currencies, and (b) diversify its holding so that, at the end of each fiscal quarter, (i) at least 50% of the market value of the Fund's assets is represented by cash, U.S. government securities and securities of other regulated investment companies, and other securities (for purposes of this calculation, generally limited in respect of any one issuer, to an amount not greater than 5% of the market value of the Fund's assets and 10% of the outstanding voting securities of such issuer) and (ii) not more than 25% of the value of its assets is invested in the securities of (other than U.S. government securities or the securities of other regulated investment companies) any one issuer, two or more issuers that the Fund controls and that are determined to be engaged in the same or similar trades or businesses, or the securities of certain publicly traded partnerships.

If the Fund fails to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M in any fiscal year, it will be treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes. As such that Fund would be required to pay income taxes on its net investment income and net realized capital gains, if any, at the rates generally applicable to corporations. Shareholders of the Fund generally would not be liable for income tax on the Fund's net investment income or net realized capital gains, would be treated as taxable dividends to the extent of current or accumulated earnings and profits of the Fund.

The Fund is subject to a 4% nondeductible excise tax on certain undistributed amounts of ordinary income and capital gain under a prescribed formula contained in Section 4982 of the Tax Code. The formula requires payment to shareholders during a calendar year of distributions representing at least 98% of the Fund's ordinary income for the calendar year and at least 98.2% of its capital gain net income (i.e., the excess of its capital gains over capital losses) realized during the one-year period ending October 31 during such year plus 100% of any income that was neither distributed nor taxed to the Fund during the preceding calendar year. Under ordinary circumstances, the Fund expects to time its distributions so as to avoid liability for this tax.

The following discussion of tax consequences is for the general information of shareholders that are subject to tax. Shareholders that are IRAs or other qualified retirement plans are exempt from income taxation under the Tax Code.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and the excess of net short-term capital gain over net long-term capital loss are taxable to shareholders as ordinary income.

Distributions of net capital gain ("capital gain dividends") generally are taxable to shareholders as long-term capital gain; regardless of the length of time the shares of the Trust have been held by such shareholders.

Certain U.S. shareholders, including individuals and estates and trusts, are subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on all or a portion of their "net investment income," which should include dividends from the Fund and net gains from the disposition of shares of the Fund. U.S. shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisers regarding the implications of the additional Medicare tax resulting from an investment in the Fund.

Redemption of Fund shares by a shareholder will result in the recognition of taxable gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized and the shareholder's tax basis in his or her Fund shares. Such gain or loss is treated as a capital gain or loss if the shares are held as capital assets. However, any loss realized upon the redemption of shares within six months from the date of their purchase will be treated as a long-term capital loss to the extent of any amounts treated as capital gain dividends during such six-month period. All or a portion of any loss realized upon the redemption of shares may be disallowed to the extent shares are purchased (including shares acquired by means of reinvested dividends) within 30 days before or after such redemption.

Distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain will be taxable as described above, whether received in additional cash or shares. Shareholders electing to receive distributions in the form of additional shares will have a cost basis for federal income tax purposes in each share so received equal to the net asset value of a share on the reinvestment date.

All distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain, whether received in shares or in cash, must be reported by each taxable shareholder on his or her federal income tax return. Dividends or distributions declared in October, November or December as of a record date in such a month, if any, will be deemed to have been received by shareholders on December 31, if paid during January of the following year. Redemptions of shares may result in tax consequences (gain or loss) to the shareholder and are also subject to these reporting requirements.

Under the Tax Code, the Fund will be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service all distributions of taxable income and capital gains as well as gross proceeds from the redemption or exchange of Fund shares, except in the case of certain exempt shareholders. Under the backup withholding provisions of Section 3406 of the Tax Code, distributions of taxable net investment income and net capital gain and proceeds from the redemption or exchange of the shares of a regulated investment company may be subject to withholding of federal income tax in the case of non-exempt shareholders who fail to furnish the investment company with their taxpayer identification numbers and with required certifications regarding their status under the federal income tax law, or if the Fund is notified by the IRS or a broker that withholding is required due to an incorrect TIN or a previous failure to report taxable interest or dividends. If the withholding provisions are applicable, any such distributions and proceeds, whether taken in cash or reinvested in additional shares, will be reduced by the amounts required to be withheld.

#### **Options, Futures, Forward Contracts and Swap Agreements**

To the extent such investments are permissible for the Fund, the Fund's transactions in options, futures contracts, hedging transactions, forward contracts, straddles and foreign currencies will be subject to special tax rules (including mark-to-market, constructive sale, straddle, wash sale and short sale rules), the effect of which may be to accelerate income to the Fund, defer losses to the Fund, cause adjustments in the holding periods of the Fund's securities, convert long-term capital gains into short-term capital gains and convert short-term capital losses into long-term capital losses. These rules could therefore affect the amount, timing and character of distributions to shareholders.

To the extent such investments are permissible, certain of the Fund's hedging activities (including its transactions, if any, in foreign currencies or foreign currency-denominated instruments) are likely to produce a difference between its book income and its taxable income. If the Fund's book income exceeds its taxable income, the distribution (if any) of such excess book income will be treated as (i) a dividend to the extent of the Fund's remaining earnings and profits (including earnings and profits arising from tax-exempt income), (ii) thereafter, as a return of capital to the extent of the recipient's basis in the shares, and (iii) thereafter, as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset. If the Fund's book income is less than taxable income, the Fund could be required to make distributions exceeding book income to qualify as a regulated investment company that is accorded special tax treatment.

### Passive Foreign Investment Companies

Investment by the Fund in certain passive foreign investment companies ("PFICs") could subject the Fund to a U.S. federal income tax (including interest charges) on distributions received from the company or on proceeds received from the disposition of shares in the company, which tax cannot be eliminated by making distributions to Fund shareholders. However, the Fund may elect to treat a PFIC as a qualified electing fund ("QEF"), in which case the Fund will be required to include its share of the company's income and net capital gains annually, regardless of whether it receives any distribution from the company.

The Fund also may make an election to mark the gains (and to a limited extent losses) in such holdings "to the market" as though it had sold and repurchased its holdings in those PFICs on the last day of the Fund's taxable year. Such gains and losses are treated as ordinary income and loss. The QEF and mark-to-market elections may accelerate the recognition of income (without the receipt of cash) and increase the amount required to be distributed for the Fund to avoid taxation. Making either of these elections, therefore, may require the Fund to liquidate other investments (including when it is not advantageous to do so) to meet its distribution requirement, which also may accelerate the recognition of gain and affect the Fund's total return.

## **Foreign Currency Transactions**

The Fund's transactions in foreign currencies, foreign currency-denominated debt securities and certain foreign currency options, futures contracts and forward contracts (and similar instruments) may give rise to ordinary income or loss to the extent such income or loss results from fluctuations in the value of the foreign currency concerned.

# **Foreign Taxation**

Income received by the Fund from sources within foreign countries may be subject to withholding and other taxes imposed by such countries. Tax treaties and conventions between certain countries and the U.S. may reduce or eliminate such taxes. If more than 50% of the value of the Fund's total assets at the close of its taxable year consists of securities of foreign corporations, the Fund may be able to elect to "pass through" to the Fund's shareholders the amount of eligible foreign income and similar taxes paid by the Fund. If this election is made, a shareholder generally subject to tax will be required to include in gross income (in addition to taxable dividends actually received) his or her pro rata share of the foreign taxes paid by the Fund, and may be entitled either to deduct (as an itemized deduction) his or her pro rata share of foreign taxes in computing his or her taxable income or to use it as a foreign tax credit against his or her U.S. federal income tax liability, subject to certain limitations. In particular, a shareholder must hold his or her shares (without protection from risk of loss) on the ex-dividend date and for at least 15 more days during the 30-day period surrounding the ex-dividend date to be eligible to claim a foreign tax credit with respect to a gain dividend. No deduction for foreign taxes may be claimed by a shareholder who does not itemize deductions. Each shareholder will be notified within 60 days after the close of the Fund's taxable year whether the foreign taxes paid by the Fund will "pass through" for that year.

Generally, a credit for foreign taxes is subject to the limitation that it may not exceed the shareholder's U.S. tax attributable to his or her total foreign source taxable income. For this purpose, if the pass-through election is made, the source of the Fund's income will flow through to shareholders of the Fund. With respect to the Fund, gains from the sale of securities will be treated as derived from U.S. sources and certain currency fluctuation gains, including fluctuation gains from foreign currency-denominated debt securities, receivables and payables will be treated as ordinary income derived from U.S. sources. The limitation on the foreign tax credit is applied separately to foreign source passive income, and to certain other types of income. A shareholder may be unable to claim a credit for the full amount of his or her proportionate share of the foreign taxes paid by the Fund. The foreign tax credit can be used to offset only 90% of the revised alternative minimum tax imposed on corporations and individuals and foreign taxes generally are not deductible in computing alternative minimum taxable income.

#### **Original Issue Discount and Pay-In-Kind Securities**

Current federal tax law requires the holder of a U.S. Treasury or other fixed income zero coupon security to accrue as income each year a portion of the discount at which the security was purchased, even though the holder receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year. In addition, pay-in-kind securities will give rise to income, which is required to be distributed and is taxable even though the Fund holding the security receives no interest payment in cash on the security during the year.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Fund may be treated as debt securities that are issued originally at a discount. Generally, the amount of the original issue discount ("OID") is treated as interest income and is included in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. A portion of the OID includable in income with respect to certain high-yield corporate debt securities (including certain pay-in-kind securities) may be treated as a dividend for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Some of the debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of more than one year from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Fund in the secondary market may be treated as having market discount. Generally, any gain recognized on the disposition of, and any partial payment of principal on, a debt security having market discount is treated as ordinary income to the extent the gain, or principal payment, does not exceed the "accrued market discount" on such debt security. Market discount generally accrues in equal daily instalments. The Fund may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having market discount, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

Some debt securities (with a fixed maturity date of one year or less from the date of issuance) that may be acquired by the Fund may be treated as having acquisition discount, or OID in the case of certain types of debt securities. Generally, the Fund will be required to include the acquisition discount, or OID, in income over the term of the debt security, even though payment of that amount is not received until a later time, usually when the debt security matures. The Fund may make one or more of the elections applicable to debt securities having acquisition discount, or OID, which could affect the character and timing of recognition of income.

The Fund that holds the foregoing kinds of securities may be required to pay out as an income distribution each year an amount that is greater than the total amount of cash interest the Fund actually received. Such distributions may be made from the cash assets of the Fund or by liquidation of portfolio securities, if necessary (including when it is not advantageous to do so). The Fund may realize gains or losses from such liquidations. In the event the Fund realizes net capital gains from such transactions, its shareholders may receive a larger capital gain distribution, if any, than they would in the absence of such transactions.

Shareholders of the Fund may be subject to state and local taxes on distributions received from the Fund and on redemptions of the Shares.

A brief explanation of the form and character of the distribution accompany each distribution. In January of each year, the Fund issues to each shareholder a statement of the federal income tax status of all distributions.

Shareholders should consult their tax advisers about the application of federal, state and local and foreign tax law in light of their particular situation.

### INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Cohen & Company, Ltd., 1350 Euclid Ave., Suite 800, Cleveland, OH 44115, serves as the Fund's independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year. The firm provides services including (i) audit of annual financial statements, (ii) tax services for the Fund, and (iii) assistance and consultation in connection with SEC filings.

### LEGAL COUNSEL

Thompson Hine LLP, 41 South High Street, Suite 1700, Columbus, OH 43215, serves as the Trust's legal counsel.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A copy of the Fund's Semi-Annual and Annual Reports included in Form N-CSR, when issued, may be obtained upon request and without charge by calling 1 (855) 772-8488 during normal business hours or by visiting <u>www.simplify.us/etfs</u>. Because the Fund has not yet commenced operations, no financial statements are available for the Fund as of the date of this SAI.

# PROXY VOTING POLICY – APPENDIX A

#### **Policies and Procedures**

Simplify Asset Management, Inc. ("SAMI" or the "Company") has the authority to vote proxies with respect of securities in client accounts ("Client Securities") over which the Company has voting discretion. In such cases, the Company will cast proxy votes in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of the Company's clients. Where the Company undertakes proxy voting responsibilities on behalf of multiple clients, it shall consider whether it should have different voting policies for some or all of these different clients, depending on the investment strategy and objectives of each client. These proxy voting policies and procedures are designed to deal with the complexities which may arise in cases where the Company's interests conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of its clients and to provide a copy of proxy voting and these procedures upon client request. SAMI will also make available the record of the Company's votes promptly upon request.

Unless contractually obligated to vote in a certain manner, the Company will reach its voting decisions independently, after appropriate investigation. It does not generally intend to delegate its decision-making or to rely on the recommendations of any third party, although it may take such recommendations into consideration. Where the Company deviates from the guidelines listed below, or depends upon a third party to make the decision, the reasons shall be documented. SAMI may consult with such other experts, such as CPA's, investment bankers, attorneys, etc., as it deems necessary to help reach informed decisions.

The CCO is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.

SAMI generally will monitor proposed corporate actions and proxy issues regarding client securities and may take any of the following actions based on the best interests of its clients: (i) determine how to vote the proxies; (ii) abstain; or (iii) follow the recommendations of an independent proxy voting service in voting the proxies.

In general, the Company will determine how to vote proxies based on reasonable judgment of the vote most likely to produce favorable financial results for its clients. Proxy votes generally will be cast in favor of proposals that maintain or strengthen the shared interests of shareholders. Proxy votes generally will be cast against proposals having the opposite effect. The Company will always consider each side of each proxy issue.

# **Non-Voting of Proxies**

SAMI will generally not vote proxies in the following situations:

- Where the Company and client have agreed in advance to limit the conditions under which the Company would exercise voting authority;
  - Proxies are received for equity securities where, at the time of receipt, the Company's position, across all clients that it advises, is less than, or equal to, 1% of the total outstanding voting equity (an "immaterial position"); or
  - Where the Company has determined that refraining is in the best interest of the client, such as when the cost to the client of voting the proxy is greater than the expected benefit of voting (e.g. voting a foreign security that is required to be made in person).
- Proxies are received for equity securities where, at the time of receipt, the Company's clients no longer hold that position.

A-1

#### **Management Proposals**

Absent good reason to the contrary, the Company will generally give substantial weight to management recommendations regarding voting. This is based on the view that management is usually in the best position to know which corporate actions are in the best interests of common shareholders as a whole.

SAMI will generally vote for routine matters proposed by issuer management, such as setting a time or place for an annual meeting, changing the name or fiscal year of the company, or voting for directors in favor of the management proposed slate. Other routine matters in which the Company will generally vote along with company management include: appointment of auditors; fees paid to board members; and change in the board structure. The Company will generally vote along with management as long as the proposal does not: i) measurably change the structure, management, control or operations of the company; ii) measurably change the terms of, or fees or expenses associated with, an investment in the company; and (iii) the proposal is consistent with customary industry standards and practices, as well as the laws of the state of incorporation applicable to the company. Routine matters may not necessitate the same level of analysis than non-routine matters.

# **Non-Routine Matters**

Non-routine matters include such things as:

- Amendments to management incentive plans;
- The authorization of additional common or preferred stock;
- Initiation or termination of barriers to takeover or acquisition;
- Mergers or acquisitions;
- Changes in the state of incorporation;
- Corporate reorganizations;
- Term limits for board members; and
- "Contested" director slates.

In non-routine matters, the Company will attempt to be generally familiar with the questions at issue. Non-routine matters will be voted on a case-by-case basis given the complexity of many of these issues. When determining how to vote non-routine matters the Company shall conduct an issue-specific analysis, giving consideration to the potential effect on the value of a client's investments, documentation of the analysis shall be maintained in the Company's proxy voting files.

#### **Processing Proxy Votes**

The CCO will be responsible for determining whether each proxy is for a "routine" matter, as described above, and whether the policy and procedures set forth herein actually address the specific issue. For proxies that are not clearly "routine", the Company, in conjunction with the CCO, will determine how to vote each such proxy by applying these policies and procedures. Upon making a decision, the proxy will be executed and returned for submission to the issuer. SAMI's proxy voting record will be updated at the time the proxy is submitted.

An independent proxy voting advisory and research firm may be appointed as a "Proxy Service" for voting the Company's proxies after approval by the CCO.

### **Periodic Testing**

The Company shall evaluate compliance by periodically sampling the proxy votes it casts on behalf of its clients by sampling proxy votes that relate to proposals that are non-routine matters and require more issue-specific analysis (*e.g.*, mergers and acquisition transactions, dissolutions, conversions, or consolidations).



# **Conflicts of Interest**

Conflicts of interest between the Company or a principal of the Company and the Company's clients with respect to a proxy issue conceivably may arise, for example, from personal or professional relationships with an issuer or with the directors, candidates for director, or senior executives of an issuer.

Potential conflicts of interest between the Company and its clients may arise when the Company's relationships with an issuer or with a related third party actually conflict, or appear to conflict, with the best interests of the Company's clients.

If the issue is specifically addressed in these policies and procedures, the Company will vote in accordance with these policies. In a situation where the issue is not specifically addressed in these policies and procedures and an apparent or actual conflict exists, the Company shall either: i) delegate the voting decision to an independent third party; ii) inform clients of the conflict of interest and obtain advance consent of a majority of such clients for a particular voting decision; or iii) obtain approval of a voting decision from the Company's CCO, who will be responsible for documenting the rationale for the decision made and voted.

In all such cases, the Company will make disclosures to clients of all material conflicts and will keep documentation supporting its voting decisions.

If the CCO determines that a material conflict of interest exists, the following procedures shall be followed:

- 1. SAMI may disclose the existence and nature of the conflict to the client(s) owning the securities, and seek directions on how to vote the proxies;
- 2. SAMI may abstain from voting, particularly if there are conflicting client interests (for example, where client accounts hold different client securities in a competitive merger situation); or
- 3. SAMI may follow the recommendations of an independent proxy voting service in voting the proxies.

### **Disclosure to Clients**

A summary of the Company's proxy voting policy will be included in the Company's Disclosure Brochure. The full text of the Company's proxy voting policy will be provided to clients upon request.

### **Proxy Advisory Firm**

When the Company retains a proxy advisory firm to provide research, voting recommendations or voting execution services, the Company shall conduct reasonable oversight to ensure the proxy adviser's recommendations are consistent with the Company's proxy voting policies and in the best interest of the Company's clients and investors. The level of oversight may vary depending on (1) the scope of the investment adviser's voting authority, and (2) the type of functions and services that the investment adviser has retained the proxy advisory firm to perform.

### Periodic Advisory Firm Testing

The Company shall periodically evaluate the proxy services provided by third party providers which should consider the services, recommendations made by the provider and how the provider voted, as applicable, and consider the steps enumerated below.

When conducting oversight of a proxy advisory firm, the Company should consider taking the following steps:

- whether the proxy advisory firm has the capacity and competency to adequately analyze the matters for which the investment adviser is responsible for voting including the adequacy and quality of the proxy advisory firm's staffing, personnel, and/or technology;
- the adequacy of disclosures the proxy advisory firm has provided regarding its methodologies in formulating voting recommendations, such that the Company can understand the factors underlying the proxy advisory firm's voting recommendations
- the effectiveness of the proxy advisory firm's policies and procedures for obtaining current and accurate information relevant to matters included in its research and on which it makes voting recommendations;



- the Company's access to the proxy advisory firm's sources of information and methodologies used in formulating voting recommendations or executing voting instructions;
- the nature of any third-party information sources that the proxy advisory firm uses as a basis for its voting recommendations;
- whether the proxy advisory firm has adequate policies and procedures to identify, disclose, and address actual and potential conflicts of interest.

# **Class Action Lawsuits**

From time to time, securities held in the accounts of clients will be the subject of class action lawsuits. SAMI has no obligation to determine if securities held by the client are subject to a pending or resolved class action lawsuit. It also has no duty to evaluate a client's eligibility or to submit a claim to participate in the proceeds of a securities class action settlement or verdict. Furthermore, the Company has no obligation or responsibility to initiate litigation to recover damages on behalf of clients who may have been injured because of actions, misconduct, or negligence by corporate management of issuers whose securities are held by clients.

Where the Company receives written or electronic notice of a class action lawsuit, settlement, or verdict directly relating to a client account, it will forward all notices, proof of claim forms, and other materials, to the client. Electronic mail is acceptable where appropriate if the client has authorized contact in this manner.



# PART C: OTHER INFORMATION

# Item 28. Exhibits

- (a) (1) Certificate of Trust dated February 28, 2020, as filed with the State of Delaware on February 28, 2020, for Simplify Exchange Traded Funds (the "Registrant" or "Trust")<sup>2</sup>
  - (2) Agreement and Declaration of Trust of the Registrant<sup>3</sup>
- (b) (1) <u>By-Laws of the Registrant<sup>3</sup></u>
- (b) (2) <u>Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Registrant<sup>22</sup></u>
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) (1) Management Agreement between the Registrant and Simplify Asset Management Inc. (the "Adviser") with respect to Simplify US Equity PLUS Convexity ETF, Simplify US Equity PLUS Downside Convexity ETF, Simplify US Equity PLUS Upside Convexity ETF, Simplify Volt Tesla Revolution ETF, Simplify U.S. Equity PLUS GBTC ETF, Simplify Volatility Premium ETF, Simplify Interest Rate Hedge ETF, Simplify Tail Risk ETF, Simplify Intermediate Term Treasury Futures Strategy ETF, Simplify Hedged Equity ETF, Simplify Health Care ETF, Simplify Volt Web3 ETF, Simplify Bitcoin Strategy PLUS Income ETF, Simplify Short Term Treasury Futures Strategy ETF, Simplify Moderate Allocation ETF, Simplify Growth Allocation ETF, Simplify Income Allocation ETF, Simplify Propel Opportunities ETF, Simplify Multi-OIS Alternative ETF, Simplify Opportunistic Income ETF, Simplify Macro Strategy ETF, Simplify High Yield PLUS Credit Hedge ETF, Simplify Aggregate Bond ETF, Simplify Managed Futures Strategy ETF, Simplify Enhanced Income ETF, Simplify Commodities Strategy No K-1 ETF, Simplify MBS ETF and Simplify US Equity PLUS QIS ETF<sup>21</sup>
  - (2) <u>Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Volt Equity LLC ("Volt")<sup>5</sup></u>
  - (3) <u>Management Agreement between the Adviser and the Simplify Volatility Premium Cayman Fund<sup>6</sup></u>
  - (4) <u>Management Agreement between the Adviser and the Simplify U.S. Equity PLUS Bitcoin Cayman Fund</u><sup>7</sup>
  - (5) <u>Management Agreement between the Adviser and the Simplify Managed Futures Strategy Cayman Fund.<sup>12</sup></u>
  - (6) <u>Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Volt with respect to Simplify Volt Web3 ETF<sup>13</sup></u>
  - (7) <u>Management Agreement between the Adviser and the Simplify Bitcoin Strategy PLUS Income Cayman Fund<sup>14</sup></u>
  - (8) Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Trust, Adviser and the Sub-Adviser with respect to the Simplify Propel Opportunities  $ETF^{17}$

- (9) Fee Waiver Agreement between the Trust, Adviser and the Sub-Adviser with respect to the Simplify Propel Opportunities ETF<sup>27</sup>
- (10) Management Agreement between the Adviser and the Simplify Commodities No K-1 Strategy Cayman Fund<sup>18</sup>
- (11) <u>Management Agreement between the Registrant and Adviser on behalf of the Simplify Multi-QIS Alternative Cayman Fund<sup>21</sup></u>
- (12) Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Asterozoa Capital, LLC with respect to Simplify Opportunistic Income ETF<sup>19</sup>
- (13) <u>Trading Advisory Agreement between Adviser and Altis Partners (Jersey) Limited<sup>18</sup></u>
- (14) Fee Waiver Agreement between the Trust, the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser with respect to Simplify Opportunistic Income ETF<sup>21</sup>
- (15) <u>Management Agreement between the Registrant and Adviser on behalf of the Simplify Enhanced Income Cayman Fund Limited<sup>19</sup></u>
- (16) (i) Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser for the purpose of adding Simplify Boosted US Equity Active ETF, Simplify Boosted US Quality Active ETF, Simplify Boosted US Value Active ETF, and Simplify Opportunistic Equity ETF<sup>32</sup>
  - (ii) <u>Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser, as previously filed on October 27, 2023, for the purpose of adding Simplify Tara India Opportunities ETF<sup>22</sup></u>
  - (iii) <u>Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser, as previously filed on October 27, 2023, for the purpose of adding Simplify Next Intangible Core Index ETF and Simplify Next Intangible Value Index ETF<sup>23</sup></u>
  - (iv) <u>Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser, as previously filed on October 27, 2023, for the purpose of adding Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond ETF and Simplify National Muni Bond ETF<sup>25</sup></u>
  - (v) Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser for the purpose of adding Simplify Wolfe Alpha Capture ETF, Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral SHIELD ETF, and Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral Quality ETF<sup>32</sup>
  - (vi) Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser, as previously filed on October 27, 2023, for the purpose of adding Simplify Gold Strategy PLUS Income ETF, Simplify US Small Cap PLUS Income ETF, Simplify Currency Strategy ETF, and Simplify Downside Interest Rate Hedge Strategy ETF<sup>28</sup>



- (vii) <u>Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser for the purpose of adding Simplify</u> Tactical US ETF and Simplify China A Shares PLUS Income ETF<sup>28</sup>
- (viii) Amendment to Exhibit A of the Management Agreement between the Registrant and the Adviser for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 15 Distribution ETF, Simplify Target 25 Distribution ETF, Simplify Barrier Income ETF, Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF, Simplify Piper Sandler US Small-Cap PLUS Income ETF, Simplify VettaFi Small Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, Simplify VettaFi Large Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, and Simplify VettaFi Developed Ex-US Dividend Initiators ETF<sup>30</sup>
- (17) Fee Waiver Agreement between the Trust and the Adviser with respect to Simplify Short Term Treasury Futures Strategy ETF, Simplify Macro Strategy ETF, Simplify Aggregate Bond ETF, Simplify High Yield PLUS Credit Hedge ETF, and Simplify MBS ETF<sup>21</sup>
- (18) (i) <u>Amendment to Exhibit A of the Fee Waiver Agreement between the Trust and the Adviser as previously filed on October 27, 2023<sup>21</sup></u>
  - (ii) Amendment to Exhibit A of the Fee Waiver Agreement between the Trust and the Adviser for the purpose of adding Simplify Boosted US Equity Active ETF, Simplify Boosted US Quality Active ETF, and Simplify Boosted US Value Active ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (19) Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Trust, Adviser and System 2 Advisors L.P. with respect to the Simplify Tara India Opportunities ETF<sup>22</sup>
- (20) Fee Waiver Agreement between the Adviser and System 2 Advisors L.P. with respect to Simplify Tara India Opportunities ETF<sup>27</sup>
- (21) <u>Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Gamma Asset Management LLC with respect to Simplify Gamma Emerging</u> <u>Market Bond ETF<sup>25</sup></u>
- (22) Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Trust, Adviser, and FCO Advisors LP with respect to Simplify National Muni Bond ETF<sup>25</sup>
- (23) Investment Management Agreement between the Trust and Simplify EQLS LLC with respect to Simplify Market Neutral Equity Long/Short ETF<sup>24</sup>
- (24) Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between Simplify EQLS LLC and Wolfe Research Advisors, LLC with respect to the Simplify Wolfe US Equity 150/50 ETF<sup>26</sup>
- (25) Fee Waiver Agreement between the Trust and the Adviser with respect to Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond ETF<sup>25</sup>
- (26) <u>Sub-Advisory Fee Waiver Agreement between the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser with respect to Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond</u> ETF<sup>25</sup>

- (27) Management Agreement between the Trust and Simplify EQLS, LLC with respect to Simplify Wolfe US Equity 150/50 ETF<sup>26</sup>
- (28) Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Wolfe Research Advisors, LLC with respect to each of Simplify Wolfe Alpha Capture ETF, Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral SHIELD ETF, and Simplify Market Neutral Quality ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (29) <u>Amendment to Management Agreement between the Trust and Adviser to add Simplify Gold Strategy PLUS Income ETF, Simplify US Small</u> Cap PLUS Income ETF, Simplify Currency Strategy ETF, and Simplify Downside Interest Rate Hedge Strategy ETF.<sup>28</sup>
- (30) <u>Management Agreement between Adviser and Simplify Gold Strategy PLUS Income Cayman Fund<sup>28</sup></u>
- (31) <u>Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. with respect to Simplify Kayne</u> Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF<sup>33</sup>
- (32) <u>Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Piper Sandler & Co. with respect to Simplify Piper Sandler US Small-Cap</u> <u>PLUS Income ETF<sup>31</sup></u>
- (33) Amendment to Management Agreement between the Trust and Adviser to add Simplify Government Money Market ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (e) (1) <u>Distribution Agreement<sup>3</sup></u>
  - (2) <u>Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement<sup>19</sup></u>
  - (3) <u>Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement<sup>21</sup></u>
  - (4) Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Next Intangible Core Index ETF and Simplify Next Intangible Value Index ETF<sup>24</sup>
  - (5) Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond ETF, Simplify National Muni Bond ETF, and Simplify Wolfe US Equity 150/50 ETF<sup>26</sup>
  - (6) Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Wolfe Alpha Capture ETF, Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral SHIELD ETF, and Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral Quality ETF<sup>32</sup>
  - (7) <u>Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Gold Strategy</u> <u>PLUS Income ETF, Simplify US Small Cap PLUS Income ETF, Simplify Currency Strategy ETF, and Simplify Downside Interest Rate</u> <u>Hedge Strategy ETF<sup>28</sup></u>
  - (8) <u>Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement, for the purpose of adding Simplify Tactical US ETF and Simplify China A Shares PLUS</u> <u>Income ETF<sup>28</sup></u>
  - (9) Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement, for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 15 Distribution ETF, Simplify Target 25 Distribution ETF, Simplify Barrier Income ETF, Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF, Simplify Piper Sandler US Small-Cap PLUS Income ETF, Simplify VettaFi Small Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, Simplify VettaFi Large Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, and Simplify VettaFi Developed Ex-US Dividend Initiators ETF<sup>30</sup>
  - (10) Amendment to the ETF Distribution Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Government Money Market ETF<sup>32</sup>

- (f) Not applicable.
- (g) (1) <u>Custody Agreement<sup>3</sup></u>
  - (2) <u>Cayman Custody Agreement<sup>6</sup></u>
  - (3) <u>Amendment to Cayman Custody Agreement<sup>18</sup></u>
  - (4) <u>Amendment to the Custody Agreement<sup>21</sup></u>
  - (5) Amendment to the Custody Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Next Intangible Core Index ETF, Simplify Next Intangible Value Index ETF, Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond ETF, Simplify National Muni Bond ETF, and Simplify Wolfe US Equity 150/50 ETF<sup>26</sup>
  - (6) Amendment to the Custody Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Wolfe Alpha Capture ETF, Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral SHIELD ETF, and Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral Quality ETF<sup>32</sup>
  - (7) Amendment to the Custody Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Tactical US ETF<sup>32</sup>
  - (8) Amendment to the Custody Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 15 Distribution ETF and Simplify Barrier Income ETF<sup>31</sup>
  - (9) Amendment to the Custody Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 25 Distribution ETF, Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF, Simplify Piper Sandler US Small-Cap PLUS Income ETF, Simplify VettaFi Small Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, Simplify VettaFi Large Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, and Simplify VettaFi Developed Ex-US Dividend Initiators ETF<sup>32</sup>
  - (10) Amendment to the Custody Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Government Money Market ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (h) (1) <u>Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement<sup>3</sup></u>
  - (2) <u>Transfer Agency and Service Agreement<sup>3</sup></u>
  - (3) <u>Amendment to Transfer Agency and Service Agreement<sup>19</sup></u>
  - (4) <u>Form of Fund of Funds Investment Management Agreement<sup>10</sup></u>

- (5) <u>Amendment to Fund Accounting and Administration Agreement (Cayman Funds)<sup>18</sup></u>
- (6) <u>Amendment to Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement<sup>18</sup></u>
- (7) <u>Amendment to Transfer Agency and Service Agreement<sup>18</sup></u>
- (8) Amendment to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement<sup>19</sup>
- (9) <u>Amendment to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement<sup>21</sup></u>
- (10) <u>Amendment to the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement<sup>21</sup></u>
- (11) <u>Fund CCO and AMLO Agreement between the Trust and Foreside Fund Officer Services, LLC<sup>23</sup></u>
- (12) Amendment to the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Next Intangible Core Index ETF, Simplify Next Intangible Value Index ETF, Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond ETF, and Simplify National Muni Bond ETF, and Simplify Wolfe US Equity 150/50 ETF<sup>26</sup>
- (13) <u>Amendment to the to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement, as previously filed on August 19, 2020, for the purpose of adding Simplify Next Intangible Core Index ETF, Simplify Next Intangible Value Index ETF, Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond ETF, Simplify National Muni Bond ETF, and Simplify Wolfe US Equity 150/50 ETF<sup>26</sup></u>
- (14) Amendment to the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Wolfe Alpha Capture ETF, Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral SHIELD ETF, and Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral Quality ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (15) Amendment to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Wolfe Alpha Capture ETF, Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral SHIELD ETF, and Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral Quality ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (16) Amendment to the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Tactical US ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (17) Amendment to the to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Tactical US ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (18) Amendment to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Government Money Market ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (19) Amendment to the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 15 Distribution ETF, Simplify Barrier Income ETF, and Simplify China A Shares PLUS Income ETF<sup>31</sup>
- (20) Amendment to the Transfer Agency and Service Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 25 Distribution ETF, Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF, Simplify Piper Sandler US Small-Cap PLUS Income ETF, Simplify VettaFi Small Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, Simplify VettaFi Large Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, and Simplify VettaFi Developed Ex-US Dividend Initiators ETF<sup>32</sup>

- (21) <u>Amendment to the to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 15 Distribution ETF, Simplify Barrier Income ETF, and Simplify Piper Sandler US Small-Cap PLUS Income ETF<sup>31</sup></u>
- (22) Amendment to the to the Fund Administration and Accounting Agreement for the purpose of adding Simplify Target 25 Distribution ETF, Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF, Simplify VettaFi Small Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, Simplify VettaFi Large Cap Dividend Initiators ETF, and Simplify VettaFi Developed Ex-US Dividend Initiators ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (i) Legal Opinion and Consent of Thompson Hine LLP<sup>33</sup>
- (j) Not applicable.
- (k) Not applicable.
- (l) None.
- (m) (1) <u>12b-1 Distribution and Service Plan<sup>28</sup></u>
  - (2) <u>Amendment to 12b-1 Distribution and Service Plan<sup>30</sup></u>
  - (3) Amendment to 12b-1 Distribution and Service Plan for the purpose of adding Simplify Government Money Market ETF<sup>32</sup>
- (n) Not applicable.
- (o) Reserved.
- (p) (1) <u>Code of Ethics of the Registrant<sup>14</sup></u>
  - (2) <u>Code of Ethics of the Adviser<sup>14</sup></u>
  - (3) Code of Ethics of the Sub-Adviser  $(Volt)^5$
  - (4) <u>Code of Ethics of Altis Partners (Jersey) Limited<sup>12</sup></u>
  - (5) <u>Code of Ethics of Sub-Adviser (Propel Bio Management, LLC)<sup>16</sup></u>
  - (6) <u>Code of Ethics of Asterozoa Capital, LLC<sup>19</sup></u>

- (7) <u>Code of Ethics of System 2 Advisors L.P.<sup>22</sup></u>
- (8) <u>Code of Ethics of Gamma Asset Management LLC<sup>25</sup></u>
- (9) <u>Code of Ethics of FCO Advisors LP<sup>25</sup></u>
- (10) <u>Code of Ethics of Wolfe Research Advisors, LLC<sup>26</sup></u>
- (11) <u>Code of Ethics of Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P.<sup>33</sup></u>
- (12) <u>Code of Ethics of Piper Sandler & Co.<sup>31</sup></u>

# <sup>1</sup> [reserved]

- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on May 18, 2020.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on August 19, 2020.
  - Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on August 19, 2020.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on November 24, 2020.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on December 3, 2020.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on December 3, 2020.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on May 7, 2021.
- <sup>6</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on May 7, 2021.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on May 21, 2021.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on September 9, 2
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on September 9, 2021.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registratic Paristration Statement on October 12, 2021.
- <sup>9</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 12, 2021.
   <sup>10</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 18, 2021.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 18, 2021.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 21, 2021.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 21, 2021.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on January 27, 2022.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on January 27, 2022.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on March 29, 2022.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Match 27, 2022.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on September 16, 2022.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement on August 25, 2022.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement on August 25, 2022.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 27, 2022.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 27, 2022.
- Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on December 20, 2022.
   Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on December 20, 2022.
- <sup>18</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on March 17, 2023.
- <sup>19</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on June 12, 2023.
- <sup>20</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 23, 2023.
- <sup>21</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 27, 2023.
- <sup>22</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on February 16, 2024.
- <sup>23</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on April 11, 2024.
- <sup>24</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on May 28, 2024.
- <sup>25</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on July 10, 2024.
- <sup>26</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on September 20, 2024.
- <sup>27</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on October 28, 2024.
- <sup>28</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on November 21, 2024.
- <sup>29</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on December 19, 2024.
- <sup>30</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on April 9, 2025.
- <sup>31</sup> Filed as an exhibit to the Registrant's Registration Statement on April 23, 2025.
- <sup>32</sup> To be filed by subsequent amendment.
- <sup>33</sup> Filed herewith.

### Item 29. Persons Controlled by or Under Common Control with the Funds

The table below depicts the persons controlled or under common control with the Funds:

Fund	Controlled Foreign Corporation
Simplify Volatility Premium ETF	Simplify Volatility Premium Cayman Fund
Simplify Macro Strategy ETF	Simplify Macro Strategy Cayman Fund
Simplify Managed Futures Strategy ETF	Simplify Managed Futures Strategy Cayman Fund
Simplify Bitcoin Strategy PLUS Income ETF	Simplify Bitcoin Strategy PLUS Income Cayman Fund
Simplify Commodities Strategy No K-1 ETF	Simplify Commodities Strategy No K-1 Cayman Fund
Simplify Enhanced Income ETF	Simplify Enhanced Income Cayman Fund Limited
Simplify Multi-QIS Alternative ETF	Simplify Multi-QIS Alternative Cayman Fund Limited
Simplify Aggregate Bond ETF	Simplify Aggregate Bond Cayman Fund Limited
Simplify Gold Strategy PLUS Income ETF	Simplify Gold Strategy PLUS Income Cayman Fund

Each a Controlled Foreign Corporation was formed under and is subject to the laws of the Cayman Islands. The financial statements of each Cayman Controlled Foreign Corporation are consolidated with the financial statements of its respective fund.

### Item 30. Indemnification

Pursuant to the Agreement and Declaration of Trust (the "Declaration"), every person who is, or has been, a Trustee, officer, or employee of the Trust, including persons who serve at the request of the Trust as directors, trustees, officers, employees or agents of another organization in which the Trust has an interest as a shareholder, creditor or otherwise ("Covered Person"), shall be indemnified by the Trust to the fullest extent permitted by law against liability and against all expenses reasonably incurred or paid by him in connection with any claim, action, suit or proceeding in which he becomes involved as a party or otherwise by virtue of his being or having been such a Trustee, director, officer, employee or agent and against amounts paid or incurred by him in settlement thereof.

No indemnification shall be provided under the Declaration to a Covered Person to the extent such indemnification is prohibited by applicable federal law.

The Underwriting Agreement provides that the Registrant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Foreside Financial Services, LLC (the "Distributor"), its affiliates and each of their respective directors, officers and employees and agents and any person who controls the Distributor within the meaning of Section 15 of the Securities Act of 1933 against any loss, liability, claim, damages or expense (including the reasonable cost of investigating or defending any alleged loss, liability, claim, damages or expense and reasonable counsel fees incurred in connection therewith) that the Distributor may incur arising out of or based upon: (i) Distributor serving as distributor for the Trust in compliance with this Agreement and applicable law; (ii) the allegation of any wrongful act of the Trust or any of its directors, officers, employees or affiliates in connection with its duties and responsibilities in this Agreement; (iii) any claim that the Registration Statement, Prospectus, Statement of Additional Information, product description, shareholder reports, Marketing Materials and advertisements specifically approved by the Registrant and the Adviser/Sub-Adviser or other information filed or made public by the Registrant (as from time to time amended) included an untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein (and in the case of the Prospectus, Statement of Additional Information and product description, in light of the circumstances under which they were made) not misleading under the Securities Act, or any other statute or the common law; (iv) the breach by the Registrant of any obligation, representation or warranty contained in this Agreement; or (v) the Registrant's failure to comply in any material respect with applicable securities laws.

# Item 31. Business and Other Connections of the Investment Adviser

A description of any other business, profession, vocation, or employment of a substantial nature in which the Adviser or each Sub-Adviser is set forth in the applicable Fund's Prospectus in the section entitled "Management" and Statement of Additional Information in the section titled "Investment Adviser".

The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Adviser is incorporated by reference to the Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-119255). The Adviser's Form ADV may be obtained, free of charge, at the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (Volt Equity, LLC) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-119673). The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (Propel Bio Management, LLC) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-126889. The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (Asterozoa Capital, LLC) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-122731). The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (System 2 Advisors, L.P.) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-76820). The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (Gamma Asset Management LLC) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-129754). The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (FCO Advisors LP) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-112293). The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (Wolfe Research Advisors, LLC) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-128154). The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P.) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-46991). The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of the Sub-Adviser (Piper Sandler & Co.) is incorporated by reference to the Sub-Adviser's Form ADV (File No. 801-108049). A Sub-Adviser's Form ADV may be obtained, free of charge, at the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. The information required by this Item 31 with respect to each director, officer or partner of Altis Partners (Jersey) Limited is incorporated by reference to its NFA Registration (NFA ID: 0358093). Information regarding Altis Partners (Jersey) Limited NFA Registration is available, free of charge, at the NFA's website at www.nfa.futures.org.

### Item 32. Foreside Financial Services, LLC

- Item 32(a) Foreside Financial Services, LLC (the "Distributor") serves as principal underwriter for the following investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended:
- 1. AB Active ETFs, Inc.
- 2. ABS Long/Short Strategies Fund
- 3. Absolute Shares Trust
- 4. ActivePassive Core Bond ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 5. ActivePassive Intermediate Municipal Bond ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 6. ActivePassive International Equity ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 7. ActivePassive U.S. Equity ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 8. Adaptive Core ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 9. AdvisorShares Trust
- 10. AFA Private Credit Fund
- 11. AGF Investments Trust
- 12. AIM ETF Products Trust
- 13. Alexis Practical Tactical ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 14. AlphaCentric Prime Meridian Income Fund
- 15. American Century ETF Trust
- 16. Amplify ETF Trust
- 17. Applied Finance Dividend Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 18. Applied Finance Explorer Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 19. Applied Finance Select Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 20. ARK ETF Trust

- 21. ARK Venture Fund
- 22. Bitwise Funds Trust
- 23. Bluestone Community Development Fund
- 24. BondBloxx ETF Trust
- 25. Bramshill Multi-Strategy Income Fund, Series of Investment Managers Series Trust
- 26. Bridgeway Funds, Inc.
- 27. Brinker Capital Destinations Trust
- 28. Brookfield Real Assets Income Fund Inc.
- 29. Build Funds Trust
- 30. Calamos Convertible and High Income Fund
- 31. Calamos Convertible Opportunities and Income Fund
- 32. Calamos Dynamic Convertible and Income Fund
- 33. Calamos ETF Trust
- 34. Calamos Global Dynamic Income Fund
- 35. Calamos Global Total Return Fund
- 36. Calamos Strategic Total Return Fund
- 37. Carlyle Tactical Private Credit Fund
- 38. Cascade Private Capital Fund
- 39. Center Coast Brookfield MLP & Energy Infrastructure Fund
- 40. Clifford Capital Focused Small Cap Value Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 41. Clifford Capital International Value Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 42. Clifford Capital Partners Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 43. Cliffwater Corporate Lending Fund
- 44. Cliffwater Enhanced Lending Fund
- 45. Cohen & Steers Infrastructure Fund, Inc.
- 46. Convergence Long/Short Equity ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 47. CornerCap Small-Cap Value Fund, Series of Managed Portfolio Series
- 48. CrossingBridge Pre-Merger SPAC ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 49. Curasset Capital Management Core Bond Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 50. Curasset Capital Management Limited Term Income Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 51. CYBER HORNET S&P 500<sup>®</sup> and Bitcoin 75/25 Strategy ETF, Series of ONEFUND Trust
- 52. Davis Fundamental ETF Trust
- 53. Defiance Daily Short Digitizing the Economy ETF, Series of ETF Series Solutions
- 54. Defiance Hotel, Airline, and Cruise ETF, Series of ETF Series Solutions
- 55. Defiance Next Gen Connectivity ETF, Series of ETF Series Solutions
- 56. Defiance Next Gen H2 ETF, Series of ETF Series Solutions
- 57. Defiance Quantum ETF, Series of ETF Series Solutions
- 58. Denali Structured Return Strategy Fund
- 59. Direxion Funds
- 60. Direxion Shares ETF Trust
- 61. Dividend Performers ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 62. Dodge & Cox Funds
- 63. DoubleLine ETF Trust
- 64. DoubleLine Income Solutions Fund
- 65. DoubleLine Opportunistic Credit Fund
- 66. DoubleLine Yield Opportunities Fund
- 67. DriveWealth ETF Trust
- 68. EIP Investment Trust
- 69. Ellington Income Opportunities Fund
- 70. ETF Opportunities Trust
- 71. Evanston Alternative Opportunities Fund
- 72. Exchange Listed Funds Trust
- 73. FlexShares Trust
- 74. Forum Funds
- 75. Forum Funds II

- 76. Forum Real Estate Income Fund
- 77. Goose Hollow Enhanced Equity ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 78. Goose Hollow Multi-Strategy Income ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 79. Goose Hollow Tactical Allocation ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 80. Grayscale Future of Finance ETF, Series of ETF Series Solutions
- 81. Gramercy Emerging Markets Debt Fund, Series of Investment Managers Series Trust
- 82. Guinness Atkinson Funds
- 83. Harbor ETF Trust
- 84. Horizon Kinetics Blockchain Development ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 85. Horizon Kinetics Energy and Remediation ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 86. Horizon Kinetics Inflation Beneficiaries ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 87. Horizon Kinetics Medical ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 88. Horizon Kinetics SPAC Active ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 89. IDX Funds
- 90. Innovator ETFs Trust
- 91. Ironwood Institutional Multi-Strategy Fund LLC
- 92. Ironwood Multi-Strategy Fund LLC
- 93. John Hancock Exchange-Traded Fund Trust
- 94. LDR Real Estate Value-Opportunity Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 95. Mairs & Power Balanced Fund, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 96. Mairs & Power Growth Fund, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 97. Mairs & Power Minnesota Municipal Bond ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 98. Mairs & Power Small Cap Fund, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 99. Manor Investment Funds
- 100. Milliman Variable Insurance Trust
- 101. Mindful Conservative ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 102. Moerus Worldwide Value Fund, Series of Northern Lights Fund Trust IV
- 103. Mohr Growth ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 104. Mohr Industry Nav ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 105. Mohr Sector Nav ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 106. Morgan Stanley ETF Trust
- 107. Morningstar Funds Trust
- 108. Mutual of America Investment Corporation
- 109. NEOS ETF Trust
- 110. Niagara Income Opportunities Fund
- 111. North Square Investments Trust
- 112. OTG Latin American Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 113. Overlay Shares Core Bond ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 114. Overlay Shares Foreign Equity ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 115. Overlay Shares Hedged Large Cap Equity ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 116. Overlay Shares Large Cap Equity ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 117. Overlay Shares Municipal Bond ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 118. Overlay Shares Short Term Bond ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 119. Overlay Shares Small Cap Equity ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 120. Palmer Square Opportunistic Income Fund
- 121. Partners Group Private Income Opportunities, LLC
- 122. Performance Trust Mutual Funds, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 123. Performance Trust Short Term Bond ETF, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 124. Perkins Discovery Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 125. Philotimo Focused Growth and Income Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 126. Plan Investment Fund, Inc.
- 127. PMC Core Fixed Income Fund, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 128. PMC Diversified Equity Fund, Series of Trust for Professional Managers
- 129. Point Bridge America First ETF, Series of ETF Series Solutions
- 130. Preferred-Plus ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 131. Putnam ETF Trust

- 132. Rareview Dynamic Fixed Income ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 133. Rareview Systematic Equity ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 134. Rareview Tax Advantaged Income ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 135. Rareview Total Return Bond ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 136. Renaissance Capital Greenwich Funds
- 137. Reynolds Funds, Inc.
- 138. RiverNorth Enhanced Pre-Merger SPAC ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 139. RiverNorth Patriot ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 140. RMB Investors Trust
- 141. Robinson Opportunistic Income Fund, Series of Investment Managers Series Trust
- 142. Robinson Tax Advantaged Income Fund, Series of Investment Managers Series Trust
- 143. Roundhill Alerian LNG ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 144. Roundhill Ball Metaverse ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 145. Roundhill Cannabis ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 146. Roundhill ETF Trust
- 147. Roundhill Magnificent Seven ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 148. Roundhill S&P Global Luxury ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 149. Roundhill Sports Betting & iGaming ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 150. Roundhill Video Games ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 151. Rule One Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 152. Securian AM Real Asset Income Fund, Series of Investment Managers Series Trust
- 153. Six Circles Trust
- 154. Sound Shore Fund, Inc.
- 155. SP Funds Trust
- 156. Sparrow Funds
- 157. Spear Alpha ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 158. STF Tactical Growth & Income ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 159. STF Tactical Growth ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 160. Strategic Trust
- 161. Strategy Shares
- 162. Swan Hedged Equity US Large Cap ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 163. Syntax ETF Trust
- 164. Tekla World Healthcare Fund
- 165. Tema ETF Trust
- 166. Teucrium Agricultural Strategy No K-1 ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 167. Teucrium AiLA Long-Short Agriculture Strategy ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 168. Teucrium AiLA Long-Short Base Metals Strategy ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 169. The 2023 ETF Series Trust
- 170. The 2023 ETF Series Trust II
- 171. The Community Development Fund
- 172. The Finite Solar Finance Fund
- 173. The Private Shares Fund
- 174. The SPAC and New Issue ETF, Series of Collaborative Investment Series Trust
- 175. Third Avenue Trust
- 176. Third Avenue Variable Series Trust
- 177. Tidal ETF Trust
- 178. Tidal Trust II
- 179. TIFF Investment Program
- 180. Timothy Plan High Dividend Stock Enhanced ETF, Series of The Timothy Plan
- 181. Timothy Plan High Dividend Stock ETF, Series of The Timothy Plan
- 182. Timothy Plan International ETF, Series of The Timothy Plan
- 183. Timothy Plan Market Neutral ETF, Series of The Timothy Plan
- 184. Timothy Plan US Large/Mid Cap Core ETF, Series of The Timothy Plan
- 185. Timothy Plan US Large/Mid Core Enhanced ETF, Series of The Timothy Plan
- 186. Timothy Plan US Small Cap Core ETF, Series of The Timothy Plan
- 187. Total Fund Solution

- 188. Touchstone ETF Trust
- 189. TrueShares Active Yield ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- TrueShares Eagle Global Renewable Energy Income ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust 190.
- 191. TrueShares Low Volatility Equity Income ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 192. TrueShares Structured Outcome (April) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 193. TrueShares Structured Outcome (August) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 194. TrueShares Structured Outcome (December) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 195. TrueShares Structured Outcome (February) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 196. TrueShares Structured Outcome (January) ETF. Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 197. TrueShares Structured Outcome (July) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 198. TrueShares Structured Outcome (June) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 199. TrueShares Structured Outcome (March) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 200. TrueShares Structured Outcome (May) ETF, Listed Funds Trust
- 201. TrueShares Structured Outcome (November) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 202. TrueShares Structured Outcome (October) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- TrueShares Structured Outcome (September) ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust 203.
- 204. TrueShares Technology, AI & Deep Learning ETF, Series of Listed Funds Trust
- 205. U.S. Global Investors Funds
- Union Street Partners Value Fund, Series of World Funds Trust 206.
- Vest Bitcoin Strategy Managed Volatility Fund, Series of World Funds Trust 207.
- 208. Vest S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Dividend Aristocrats Target Income Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 209. Vest US Large Cap 10% Buffer Strategies Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- 210. Vest US Large Cap 10% Buffer Strategies VI Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- Vest US Large Cap 20% Buffer Strategies Fund, Series of World Funds Trust 211.
- 212. Vest US Large Cap 20% Buffer Strategies VI Fund, Series of World Funds Trust
- VictoryShares Core Intermediate Bond ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 213.
- 214. VictoryShares Core Plus Intermediate Bond ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- 215. VictoryShares Corporate Bond ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares Developed Enhanced Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 216.
- 217. VictoryShares Dividend Accelerator ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares Emerging Markets Value Momentum ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 218.
- 219. VictoryShares Free Cash Flow ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- 220. VictoryShares International High Div Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares International Value Momentum ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 221.
- 222. VictoryShares International Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares NASDAQ Next 50 ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 223.
- 224. VictoryShares Short-Term Bond ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- 225. VictoryShares THB Mid Cap ESG ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares US 500 Enhanced Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 226.
- VictoryShares US 500 Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 227.
- VictoryShares US Discovery Enhanced Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 228.
- 229. VictoryShares US EQ Income Enhanced Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares US Large Cap High Div Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 230.
- 231. VictoryShares US Multi-Factor Minimum Volatility ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- 232. VictoryShares US Small Cap High Div Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares US Small Cap Volatility Wtd ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 233.
- VictoryShares US Small Mid Cap Value Momentum ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 234.
- 235. VictoryShares US Value Momentum ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II
- VictoryShares WestEnd US Sector ETF, Series of Victory Portfolios II 236.
- 237. Volatility Shares Trust
- 238. West Loop Realty Fund, Series of Investment Managers Series Trust
- 239. Wilshire Mutual Funds, Inc.
- 240. Wilshire Variable Insurance Trust
- 241. WisdomTree Digital Trust
- 242. WisdomTree Trust
- 243. WST Investment Trust
- 244. XAI Octagon Floating Rate & Alternative Income Term Trust

Item 32(b) The following are the Officers and Manager of the Distributor, the Registrant's underwriter. The Distributor's main business address is Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine 04101.

Name	Address	Position with Underwriter	Position with Registrant
Teresa Cowan	Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101	President/Manager	None
Chris Lanza	Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101	Vice President	None
Kate Macchia	Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101	Vice President	None
Jennifer Bruner	Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101	Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer	None
Kelly B. Whetstone	Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101	Secretary	None
Susan L. LaFond	Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101	Treasurer	None
Weston Sommers	Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101	Financial and Operations Principal and Chief Financial Officer	None

Item 32(c) Not applicable.

# Item 33. Location of Accounts and Records

The books, accounts and other documents required by Section 31(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and the rules promulgated thereunder are maintained in the physical possession of Simplify Asset Management, Inc., 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F, Las Vegas, NV 89135; and Bank of New York, 240 Greenwich St. New York, NY 10286. Foreside maintains all records relating to its services as Distributor of the Registrant at Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, ME 04101.

# Item 34. Management Services

Not applicable.

# Item 35. Undertakings

Not applicable

# SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Registrant certifies that it meets all of the requirements for effectiveness of this Registration Statement under Rule 485(b) under the Securities Act of 1933 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, duly authorized, in the city of Columbus and State of Ohio, on the 13th day of May 2025.

Simplify Exchange Traded Funds

By: Paul Kim, President\*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed below by the following person in the capacities and on the date indicated.

Signature	Title
Paul Kim*	President, Trustee, and Principal Executive Officer
Fiona Ho**	Treasurer and Principal Financial Officer
Zung Nguyen*	Trustee
Craig Enders*	Trustee
Christopher Caltagirone*	Trustee
<ul> <li>* <u>Pursuant to Powers of Attorney<sup>19</sup></u></li> <li>** <u>Pursuant to Power of Attorney<sup>22</sup></u></li> </ul>	
	By: /s/ Michael V. Wible
	Name: Michael V. Wible
	Title: Attorney-in-Fact
	Date: May 13, 2025
	C-16

Exhibit Index

Exhibit No.	Exhibit Name
	Investment Sub-Advisory Agreement between the Adviser and Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. with respect to Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF
(i)	Legal Opinion and Consent of Thompson Hine LLP
(p)(11)	Code of Ethics of Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P.

#### SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT

THIS SUB-ADVISORY AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is made and entered into as of May 15, 2025 by and between Simplify Asset Management Inc. (the "Adviser"), a Delaware corporation registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act"), with an office at 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, Suite 200, Las Vegas, NV 89135; and Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. (the "Sub-Adviser"), a Delaware limited partnership registered as an investment adviser under the Advisers Act, with an office at 717 Texas Avenue, 22nd Floor, Houston, TX 77002; with respect to the Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF (the "Fund"), a series of the Simplify Exchange Traded Funds (the "Trust"), a Delaware statutory trust.

WHEREAS, the Adviser has been retained to act as investment adviser for the Fund pursuant to a Management Agreement with the Trust dated as of May 26, 2023, as amended (the "Management Agreement");

WHEREAS, the Management Agreement permits the Adviser to delegate certain of its duties under the Management Agreement to other investment advisers, subject to the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended ("1940 Act");

WHEREAS, the Adviser desires to retain the Sub-Adviser to assist it in the provision of a continuous investment program for the Fund's assets, and the Sub-Adviser is willing to render such services subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement.

#### NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree:

1. <u>Appointment and Status of Sub-Adviser</u>. The Adviser hereby appoints the Sub-Adviser to provide investment advisory services to the Fund for the period and on the terms set forth in this Agreement. The Sub-Adviser accepts such appointment and agrees to render the services herein set forth, upon the terms and for the compensation herein provided. The Sub-Adviser shall for all purposes herein be deemed to be an independent contractor of the Adviser and the Trust and shall, unless otherwise expressly provided herein or authorized by the Adviser or the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Trust from time to time, have no authority to act for or represent the Adviser or the Trust in any way or otherwise be deemed an agent of the Adviser or the Trust.

2. <u>Sub-Adviser's Duties</u>. Subject to the general supervision of the Board and the Adviser, the Sub-Adviser shall, on a discretionary basis, assist in the management of the investment operations of the Fund and manage the composition of the portfolio of securities (including cash) belonging to the Fund, including the purchase, retention and disposition thereof and the execution of agreements relating thereto, in accordance with the Fund's investment objective, policies and restrictions as stated in the Fund's then-current Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information (collectively, the "Prospectus") and subject to the following understandings:

(a) The Sub-Adviser shall furnish a continuous investment program for the Fund and determine the securities to be purchased, retained or sold by the Fund and what portion of the assets belonging to the Fund will be invested or held un-invested as cash;

- (b) The Sub-Adviser, in the performance of its duties and obligations under this agreement for the Fund, shall act in conformity with the Fund's Prospectus and with the reasonable instructions and directions of the Board and the Adviser, and will conform to and comply with the requirements of the 1940 Act and all other applicable federal and state laws and regulations;
- (c) The Sub-Adviser shall determine the securities to be purchased or sold by the Fund and instruct the Adviser to place portfolio transactions pursuant to its determinations. For avoidance of doubt, the Adviser, and not the Sub-Adviser, will be responsible for placing all trades on behalf of the Fund and seeking best execution on behalf of the Fund, unless otherwise specified by the Adviser in writing and agreed in writing by the Sub-Adviser;
- (d) The Sub-Adviser shall maintain books and records of all recommendations made pursuant to this Agreement, and shall render to the Adviser and the Board such periodic and special reports as the Adviser or the Board may reasonably request;
- (e) The Sub-Adviser shall respond promptly to any request from the Adviser or the Fund's administrator for assistance in obtaining price sources for securities held by the Fund or determining a price when a price source is not available, and promptly review the prices used by the Fund's administrator to determine net asset value and advise the Fund's administrator promptly if any price appears to be incorrect. The final price of any security will be determined in accordance with the Trust's fair value procedures which designate the Adviser as valuation designee;
- (f) The Sub-Adviser shall provide instructions to the Adviser on how to vote proxies on behalf of the Fund for all portfolio holdings. The Adviser shall vote proxies on behalf of the Fund (or abstaining from voting proxies when appropriate) and maintaining records with respect to voting such proxies;
- (g) The Sub-Adviser hereby represents that it has adopted a written code of ethics complying with the requirements of Rule 17j-1 under the 1940 Act and Rule 204A-1 under the Advisers Act and will provide the Adviser and the Trust with a copy of the code of ethics. Within 45 days of the last calendar quarter of each year while this Agreement is in effect, the Sub-Adviser shall certify to the Adviser and the Trust that the Sub-Adviser has complied with the requirements of Rule 17j-1 and Rule 204A-1 during the previous year and that there has been no material violation of the Sub-Adviser's code of ethics or, if such a material violation has occurred, that appropriate action was taken in response to such violation. Upon the written request of the Adviser, or the Trust, the Sub-Adviser shall provide reasonable periodic certifications regarding compliance with its code of ethics;

- (h) The Sub-Adviser agrees to maintain adequate compliance procedures reasonably designed to maintain its compliance in all material respects with the 1940 Act, the Advisers Act, and other applicable federal and state regulations. The Sub-Adviser shall provide to the Trust's chief compliance officer an annual written report regarding the Sub-Adviser's compliance program.
- (i) The Adviser has delivered to the Sub-Adviser copies of (i) the Trust's Declaration of Trust and Bylaws, (ii) the Trust's Registration Statement with respect to the Fund, all exhibits thereto, and all amendments thereto filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), or the 1940 Act, (iii) the Fund's current Prospectus, and (iv) all procedures adopted by the Trust with respect to the Fund (e.g., repurchase agreement procedures). Upon request, the Trust shall deliver to the Sub-Adviser (a) a certified copy of the resolution of the Board appointing the Sub-Adviser and authorizing the execution and delivery of this Agreement, (b) a copy of all proxy statements and related materials relating to the Fund, and (c) any other documents, materials or information that the Sub-Adviser shall reasonably request to enable it to perform its duties pursuant to this Agreement or to comply with applicable laws. The Sub-Adviser shall furnish, to the extent practicable, to the Sub-Adviser a copy of each amendment of or supplement to the foregoing;
- (j) The Sub-Adviser has delivered to the Adviser (i) a copy of its Form ADV as most recently filed with the SEC, and (ii) a copy of its current compliance policies and procedures. The Sub-Adviser shall promptly furnish the Adviser and Trust with all amendments of or supplements to the foregoing at least annually.

3. <u>Custodian</u>. The assets of the Fund shall be held by an independent custodian identified by the Adviser. Neither the Adviser nor the Sub-Adviser will have custody of any securities, cash or other assets of the Fund.

4. <u>Standard of Care and Reliance</u>. The Trust and the Adviser shall expect of the Sub-Adviser, and the Sub-Adviser will give the Trust and the Adviser the benefit of, the Sub-Adviser's best judgment and efforts in rendering its services hereunder.

The Sub-Adviser shall not be liable to the Adviser or the Trust for any action taken or failure to act in good faith reliance upon: (i) information, instructions or requests, whether oral or written, with respect to the Fund that the Sub-Adviser reasonably believes were made by a duly authorized officer of the Adviser or the Trust, (ii) the written advice of counsel to the Trust, and (iii) any written instruction or certified copy of any resolution of the Board.

5. <u>Directions to the Sub-Adviser</u>. The Adviser will be responsible for providing all Adviser and/or Trust directions, notices, and instructions to the Sub-Adviser in writing, which shall be effective upon receipt by the Sub-Adviser. The Sub-Adviser shall be fully protected in relying upon any such direction, notice, or instruction until it has been duly advised in writing of changes therein.

6. Books and Records. The Sub-Adviser shall maintain and preserve the Trust's books and records in connection with the services it provides under this Agreement and as required of an investment adviser of a registered investment company pursuant to the 1940 Act and the Advisers Act and the rules thereunder. The Sub-Adviser agrees that all records that it maintains for the Trust are the property of the Trust and it will promptly surrender any of such records to the Trust's request, provided that the Sub-Adviser may retain a copy for its own regulatory compliance purposes. To the extent that such records contain the Sub-Adviser's proprietary information, the Trust agrees to safeguard such information and not disclose such information to any third party except pursuant to applicable law, regulation, regulatory guidance, government request, or legal process. Upon request, the Adviser shall provide the Sub-Adviser with commercially reasonable records and information as the Adviser may access regarding the Fund.

7. Expenses of the Sub-Adviser. During the term of this Agreement, the Sub-Adviser shall pay all expenses incurred by it in connection with the performance of its services under this Agreement. The Sub-Adviser shall not be liable for any expenses of the Adviser or the Fund unless liable pursuant to Section 9 of this Agreement.

8. <u>Compensation of the Sub-Adviser</u>. For the services provided and the expenses borne by the Sub-Adviser pursuant to this Agreement, the Adviser will pay monthly the Sub-Adviser a sub-advisory fee as set forth on <u>Exhibit A</u> hereto. The fee will be computed daily and paid to the Sub-Adviser for each calendar month as soon as practicable after the end of such month, but in any event no later than fifteen (15) business days following disbursement by the Fund's administrator to the Adviser. Payment of this compensation shall be the responsibility of the Adviser and shall not be an obligation of the Trust. If the Sub-Adviser is terminated as specified in this Agreement, then the compensation to the Sub-Adviser shall be prorated to the termination date.

9. <u>Liability</u>. Neither the Sub-Adviser nor its shareholders, members, officers, directors, employees, agents, control persons or affiliates of any thereof, shall be liable for any error of judgment or mistake of law or for any loss suffered by the Fund, the Adviser, or the Trust in connection with the matters to which this Agreement relates except a loss resulting from willful misfeasance, bad faith, or gross negligence on its part in the performance of its duties under this Agreement.

Any person, even though also a director, officer, employee, shareholder, member or agent of the Sub-Adviser, who may be or become an officer, director, trustee, employee or agent of the Trust, shall be deemed, when rendering services to the Trust or acting on any business of the Trust (other than services or business in connection with the Sub-Adviser's duties hereunder), to be rendering such services to or acting solely for the Trust and not as a director, officer, employee, shareholder, member or agent of the Sub-Adviser.

10. <u>Duration and Termination</u>. The term of this Agreement shall begin as of the day it is executed and, unless sooner terminated as hereinafter provided, shall continue in effect for a period of two years. This Agreement shall continue in effect from year to year thereafter, subject to termination as hereinafter provided, if such continuance is approved at least annually (a) by a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund or by vote of the Trust's Board, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval, and (b) by vote of a majority of the Trustees of the Trust who are not parties to this Agreement or "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any party to this Agreement, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such approval. The Sub-Adviser shall furnish to the Adviser and the Trust, promptly upon their request, such information as may reasonably be necessary to evaluate the terms of this Agreement or any extension, renewal or amendment thereof.

This Agreement may be terminated at any time on 60 days' prior written notice to the Sub-Adviser, without the payment of any penalty, (i) by vote of the Board, (ii) by the Adviser for Cause (defined below), (iii) by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund, or (iv) in accordance with the terms of any exemptive order obtained by the Trust or the Adviser under Section 6(c) of the 1940 Act, exempting the Trust or the Fund from Section 15(a) and Rule 18f-2 under the 1940 Act. The Sub-Adviser may terminate this Agreement at any time, without the payment of any penalty, on at least 60 days' prior written notice to the Adviser under Trust. Termination of this Agreement and/or the services of the Sub-Adviser will not affect (i) the validity of any action previously taken by the Sub-Adviser under this Agreement; (ii) liabilities or obligations of the parties for transactions initiated before termination of this Agreement; or (iii) the Fund's obligation to pay advisory fees to Adviser. If this Agreement is terminated by the Adviser or Sub-Adviser, the Sub-Adviser will have no further obligation to take any action subsequent to termination with respect to the Fund except as may be reasonably required pursuant to the notice of termination and in furtherance of its role as a fiduciary in order to facilitate an orderly transition of the management of the Fund. This Agreement will automatically and immediately terminate in the event of its assignment (as defined in the 1940 Act).

"Cause," as used in the preceding paragraph, means Sub-Adviser's or its manager's: (1) illegal conduct, willful misconduct, or fraud in connection with the performance of Sub-Adviser's duties to the Adviser, the Fund, or the Trust; (2) conviction or a plea of nolo contendere (or the equivalent) to a felony involving the securities business, any crime involving moral turpitude, any felony or misdemeanor involving conduct described in Section 203(e)(2)(A)-(D) of the Advisers Act, or of any of the conduct specified in paragraphs (1), (5) or (6) of Section 203(e) of the Advisers Act; or (3) subjection to a Securities and Exchange Commission order issued under Sections 203(f) or 203(e)(3) or (4) of the Advisers Act.

The Adviser agrees to cause the Fund to remove the words "Kayne Anderson" from the name of the Fund immediately upon termination of the Sub-Advisory Agreement, and to take all other appropriate actions, including but not limited to making any filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and notices to investors, to implement that change of the Fund's name.

### 11. Exclusivity.

(a) The Sub-Adviser, its officers, employees, and agents, may have or take the same or similar positions in specific investments for their own accounts, or for the accounts of other clients, as the Sub-Adviser does for the Fund. The Adviser expressly acknowledges and understands that the Sub-Adviser shall be free to render investment advice to others and that the Sub-Adviser does not make its investment management services available exclusively to the Adviser or the Fund. Nothing in this Agreement shall impose upon the Sub-Adviser any obligation to purchase or sell, or to recommend for purchase or sale, for the Fund any security which the Sub-Adviser, its principals, affiliates or employees, may purchase or sell for their own accounts or for the account of any other client, if in the reasonable opinion of the Sub-Adviser such investment would be unsuitable for the Fund or if the Sub-Adviser determines in the best interest of the Fund such purchase or sale would be impractical. Except to the extent necessary to perform its obligations hereunder, and notwithstanding the limitations of section (b), below, nothing herein shall be deemed to limit or restrict the Sub-Adviser's right, or the right of any of the Sub-Adviser's directors, officers or employees to engage in any other business or to devote time and attention to the management or other aspects of any other business, whether of a similar or dissimilar nature, or to render services of any kind to any other corporation, trust, firm, individual or association.

(b) The Sub-Adviser and the Adviser each agrees that during the term of this Agreement, unless this obligation under this Section 11(b) is earlier terminated below, it shall not serve as investment adviser or sub-adviser to another registered open-end investment company (either as a mutual fund or an exchange traded fund) managed in a substantially similar style to the Fund and primarily investing in energy infrastructure debt securities. Either the Adviser or the Sub-Adviser may waive this obligation on the other party in its discretion or as otherwise agreed between them.

12. Use of Name. The Adviser and the Fund may use the Sub-Adviser's name to identify the Sub-Adviser as the sub-adviser to the Fund in the Trust's registration statement, shareholder reports, marketing materials for the Fund, and as required by law or governmental regulations.

13. Good Standing. The Adviser and the Sub-Adviser hereby warrant and represent that they are investment advisers in good standing that their respective regulatory filings are current and accurately reflect their advisory operations, and that they are in compliance with applicable state and federal rules and regulations pertaining to investment advisers. In addition, the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser further warrant and represent (as of the date hereof and continuing during the term of this Agreement) that neither is (nor any of their respective Associated Persons are) subject to any statutory disqualification set forth in Sections 203(e) and 203(f) of the Advisers Act (or any successor Advisers Act sections or rules), nor are they currently the subject of any investigation or proceeding which could result in statutory disqualification. The Adviser and the Sub-Adviser acknowledge that their respective obligations to advise the other with respect to these representations shall be continuing and ongoing, and should any representation change for any reason, each agrees to advise the other immediately and provide the corresponding pertinent facts and circumstances.

14. <u>Amendment</u>. This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser, provided the Trust approves the amendment (i) by vote of a majority of the Trustees of the Trust, including Trustees who are not parties to this Agreement or "interested persons" (as defined in the 1940 Act) of any such party, cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of voting on such amendment, and (ii) if required under then current interpretations of the 1940 Act by the Securities and Exchange Commission, by vote of a majority of the outstanding voting securities (as defined in the 1940 Act) of the Fund affected by such amendment. 15. <u>Confidentiality</u>. The Adviser and the Sub-Adviser acknowledge prior receipt of the other's Privacy Policy. The Adviser and the Sub-Adviser agree to safeguard all information pertaining to the Fund consistent with the requirements of applicable state and federal privacy statutes pertaining to registered investment advisers.

16. <u>Notice</u>. Whenever any notice is required or permitted to be given under any provision of this Agreement, such notice shall be in writing, shall be signed by or on behalf of the party giving the notice and shall be mailed by first class or express mail, or sent by courier or facsimile with confirmation of transmission to the other party at the addresses or facsimile numbers specified on page one or to such other address as a party may from time to time specify to the other party by such notice hereunder. Any such notice shall be deemed duly given when delivered at such address.

17. <u>Arbitration</u>. Subject to the conditions and exceptions noted below, and to the extent not inconsistent with applicable law, in the event of any dispute pertaining to this Agreement, the Sub-Adviser and the Adviser agree to submit the dispute to arbitration in accordance with the auspices and rules of the American Arbitration Association ("AAA"), provided that the AAA accepts jurisdiction. The Sub-Adviser and the Adviser understand that such arbitration shall be final and binding, and that by agreeing to arbitration, the Adviser and the Sub-Adviser are waiving their respective rights to seek remedies in court, including the right to a jury trial.

18. <u>Governing Law</u>. (a) This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, without regard to the conflicts of laws principles thereof, and (b) any question of interpretation of any term or provision of this Agreement having a counterpart in or otherwise derived from a term or provision of the 1940 Act, shall be resolved by reference to such term or provision of the 1940 Act and to interpretation thereof, if any, by the United States courts or in the absence of any controlling decision of any such court, by rules, regulations or orders of the SEC issued pursuant to said 1940 Act. In addition, where the effect of a requirement of the 1940 Act reflected in any provision of this Agreement is revised by rule, regulation or order of the SEC, such provision shall be deemed to incorporate the effect of such rule, regulation or order.

19. <u>Severability</u>. In the event any provision of this Agreement is determined to be void or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the remainder of this Agreement, which shall continue to be in force.

20. <u>Counterparts</u>. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

21. <u>Binding Effect</u>. Each of the undersigned expressly warrants and represents that he has the full power and authority to sign this Agreement on behalf of the party indicated and that his signature will operate to bind the party indicated to the foregoing terms.

22. <u>Captions</u>. The captions in this Agreement are included for convenience of reference only and in no way define or delimit any of the provisions hereto or otherwise affect their construction or effect.

23. <u>Change of Control</u>. The Sub-Adviser shall notify the Adviser and the Trust in writing at least 60 days in advance of any change of control, as defined in Section 2(a)(9) of the 1940 Act, as will enable the Trust to consider whether an assignment, as defined in Section 2(a)(4) of the 1940 Act, would occur.

24. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, together with all exhibits, attachments and appendices and any separate agreement between the parties relating to expense sharing, contains the entire understanding and agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof.

25. <u>Other Business</u>. Except as set forth above, nothing in this Agreement shall limit or restrict the right of any of the Sub-Adviser's members, directors, officers or employees who may also be a trustee, officer, partner or employee of the Trust to engage in any other business or to devote his or her time and attention in part to the management or other aspects of any business, whether of a similar or a dissimilar nature, nor limit or restrict the Sub-Adviser's right to engage in any other business or to render services of any kind to any other corporation, firm, individual or association.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their officers designated below as of the date and year first above written.

# Simplify Asset Management Inc.

By: /s/ Paul Kim Name: Paul Kim Title: Chief Executive Officer

# Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P.

 By:
 /s/ Paul Blank

 Name:
 Paul Blank

 Title:
 Chief Executive Officer

<u>Exhibit A</u>



ATLANTA CINCINNATI COLUMBUS LOS ANGELES NEW YORK

CHICAGO CLEVELAND DAYTON MINNEAPOLIS WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 13, 2025

Simplify Exchange Traded Funds 10845 Griffith Peak Drive, 2/F Las Vegas, NV 89135

Dear Board Members:

This letter is in response to your request for our opinion in connection with the filing of Post-Effective Amendment No. 157 to the Registration Statement, File Nos. 333-238475 and 811-23570 (the "Registration Statement"), of Simplify Exchange Traded Funds (the "Trust").

We have examined a copy of the Trust's Agreement and Declaration of Trust, the Trust's By-Laws, the Trust's record of the various actions by the Trustees thereof, and all such agreements, certificates of public officials, certificates of officers and representatives of the Trust and others, and such other documents, papers, statutes and authorities as we deem necessary to form the basis of the opinion hereinafter expressed. We have assumed the genuineness of the signatures and the conformity to original documents of the copies of such documents supplied to us as copies thereof.

Based upon the foregoing, we are of the opinion that, after the Post-Effective Amendment No. 157 is effective for purposes of applicable federal and state securities laws, the shares of each fund listed on the attached Exhibit A (the "Funds"), if issued in accordance with the then current Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information of the applicable Fund, will be legally issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

The opinions expressed herein are limited to matters of Delaware statutory trust law and United States Federal law as such laws exist today; we express no opinion as to the effect of any applicable law of any other jurisdiction. We assume no obligation to update or supplement our opinion to reflect any facts or circumstances that may hereafter come to our attention, or changes in law that may hereafter occur.

We hereby give you our permission to file this opinion with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Post-Effective Amendment No. 157 to the Registration Statement and we consent to all references to us in Post-Effective Amendment No. 157. This opinion may not be filed with any subsequent amendment, or incorporated by reference into a subsequent amendment, without our prior written consent. This opinion is prepared for the Trust and its shareholders, and may not be relied upon by any other person or organization without our prior written approval.

Very truly yours,

/s/ THOMPSON HINE LLP Thompson Hine LLP

THOMPSON HINE LLP Attorneys at Law 41 South High Street Suite 1700 Columbus, Ohio 43215-6101 www.ThompsonHine.com O: 614.469.3200 F: 614.469.3361



EXHIBIT A

1	Simplify Aggregate Bond ETF
2	Simplify Bitcoin Strategy PLUS Income ETF
3	Simplify Commodities Strategy No K-1 ETF
4	Simplify Conservative Allocation ETF
5	Simplify Enhanced Income ETF
6	Simplify Gamma Emerging Market Bond ETF
7	Simplify Growth Allocation ETF
8	Simplify Health Care ETF
9	Simplify Hedged Equity ETF
10	Simplify High Yield PLUS Credit Hedge ETF
11	Simplify Income Allocation ETF
12	Simplify Interest Rate Hedge ETF
13	Simplify Intermediate Term Treasury Futures Strategy ETF
14	Simplify Macro Strategy ETF
15	Simplify Managed Futures Strategy ETF
16	Simplify Market Neutral Equity Long/Short ETF
17	Simplify MBS ETF
18	Simplify Moderate Allocation ETF
19	Simplify Multi-QIS Alternative ETF
20	Simplify National Muni Bond ETF
21	Simplify Next Intangible Core Index ETF
22	Simplify Next Intangible Value Index ETF
23	Simplify Opportunistic Income ETF
24	Simplify Propel Opportunities ETF
25	Simplify Short Term Treasury Futures Strategy ETF
26	Simplify Treasury Option Income ETF
27	Simplify Tara India Opportunities ETF
28	Simplify US Equity Plus Complexity ETF
29	Simplify US Equity Plus Downside Convexity ETF
30	Simplify US Equity Plus Bitcoin Strategy ETF

A-1

31	Simplify US Equity PLUS QIS ETF
32	Simplify US Equity Plus Upside Convexity ETF
33	Simplify Wolfe Alpha Capture ETF
34	Simplify Wolfe US Equity 150/50 ETF
35	Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral SHIELD ETF
36	Simplify Wolfe Market Neutral Quality ETF
37	Simplify Volatility Premium ETF
38	Simplify Volt TSLA Revolution ETF
39	Simplify Gold Strategy PLUS Income ETF
40	Simplify US Small Cap PLUS Income ETF
41	Simplify Currency Strategy ETF
42	Simplify Bond Bull ETF
43	Simplify China A Shares PLUS Income ETF
44	Simplify Tactical US ETF
45	Simplify Target 15 Distribution ETF
46	Simplify Target 25 Distribution ETF
47	Simplify Barrier Income ETF
48	Simplify Piper Sandler US Small-Cap PLUS Income ETF
49	Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF

### **IV. CODE OF ETHICS**

#### A. General

This Code of Ethics is predicated on the principle that Kayne Anderson Capital Advisors, L.P. ("KACALP") owes a fiduciary duty to its clients. Accordingly, KACALP's employees must avoid activities, interests and relationships that run contrary (or appear to run contrary) to the best interests of clients. At all times, KACALP employees must:

- *Place client interests ahead of KACALP's interests* As a fiduciary, KACALP must serve in its clients' best interests. In other words, employees may not benefit at the expense of advisory clients. This concept is particularly relevant when employees are making personal investments in securities traded by advisory clients.
- Engage in personal investing that is in full compliance with KACALP's Code of Ethics Employees must review and abide by KACALP's Personal Securities Transactions and Insider Trading/Ethical Walls Policies. The Personal Securities Transactions Policy and the Insider Trading/Ethical Walls Policy are incorporated into the Code of Ethics by reference.
- Avoid taking advantage of your position Employees should not accept inappropriate gifts, favors, entertainment, special accommodations, or other things of material value that could influence (or appear to influence) their decision-making or make them feel beholden to a person or firm.

Compliance with the provisions of this Code of Ethics is a basic condition of employment with KACALP. KACALP's reputation for fair and honest dealing with its clients and the investment community in general is of paramount importance. Employees are urged to seek the advice of the CCO or GC for any questions as to the application of this Code of Ethics to their individual circumstances.

All employees deemed to be Access Persons are subject to these policies. A list of employees considered Access Persons is maintained by Compliance. For purposes of this policy, any reference to "employee(s)" means those employees who are Access Persons, including temporary employees involved in investment management or brokerage activities and have access to material non-public information. Note, however, that the scope of persons subject to Section C ("Anti-Bribery Policy/Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Policy") below is broader than Access Persons, as described therein.

Access Persons may not, in connection, with the purchase or sale of a security held or to be acquired by any fund client:

• Employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud the fund;

- Make any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading;
- Engage in any act, practice or course of business that operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit; or
- Engage in any manipulative practice with respect to the fund.
- 1. <u>Certification of Compliance</u>
  - <u>Initial Certification</u>. KACALP provides all employees with a copy of the Regulatory Compliance Manual at the time of initial employment. KACALP requires all new employees to certify in writing that they have (i) received a copy of the Manual; (ii) read and understand all provisions of the Manual; and (iii) agreed to comply with the terms of Manual including the Code of Ethics (the "Code").
  - <u>Acknowledgement of Amendments</u>. KACALP provides all employees with any material amendments to the Code. KACALP requires all employees to certify in writing they have received, read, and understood the amendments to the Code.
  - <u>Annual Certification</u>. Annually, all employees certify that they have read, understood, and complied with the Code of Ethics. The certification includes a representation that the employee has made all reports required by the Code and has not engaged in any prohibited conduct.
- 2. <u>Recordkeeping</u>. Effective with the January 7, 2005 implementation date of rule 204A-1, KACALP maintains the following records in a readily accessible place:
  - A copy of each Code that has been in effect at any time during the past five years;
  - A record of any violation of the Code and any action taken as a result of such violation for five years from the end of the fiscal year in which the violation occurred;
  - A record of all written acknowledgments of receipt of the Code and amendments for each person who is currently, or within the past five years was deemed an Access Person. These records are kept for five years after an individual ceases to be an Access person of KACALP;
  - Holdings and transaction reports made pursuant to the Code;

- A list of the names of persons who are currently, or within the past five years, were Access Persons;
- A record of any decision and supporting reasons for approving acquisition of securities by Access Persons in limited offerings for at least five years after the end of the fiscal year in which approval was granted; and
- A record of any decisions that grant an Access person a waiver from or exception to the Code.

## 3. <u>Administration and Enforcement of the Code</u>

- Form ADV Disclosure. KACALP includes a description of its Code of Ethics in Form ADV, Part 2A, and provides a copy of this Code to any client or prospective client upon request.
- <u>Training and Education</u>. The CCO or his designee periodically conducts training regarding the Code of Ethics. Employees are required to attend training sessions and/or read all applicable materials.
- Annual Review. The CCO, at least annually, reviews the adequacy of the Code and the effectiveness of its implementation.
- <u>Reporting Violations</u>. KACALP requires all employees to promptly report any apparent or suspected violations, in addition to actual or known violations of the Code of Ethics to the CCO or GC. Reports are treated confidentially to the extent permitted by law, and investigated promptly and appropriately. Reports may be submitted anonymously.
- <u>Types of Reporting</u>. Employees should report the following types of violation: non- compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations; fraud or illegal acts involving any aspect of the firm's business; material misstatements in regulatory filings, internal books and records, client records or reports; activity that is harmful to clients, including fund shareholders; and deviations from required controls and procedures that safeguard clients and the firm.
- <u>Retaliation</u>. Retaliation against an individual who reports a violation is prohibited and constitutes an additional independent violation of the Code.
- 4. <u>Sanctions</u>. Any violation of the Code by an employee can result in sanctions as deemed appropriate by Senior Management. Sanctions can include but are not limited to a letter of reprimand, disgorging of any profits made, temporary or permanent suspension of trading for any employee or related accounts, monetary fines or suspension or termination of employment.

 <u>Waivers to Policy</u>. Upon written request to Compliance, Compliance may waive any non- regulatory imposed constraint for sufficient business reasons. Waivers and supporting rationale will be maintained by the CCO.

Please direct any questions concerning the Code of Ethics to the CCO or GC.

# B. Officers, Trustees or Directors of Outside Organizations

Employees are prohibited from engaging in outside business activities without written approval from his/her direct supervisor and KACALP's GC or CCO. Approval will be granted on a case-by-case basis, subject to proper resolution of potential conflicts of interest. Outside activities will be approved only if all conflict of interest issues can be satisfactorily resolved and all necessary disclosures are made on Part 2A of Form ADV. Such approval, if granted, may be subject to restrictions or qualification and is revocable at any time. Examples of activities requiring prior written approval include:

- Full- or part-time service as an officer, director, partner, manager, consultant, trustee, advisory board member, or employee of another business organization (including acting as a director of a publicly traded company)
- Service on a creditors committee for a business
- Any agreement to be employed or to accept directly or indirectly compensation in any form (such as a commission, salary, fee, bonus, contingent compensation, etc.)

No approval is required to serve as a director of a charitable or non-profit organization (unless it has a political purpose/mission); however, employees should notify the CCO if serving in such a capacity. Serving as a director of a KACALP private equity portfolio company requires approval from the head of the applicable investment team, but no GC or CCO approval.

Except with the approval of the GC or CCO, employees are not permitted to serve as an officer, director, partner, manager, consultant, trustee, advisory board member, or employee of a competitor of KACALP, other than a related party. This prohibition extends to having any substantial interest in or business relationship with such a competitor.

## C. Anti-Bribery Policy/Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Policy

### 1. Introduction

KACALP is committed to conducting its business ethically and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and other laws that prohibit improper payments to obtain a business advantage. Private equity sponsors can also be held liable for violations of the FCPA by portfolio companies in which the sponsor has made an investment or otherwise has an ownership or controlling interest. Accordingly, where necessary and appropriate, KACALP will review portfolio companies' compliance with the FCPA and will evaluate whether they have sufficient policies, procedures, training and controls in place to mitigate the risks of bribery and corruption in their businesses.

This document describes KACALP's policy prohibiting bribery and other improper payments in the conduct of KACALP's business operations and employee responsibilities for ensuring implementation of the policy. Questions about the policy or its applicability to particular circumstances should be directed to the CCO or GC.

#### 2. <u>Compliance with U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act</u>

The prohibition on bribery and other improper payments applies to all business activities, but is particularly important when dealing with government officials. The U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and similar laws in other countries strictly prohibit improper payments to gain a business advantage and impose severe penalties for violations. The following summary is intended to provide personnel engaged in international activities a basic familiarity with applicable rules so that inadvertent violations can be avoided and potential issues recognized in time to be properly addressed.

# 3. <u>Overview of the FCPA</u>

The FCPA is a criminal statute that prohibits improper payments to government officials to influence performance of their official duties. It makes it unlawful for any U.S. company and its employees or agents to offer, promise, pay or authorize the payment of "anything of value" to any "foreign official" - a term that is very broadly defined - to help the company obtain or keep business or secure some other "improper business advantage." This prohibition applies whether the offer or payment is made directly or through another person.

In addition to prohibiting improper payments to foreign officials, the FCPA requires U.S. companies and their controlled affiliates to keep accurate books and records of the transactions in which they engage and to maintain a system of internal controls that, among other things, can prevent "slush funds" and "off-the-books" accounts that might be used to facilitate or conceal questionable foreign payments. FCPA accounting requirements apply to all business activities, not just those involving foreign officials.

The penalties for violating the FCPA are severe. For a company, potential sanctions range from multi-million dollar fines and "disgorgement" of any business profits from an improper payment to loss of export privileges or eligibility to compete for U.S. government contracts. These sanctions are in addition to potential reputational damage and investigation and defense costs, which may arise even without a formal government prosecution. The penalties for individuals can be even more severe, including substantial fines and imprisonment.

#### 4. <u>Policy Overview</u>

KACALP strictly prohibits bribery or other improper payments in any of its business operations. This prohibition applies to all business activities, anywhere in the world, whether they involve government officials or are wholly commercial. A bribe or other improper payment to secure a business advantage is never acceptable and can expose employees and KACALP to possible criminal prosecution, reputational harm or other serious consequences.

This Policy is not limited to Access Persons, but rather applies to everyone employed by or otherwise acting on behalf of KACALP, including all officers, employees and agents or other intermediaries acting on KACALP's behalf. Each officer and employee of KACALP has a responsibility and obligation to conduct KACALP's business activities ethically and in compliance with the law. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Improper payments prohibited by this policy include the following:

- Bribes and kickbacks
- Gifts or entertainment or other business promotional activities
- Covering or reimbursing an official's expenses
- Offers of employment or other benefits to a family member or friend of a foreign official
- Political party and candidate contributions
- Charitable contributions and sponsorships
- Any other payment made or offered to obtain an undue business advantage.

These payments should not be confused with reasonable and limited expenditures for gifts, business entertainment and other legitimate activities directly related to the conduct of KACALP's business. No employee may offer or make any type of gift or payment to or on behalf of a foreign official without prior approval from the CCO.

The CCO has overall responsibility for the program, supported by Senior Management. The GC is responsible for giving advice on the interpretation and application of this Policy, supporting training and education, and responding to reported concerns. Notify the CCO immediately of any suspected or actual violations of the FCPA policies.

Other less obvious items of value provided to a foreign official can also violate the FCPA. Examples include in-kind contributions, investment opportunities, stock options or positions in joint ventures, internships to family members, friends or associates of foreign officials (whether paid or unpaid), and favorable or steered subcontracts. The prohibition applies whether an item would benefit the official directly or another person, such as a family member, friend or business associate.

#### D. Gifts and Entertainment

A conflict of interest occurs when the personal interests of employees interfere or could potentially interfere with their responsibilities to the firm and its clients. Employees should not accept inappropriate gifts, favors, entertainment, special accommodations, or other things of material value that could influence (or appear to influence) their decision-making or make them feel beholden to a person or firm. Employees should not offer gifts, favors, entertainment, or other things of value that could be viewed as overly generous or aimed at influencing decision-making or making a client feel beholden to the firm or the employee.

<u>Gifts</u>. No employee may receive any gift, service, or other things of more than a \$150.00 value per year from any person or entity that does business with or on behalf of KACALP without the pre-approval of Compliance. No employee may give or offer any gift of more than \$150.00 value per year to any existing clients, prospective clients, or any entity that does business with or on behalf of the adviser without pre- approval by Compliance. Compliance will maintain a gift log of all gifts over \$150.00 given or received from or by any KACALP employees. The gift log will include employee name, type of gift, dollar amount of gift, and sender of the gift.

<u>Cash</u>. No employee may give or accept cash gifts or cash equivalents to or from a client, prospective client, or any entity that does business with or on behalf of KACALP without approval from Compliance.

*Entertainment.* No employee may provide or accept extravagant or excessive entertainment to or from a client, prospective client, or any person or entity that does or seeks to do business with or on behalf of KACALP.

## E. Charitable Contributions

Any employee seeking to sponsor or participate in a charity fundraiser or other charitable event, or otherwise making any monetary or in-kind contribution to such event or charity, at the request of a client, prospective client, vendor, or other potential business partner must obtain the prior approval of his/her direct supervisor and the GC or CCO. Employees are prohibited from soliciting charitable contributions from clients, prospective clients, or business partners without prior approval from the same.

Further, any contribution made through a KACALP management company requires the prior approval of KACALP's executive management team (i.e. the COO or CEO) in addition to the GC or CCO.

### F. Political Contributions

Supervised Persons are prohibited from making political contributions for the purpose of obtaining or retaining advisory contracts with government entities. KACALP prohibits its supervised persons from considering KACALP's current or anticipated business relationships as a factor in soliciting political or charitable donations.

a. *Political Contributions by Employees:* The SEC has adopted a "pay-to-play" anti- fraud rule for advisers. The rule prohibits advisers from seeking to influence the award of advisory contracts by a "government entity" (e.g., public pension plans) through political contributions to or for those officials who are in a position to influence the awards.

There are three major aspects to this rule:

- A two-year time out. The two-year "time-out" prohibits an adviser from receiving compensation from a government entity for two years after the adviser or its covered associate makes a political contribution to a covered official of the government entity that is in a position to influence the award of the advisory business.
- The adviser is prohibited from paying third-party solicitor, placement agents, and other consultants to solicit government entities for advisory business.
- The adviser and its covered associates are prohibited from coordinating (or soliciting any person or PAC to make) any: (1) contribution to an official of a government entity to which the adviser is providing or seeking to provide advisory services, or (2) payment to a political party of a state or locality where the adviser is providing or seeking to provide advisory services to a government entity.

- b. *General Prohibition:* All employees (and their immediate family members) are prohibited from making any contributions or gifts to, or soliciting or coordinate any contributions or gifts for, any of the following:
  - Any incumbent US state or local officeholder (including one who is a candidate for federal office);
  - Any candidate or elections winner for US state or local office;
  - Any staff member or employee of a US public pension fund, or any elected or appointed trustee, fiduciary, or other official whose official duties involve responsibility for such a fund; and
  - KACALP's facilities, personnel, equipment or other corporate resources and funds, may not be used in connection with any national, federal, state or local election or other political activities.
- c. *Permissible Contributions:* Political contributions to US federal officeholders and candidates that fall outside of the following exemptions will require pre-clearance from Compliance:
  - If you are entitled to vote for the federal government official or candidate, you may contribute \$350 or less to the official, per election (no pre-clearance required);
  - If you are not entitled to vote for the federal government official or candidate, you may contribute \$150 or less to the official, per election (no pre-clearance required);
  - Any political contributions outside of the above parameters require pre-clearance; and
  - Donations to Political Action Committees (PACs) are permissible subject to the pre- clearance thresholds, unless the donation is a means to circumvent what the policy prohibits directly (e.g., contributions earmarked or known to benefit a particular political official). See *General Prohibition* above.
  - As a side note, political contributions to national parties (e.g., Democratic National Party, Republican National Party) are not subject to the above rule.
- d. Reporting:

All employees are required to report the political contributions made by themselves and their immediate family members, including any not subject to the pre-clearance requirements, on a quarterly and annual basis to Compliance via the quarterly and annual Code of Ethics Certification process.

Immediate family means any partner sharing the same household, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.

#### e. Lobbying:

KACALP recognizes that its employees may wish to participate, on a personal basis, in Lobbying Activity (as described below). Many jurisdictions have laws requiring registration and reporting by lobbyists and in some cases, also by the lobbyist's employer.

Lobbying Activity generally includes attempts to influence the passage, or defeat of, pending legislation. In the US, the government and many states, however, have extended the definition of Lobbying Activity to cover efforts to influence formal rulemaking by executive branch agencies (legislative lobbying and such regulatory lobbying collectively referred as "Traditional Lobbying") or other official actions of agencies, including the decision to enter into a contract or other financial arrangements (Procurement Lobbying). "Grassroots" activity (involving communication with the public or a segment of the public, encouraging them to call their representative or another public official for the purpose of influencing the passage or rejection of legislation or a rulemaking) is in many cases also considered Lobbying Activity.

While KACALP employees generally may use their own resources to seek to influence legislation, rulemaking or otherwise participated in Lobbying Activity on a personal basis, no employee may engage in lobbying activities on behalf of KACALP except with prior approval of Legal and Compliance. For example, KACALP employees must consult with Legal and Compliance before scheduling meetings with personnel of any governmental agencies or pension plans of public agencies in connection with any opportunities for new or additional business in order to ensure compliance with the laws restricting Procurement Lobbying.

If it is determined that an employee must register as a lobbyist in order to comply with applicable law when conducting Lobbying Activity (including Procurement Lobbying) on behalf of KACALP, that employee will be registered as required and may become subject to reporting obligations, restrictions on making political contribution or providing gifts and entertainment, and possibly training requirements, depending on the applicable law.

## G. Conflicts of Interest

The policies and procedures set forth in the Code recognize that as an investment adviser, KACALP is in a position of trust and confidence with respect to its clients and has a duty to place the interests of its clients before the interests of KACALP, its affiliates and employees. This duty includes an obligation to address or mitigate both conflicts of interest and the appearance of any conflicts of interest. Conflicts of interest, or the appearance thereof, should be escalated to the CCO for review and further escalation and/or disclosure, as appropriate.

## VI. PERSONAL SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

#### A. General

Subject to the limited exclusions described in this policy, employees, including temporary employees involved in investment management or brokerage activities and have access to material non-public information, are required to report all investment transactions in securities executed by them, an immediate family member, a trust or an investment club in which they have an interest, or on behalf of any account in which they have an interest which they can direct.

Employees may not purchase or sell any security in which the employee has a beneficial ownership unless the transaction occurs in an exempted security or the employee has complied with the Personal Securities Transactions Policy set forth below.

## B. Prohibited Transactions

 <u>General Rule</u>. Employees may not trade securities in the public markets in the asset classes in which KACALP is generally active, including but not limited to energy related master limited partnerships and affiliates, midstream companies, marine transportation companies, US and Canadian royalty trusts, and high yield bonds. As deemed appropriate, Compliance may grant exceptions to this general rule. The determination of whether or not a security falls within the scope of KACALP's activities shall be made by Compliance, only after consultation with the portfolio managers who Compliance reasonably believes may engage in client transactions in the same asset class.

The determination of whether or not an investment falls within the scope of KACALP's activities shall be made by Compliance, only after consultation with the portfolio managers who Compliance reasonably believes may engage in client transactions in the same asset class. Furthermore, Compliance will consider whether the proposed trade creates any actual or perceived conflicts of interest, complies with applicable federal and state securities laws and complies with relevant provisions of the Code.

*Exemption.* Occasionally, exceptions to this general rule may be granted as deemed appropriate. KACALP and its partners, officers and employees may be permitted to participate alongside KACALP's clients in the purchase and/or sale of registered securities, but only if such participation, in KACALP's good faith determination, would not adversely impact the pricing and availability of the transaction for clients or otherwise operate to the detriment of clients. Generally speaking, this requires that consistent with KACALP's Co- Investment Policy, all funds and accounts receive their full desired allocations before any excess capacity is made available to KACALP and its partners, officers and employees. KACALP will often form a commingled vehicle to facilitate any such investment. These vehicles invest on the same terms as managed funds and accounts. Any such co-investment opportunities, whether in private placements or registered securities require the prior approval of KACALP's GC and/or CCO. In addition, employees may sell such holdings only after client accounts and/or funds have sold such positions in their entirety or outside the Blackout Period.

- 2. <u>*Pre-Clearance*</u>. Employees may not trade securities for which the transaction pre-clearance procedures, as applicable, set forth below, have not been satisfied.
- 3. Limit Orders. The placing of any trade as a limit order is generally prohibited. All trades must be placed as market orders.
- 4. <u>Initial Public Offerings</u>. No employee may acquire beneficial ownership of equity securities in an initial public offering until after the public offering and then only at the prevailing market price.
- 5. <u>Private Placements</u>. Employees wishing to acquire beneficial ownership of securities through a private placement must have written approval to do so from Compliance. In determining whether to grant the approval, Compliance determines whether or not the employee's acquisition of the security precludes advisory clients from purchasing the security. Approval will not be given unless a determination is made that the investment opportunity should not be reserved for one or more client accounts (or KACALP), and that the investment is not being offered to the employee (exclusive of KACALP) strictly by virtue of the employee's position with KACALP.
- 6. <u>Ban on Short-Term Trading</u>. Employees who purchase securities covered by the pre- clearance procedures below are required to do so with a bona fide intent to hold for 90 days or more, from the time the position is established. Compliance may make an exception, but only on an isolated basis where there is a demonstrated unanticipated and immediate need for liquidity or a very significant change in market conditions for the particular security. Profiting from the purchase and sale, or the sale and purchase, within 90 calendar days of the trade date, of the same securities and/or related securities is prohibited. Any such short-term trade must be reversed or unwound, or if that is not practical, the profits must be disgorged and distributed in a manner determined by Compliance. Securities exempt from the pre- clearance procedures below are not required to be held for 90 days, but regular short-term trading is discouraged. Senior Management reserves the right to suspend or cancel the ability of an employee to engage in all personal trading if such short-term trading has the potential to interfere with the employee's performance, or if an abusive trend of trading is discovered.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, where employees acquire securities in an issuer placement (whether registered or not) alongside managed accounts, and such managed accounts have sold their acquired positions, participating employees may subsequently sell such securities without respect to the 90-day requirement.

7. *<u>Front-Running</u>*. KACALP strictly forbids "front-running" client accounts, which is a practice generally understood to be employees personally trading ahead of client accounts.

- 8. <u>Blackout Period</u>. Ability to engage in certain investments may be prohibited or restricted during "blackout" periods described below:
  - You may not purchase or sell a security at a time when you intend or know of another's intention to purchase or sell that same security on behalf
    of a client.
  - If you are a member of the Investment team, you may not purchase or sell a security which you are considering or which you have considered and rejected for purchase or sale for a client within the previous 14 calendar days of the trade date, unless the CCO has approved your request.
  - If you are member of the Investment team (i.e., portfolio manager, analyst or trader), you may not purchase or sell a security within 14 calendar days before or after the trade date of a transaction in that security by a client for which you are responsible.
- 9. Margin Transactions. Employees are prohibited from purchasing KACALP's publicly traded securities (KMF and KYN) on margin.

## C. Transaction Pre-Clearance Procedures

1. <u>Written Pre-Clearance</u>. Employees must obtain prior approval from Compliance for all reportable personal securities transactions BEFORE executing such transactions.

Prior approval is obtained by submitting a trade pre-clearance form via the Compliance Science application ("ComplySci"). No investment transaction requiring prior notification and clearance may be executed prior to the "Approval" status being displayed on the Preclearance Requests screen on ComplySci, or receipt of the Approval e-mail from ComplySci. In either case, KACALP shall maintain a record of such requests in conjunction with applicable record-keeping rules.

Unless otherwise specified, an investment transaction requiring prior notification and clearance must be placed and executed by the end of trading in New York City. If a proposed investment transaction is not executed within the time specified, the employee must repeat the prior notification process before executing the transaction. No pre-clearance is required for the exempt securities and exempt transactions noted below.

<u>Securities Covered</u>. The pre-clearance policy applies to any, stock, bond, debenture, future, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in any profit-sharing agreement(including partnerships and limited liability companies),collateral-trust certificate, fractional undivided interest in oil, gas, or other mineral rights, options for non-exempt securities, closed-end funds, or in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a security or as defined in Section 2(a) (36) of the Investment Company Act.

- 3. <u>Exempt Securities</u>. The term "exempt security" means any security not included within the definition of Covered Security in SEC Rule 17j-1(a)(4) under the Investment Company Act and not within the definition of Reportable Security in Rule 204A-1(e)(10) under the Advisers Act, including: a direct obligation of the Government of the United States, certificates of deposit, commercial paper and other similar money market instruments, shares of open-end mutual fund companies that are not advised or sub-advised by the firm and exchange traded funds are exempt from the pre-clearance policy. Commodities, futures and options traded on a commodities exchange, are not considered securities.
- 4. <u>Beneficial Ownership</u>. Employees are considered to have beneficial ownership of securities if they have or share a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the securities. Employees have a pecuniary interest in securities if they have the ability to directly or indirectly profit from a securities transaction.

The following are examples of indirect pecuniary interests in securities:

- Securities held by members of employees' immediate family or partner sharing the same household. Immediate family means any child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, spouse, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law. Adoptive relationships are included.
- Employees' interests as a general partner in securities held by a general or limited partnership.
- Employees' interests as a manager/member in the securities held by a limited liability company.

The following circumstances constitute beneficial ownership by employees of securities held by a trust:

- Ownership of securities as a trustee where either the employee or members of the employees' immediate family have a vested interest in the
  principal or income of the trust.
- Ownership of a vested beneficial interest in a trust.
- An employee's status as a settler of a trust, unless the consent of all of the beneficiaries is required in order for the employee to revoke the trust.

Except for KACALP managed funds, employees do not have an indirect pecuniary interest in securities held by entities in which they hold an equity interest unless they are a controlling equity holder or they share investment control over the securities held by the entity.

- 5. <u>Exempt Transactions</u>. The following transactions are considered exempt transactions and do not require pre-clearance:
  - Any transaction in an account over which the employee does not have any direct or indirect influence or control. For example, presuming that such relatives do not reside in the same household as the employee, accounts of family members outside of the immediate family would not be subject to review.

- Any transactions occurring in an account that is managed on a fully-discretionary basis by an unaffiliated money manager.
- Purchases of securities through DRIPS (dividend reinvestment plans).
- Purchases of securities by the exercise of rights issued to holders of a class of securities on a pro-rata basis.
- Acquisitions or dispositions of securities as a result of a stock dividend, stock split, or other mandatory corporation actions.
- Purchases or sales of ETFs (subject to quarterly reporting requirements).
- Purchases or sales of interests in any private fund managed by KACALP and available generally to KACALP's clients.
- Other purchases or sales which are non-volitional on the part of the employee (e.g. an in-the-money option that is automatically exercised by the broker; a security that is called away as the result of an exercise of an option; or a security that is sold by a broker without employee consultation to meet margin call not met by the employee).

Compliance may also exempt certain other transactions on a trade-by-trade basis.

### D. Application of Personal Securities Transactions Policy

This policy covers all employees as well as any transactions in any securities participated in by family members, trusts or corporations directly or indirectly controlled by such persons. In addition, the policy applies to transactions engaged in by corporations in which the covered person is an officer, director or 10% or greater stockholder and a partnership of which the covered person is a partner unless the covered person has no direct or indirect control over the partnership.

An independent director of the registered funds is not covered by the prohibitions and pre- clearance requirements of this section unless that director knows or should know of a transaction or contemplated transaction by the registered funds, KACALP or affiliates.

Consultants may be required to comply with the Policy depending on the nature of the work they perform for KACALP and the sensitivity of the information used by the consultants to perform their duties. The CCO or his designee will determine whether a particular consultant is to be included under the Policy.

# E. Monitoring of Personal Securities Transactions

KACALP is required to review personal securities transactions and holdings reports periodically. The CCO is responsible for reviewing and monitoring personal securities transactions and trading patterns of its Access Persons. The GC or a designee thereof reviews and monitors the personal securities transactions and trading patterns of the CCO. The review of personal securities holdings and transaction reports can include the following:

• An assessment of whether the Access Person followed required internal procedures, such as pre-clearance;

• Periodically analyzing the Access Person's trading for patterns that may indicate abuse, including market timing.

Before making any determination that a non-compliant transaction may have been made by an Access Person, the CCO gives such person an opportunity to supply additional explanatory information. If the CCO determines that noncompliance with the Code of Ethics has or may have occurred; the issue along with supporting documentation will be brought to the attention of the GC and/or Senior Management for discussion and action.

The CCO maintains a current list of all Access Persons, and takes steps to ensure that all reporting Access Persons have submitted statements in a timely manner.

### F. Holdings/Transactions Reporting

 <u>Initial Holdings Report</u>. Employees may only personally trade securities through a registered broker/dealer or through a company sponsored DRIP. Each employee must require its broker/dealer to send to KACALP's Compliance Department duplicate brokerage account statements and trade confirmations.

New employees are required to disclose all of their personal securities holdings (whether covered or exempt under the pre-clearance procedures) within 10 days of commencement of employment via ComplySci. The Initial Securities Holding information must be current as of a date no more than 45 days before the report is submitted. KACALP maintains these records in accordance with the record-keeping rule. This report must include the following information:

- A list of securities, including the title, number of shares, or principal amount (if fixed income securities) of each covered security in which the employee has any direct or indirect beneficial interest or ownership as of the date the employee became an employee;
- The name of any broker, dealer or bank with whom the employee maintains an account, or in any other account in which securities held for the direct or indirect benefit or ownership of the employee; and
- The date the report is submitted to the CCO by the employee.

- 2. <u>Quarterly Transaction Reports</u>. Every employee must submit a Personal Securities Transactions Report via ComplySci not later than 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter listing all securities transactions executed during that quarter in the employee's brokerage account(s) or in any account(s) in which the employee may have any direct or indirect beneficial interest or ownership including cases where no transactions were executed. The Quarterly Personal Securities Transactions Report must contain the following information:
  - The date of each transaction, the name of the security purchased and/or sold, the interest rate and maturity date (if applicable), the number of shares and/or the principal amount of the security involved;
  - The nature of the transaction (i.e., purchase, sale or any other type of acquisition or disposition);
  - The price at which the covered security was effected;
  - The name of the broker, dealer or bank through whom the transaction was effected;
  - In addition to the securities transaction data, the report will contain representations that the employee (i) during the period, has not purchased or sold any securities not listed on the report; (ii) has not opened a securities brokerage account during the period which has not been reported to KACALP, and (iii) agrees to notify KACALP if he/she opens a personal securities account which has not otherwise been disclosed to KACALP; and
  - The date the reports submitted to the CCO by the employee. (Note: The report must be submitted to the CCO within 30 calendar days following the end of the quarter.)

Following submission of the Personal Securities Transaction Report, the CCO (or a designee thereof) is responsible for reviewing and monitoring personal securities transactions and trading patterns of its employees. The review of personal securities holdings and transaction reports can include the following:

- An assessment of whether the employee followed required internal procedures, such as pre-clearance;
- Periodically analyzing the employee's trading for patterns that may indicate abuse, including marketing timing.
- Senior Management may impose sanctions on employees as deemed appropriate for failure to submit all required reports in a timely manner.
- 3. <u>Exceptions from Reporting Requirements</u>. Employees must identify the existence any accounts that hold any securities (including exempt securities) in which the employee has a Beneficial Interest. However, employees are not required to submit the following:
  - Quarterly Transaction Reports for transactions effected pursuant to an Automatic Investment Plan; or

• Any reports with respect to securities held in accounts over which the employee has no direct or indirect influence or control, such as an account managed by an investment adviser on a discretionary basis (a "Discretionary Account").

Any investment plans or accounts that may be eligible for either of these exceptions should be brought to the attention of the CCO who will, on a case-by-case basis, determine whether the plan or account qualifies for an exception. In making this determination, the CCO may ask for supporting documentation, such as a copy of the Automatic Investment Plan, a copy of the Discretionary Account management agreement, information about the external third party managing the outside account, and/or a written certification from the unaffiliated investment adviser. On a sample basis, the CCO may request reports on holdings and/or transactions made in the Discretionary Account to identify transactions that would have been prohibited pursuant to the Code of Ethics, absent reliance on the reporting exception. Employees who claim they have no direct or indirect influence or control over an account are also required to certify in writing that they have no direct or indirect influence or control over such an account upon commencement of their employment and on an annual basis thereafter.

- 4. <u>Annual Securities Holdings Report</u>. Every employee must submit an Annual Personal Securities Holdings Report via ComplySci listing all covered securities held by the employee as of December 31 of each year. The report must be submitted not later than 30 calendar days following year-end. The Annual Personal Securities Holding Report must contain the following information:
  - The title, number of shares or principal amount (if fixed income securities) of each covered security in which the employee had any direct or indirect beneficial ownership interest or ownership;
  - The name of any broker, dealer or bank with whom the employee maintains an account in which any covered securities are held for the direct or indirect benefit of the employee; and
  - The date the annual report is submitted by the employee to the CCO.

Following submission of the Annual Personal Securities Holding Report, the CCO (or a designee thereof) reviews each report for any evidence of improper trading activities or conflicts of interest. In addition, employees are required annually to read and sign KACALP's Code of Conduct.

5. <u>Duplicate Confirmations and Statements</u>. All employees are required to direct their brokers to provide to Compliance, on a timely basis, duplicate copies of confirmations of all personal securities transactions and copies of periodic statements for all securities accounts. Employees need not submit duplicate copies of statements and confirmations for those accounts eligible for one of several electronic feeds KACALP has established with various broker-dealers. Electronic feeds are used to facilitate the Compliance department's review and monitoring of employee personal trading activity.

#### G. Reporting Material Changes to the Personal Securities Transactions Policy

In the event of a material change to this policy, the CCO shall ensure that the change is approved by each registered fund's board no later than six months after the change is adopted.

# VII. INSIDER TRADING/ETHICALWALLS

# A. General

Section 204A of the Advisers Act requires every investment adviser to establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed, taking into consideration the nature of such investment adviser's business, to prevent the misuse of material, nonpublic information by such investment adviser or any person associated with such investment adviser.

## B. Insider Trading Policy

Although "insider trading" is not defined in securities laws, it is generally thought to be described as trading either personally or on behalf of others on the basis of material non-public information or communicating material non-public information to others in violation of the law.

The law prohibits individuals from trading securities of a company when they are in possession of material, non-public information relating to such company.

- 1. <u>Material Information</u>. Information is material if there is a reasonable likelihood that a person would consider the information important in making an investment decision or the information, if made public, would likely affect the market price of a company's securities. Material information may include:
  - (a) sales and earnings results or estimates (or changes thereto if previously published);
  - (b) significant losses of client accounts;
  - (c) proposed mergers, acquisitions, divestitures or joint ventures;
  - (d) stock repurchase plans and stock splits;

- (e) securities offerings;
- (f) litigation and investigations;
- (g) changes in control or extraordinary management developments;
- (h) extraordinary borrowings or other liquidity problems; and
- (i) other similar items.

Information is considered to be "non-public" unless it has been adequately disclosed to the public, which means that the information must be publicly disclosed and adequate time must have passed for the securities markets to digest the information. Examples of adequate disclosure include public filings with securities regulatory authorities and the issuance of press releases, and may also include meetings with members of the press and public.

- 2. <u>Tipping</u>. U.S. law also prohibits individuals from disclosing material, non-public information to another person (i.e. tipping) so that such person may purchase or sell securities on the basis of such information. Consequently, employees may not disclose non-public information, including information obtained as a result of activities outside of KACALP, to: (i) any person not employed by KACALP, or (ii) any person employed by KACALP unless such employee needs to know the information for business purposes. Employees and independent directors of the public funds who hold seats on the boards of other public companies should take special care to avoid disclosing material, non-public information regarding such other public companies to other KACALP employees. In certain circumstances, it may be necessary to establish ethical walls pursuant to KACALP's Ethical Wall Policy in order to wall off the person in possession of material non-public information.
- 3. <u>Sanctions</u>. Severe penalties exist for firms and individuals that engage in the act of insider trading, including civil injunctions, treble damages, disgorgement of profits and jail sentences. Further, fines for individuals and firms found guilty of insider trading are levied in amounts up to three times the profit gained or loss avoided, and up to the greater of \$1,000,000 or three times the profit gained or loss avoided, respectively.

If you have a question as to whether information is material or has been adequately disclosed to the public, you must contact the GC or CCO and abstain from disclosing the information or trading in the affected securities until you have been authoritatively informed that the information is not material or has been publicly disclosed to, and digested by, the marketplace.

4. <u>*Trading Windows.*</u> All directors, officers, and employees shall only be permitted to purchase or sell KACALP's publicly traded securities (KMF and KYN) as set forth below or as otherwise determined by KACALP's GC and CCO.

The net asset values ("NAVs") for each of KMF and KYN are calculated on a daily basis. No blackout period will be imposed on securimties transactions in these funds in the normal course of business. In all cases, the window may be closed on a discretionary basis at any time, with or without general notification, because of portfolio developments or other material events (e.g. a pending distribution announcement).

### C. Ethical Wall Policy

1. <u>General</u> KACALP has implemented the following policy and procedures to prevent the misuse and the appearance of misuse of confidential nonpublic information. When KACALP begins to work on a transaction involving a financing, restructuring, merger or other significant corporate transaction, KACALP may possess information affecting an issuer that is not publicly available. Yet, while one person or group is receiving the confidential non-public information, other parts of KACALP may be engaged in activities involving the publicly traded securities of the issuer. Under the law, and in consideration of its professional responsibilities, KACALP must not use material non-public information improperly to benefit KACALP or its clients in the public securities market. Indeed, KACALP must avoid even the appearance of so misusing non-public information. For the purposes of this policy, confidential information is considered material if it would be relevant to an investor in making a decision to buy or sell a security. Information normally is considered confidential non- public until it has effectively been circulated to the general public by means such as a news wire story, press release or filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. KACALP employees with confidential non-public information must not disclose it to anyone who does not have a proper "need to know." This policy of non-disclosure, known as the "Ethical Wall," is designed to keep the information confidential. While there are circumstances in which trading or dissemination of research must be restricted, reliance on a successfully operating Ethical Wall allows KACALP to minimize such restrictions. In doing so, the Ethical Wall permits KACALP personnel in nonaffected areas to continue to engage in activities involving an issuer's securities without signaling to the marketplace that KACALP is working on a transaction with the issuer.

Adherence to the Ethical Wall policy may, at times, limit the performance of portfolio managers that are not privy to non-public information possessed elsewhere in KACALP. Nonetheless, adherence to this policy is mandatory. However, this policy is not intended to increase standards of law or regulation applicable to KACALP or to provide clients with rights they would not otherwise have.

Any KACALP employee that believes he or she has come into possession of non-public information with respect to another company should immediately consult with the GC or CCO concerning what, if any, action should be taken. Unless advised to the contrary by the GC or CCO, the employee may not engage in transactions in the related securities of the issuer for any purpose and avoid further disclosure of the information.

The Legal and Compliance Department are responsible for approving and implementing the procedures established under this Policy. As part of its responsibilities, the Legal and Compliance Department will surveil and review trading activity in securities of companies on KACALP's Restricted and Gray Lists. In addition, where appropriate, the Legal and Compliance Department will make inquiries and conduct investigations regarding the use of non-public information in connection with these specific Procedures.

On an annual basis, all KACALP employees will be required to certify that they have read and will comply with all aspects of this Policy.

2. <u>Policy Operation</u>. To control access to non-public information, a formal Ethical Wall has been erected within KACALP, as follows:

Each of the private transaction groups within KACALP is surrounded by an Ethical Wall. The private transaction groups encompass those persons who are engaged in creating, structuring, negotiating and consummating private investments. As of the date of the update of this Policy, the following private transaction groups are surrounded by an Ethical Wall: Credit Opportunities (which includes both the Mezzanine and Senior Credit teams), Energy Private Equity, Growth Private Equity, MLP Private Funds, the PIPE Transaction Team within the Public Closed-End Funds Group, and Real Estate Private Equity.

The locations of these walls has been determined based on (i) the likelihood that the investment professionals within the private transaction groups are likely to come into possession of confidential non-public information, (ii) the need to shield other investment professionals to prevent the potential or perceived misuse of that information, and (iii) the need to allow other groups and investment professionals to engage in activities involving an issuer while an investment professional in the private transaction group is in possession of non-public information related to the issuer.

The establishment of this barrier is not intended to suggest that, within the private transaction groups, non-public information can circulate freely. Even within this area, a "need to know" policy is fully in effect. Nor is it intended that all communications between KACALP personnel in different walled off groups be completely prohibited. Such communications, however, should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines below.

3. <u>Crossing the Ethical Wall</u>. Certain KACALP personnel are required to transcend the Ethical Wall. The Chairman, CEO/CIO, CFO, CAO, GC, and CCO, when performing their overall management, compliance or counseling responsibilities, are required to have ongoing contact with senior personnel across KACALP. These discussions occasionally may require that non-public information about transactions or issuers be communicated. Such personnel who have obtained non-public information from a walled-off area in the course of their exercise of general managerial, compliance or counseling responsibilities may not participate in or use that information to influence trading decisions or strategies, research analyses or recommendations or other activities involving the affected issuers, nor may they pass that information to others for use in such activities.

If personnel on the knowledgeable side of an Ethical Wall determine that communication of non- public information to personnel on the other side of such Ethical Wall is required (for example, if a portfolio manager decides that the assistance of a research analyst would be beneficial in evaluating a prospective acquisition), they must obtain the approval of the GC and/or CCO. If personnel on the unknowledgeable side of an Ethical Wall engage in trading, research, advisory or other activity involving the issuer, ordinarily they will be required to immediately cease such activity upon receiving material non-public information about the issuer. The GC and/or CCO must be notified of, and approve such wall crossings prior to the communication of non-public information.

When bringing an employee "over the Ethical Wall" is under consideration, the following procedures must be followed:

- i. A senior member of the private transaction group must consider whether the need to disclose such information to the employee outweighs the risk and consequences of bringing him or her over the wall (including the fact that the activities of the employee brought over the wall in his/her normal role may be limited after receiving such information).
- ii. Prior to any employee being brought over the wall, a senior member of the transaction team must obtain approval (which may be written or verbal) from the GC or CCO.
- iii. Prior to being brought over the wall and being granted access to any material non-public information, the GC or CCO shall have that employee agree that he/she has read and that he/she will comply with all aspects of KACALP's Insider Trading/Ethical Walls Policy. E-mail will suffice when obtaining the employee's written acknowledgement.
- iv. Once over the wall, the employee will be treated similarly to any other member of the private transaction group with respect to the issuer and information in question. The employee must treat and safeguard any material non-public information conveyed to him or her as set forth in this Policy.
- v. Disclosure of material non-public information to the employee should be limited to information that is necessary to accomplish the purpose of bringing the employee over the wall.

Personnel brought "over the Ethical Wall" will be restricted from engaging in their customary activities with respect to the issuers involved in the transaction from the time they receive material non-public information until that information either is made available to the general public or ceases to be material. In relation to the particular transaction, personnel brought over the Ethical Wall will be viewed as members of the group primarily responsible for the transaction and usually can be given access to all information necessary to enable them to work on the transaction. Other than with respect to the issuers involved in the particular transaction, they may continue to work in their normal area of operation. For this reason, extreme care should be taken to ensure they are not put in possession of non-public information about other transactions or issuers that might prejudice or inhibit the proper performance of their other functions in their normal area of operation.

- 4. <u>Ethical Wall Safeguards</u>. Personnel on the knowledgeable side of the Ethical Wall must conduct all oral and written business protected by the Ethical Wall outside of the trading area and other common areas;
  - are strongly encouraged to conduct such business and communications in a closed office; and
  - must not attempt to communicate any trading strategies or trading intentions regarding issuers that are protected by the Ethical Wall.

Any confidential non-public information possessed by a private transaction group should be maintained in a separate, secure filing area (*e.g.*, filing cabinets or desk drawers that are locked when not in use). Reasonable efforts should be made to protect the confidentiality of such non-public information.

Without advance permission from the GC or CCO, KACALP personnel outside of the private transaction groups are not permitted access to files or other information possessed by the private transaction groups. Exceptions to this prohibition are provided to legal and compliance personnel to the extent necessary to carry out their responsibilities within Kayne Anderson. Certain provisions of the Ethical Wall reflect explicit requirements of the federal securities laws and exchange or other regulatory body rules. In compelling circumstances, regulatory bodies may grant exceptions to certain of these provisions. Other provisions have been adopted as a matter of KACALP policy or are based on general requirements in the federal securities laws or exchange or other regulatory body rules and related policies without dictating their specific content. Where appropriate, and for good cause shown, exceptions may be granted to such provisions by the GC or CCO.

### D. Gray List, Restricted List, and Amber List

On occasion, it may not be possible to rely solely on Ethical Wall policies to control possible misuse or the appearance of misuse of confidential nonpublic information. As discussed below, KACALP has adopted Gray and Restricted List procedures to supplement the Ethical Wall.

It is the responsibility of the senior investment professional involved in a transaction to assure that GC and/or CCO is contacted at the appropriate time to place an issuer, or a subsidiary of an issuer on the Gray List or Restricted List. The following section is intended to serve as a general guide to understanding the Gray List and Restricted List. Nevertheless, each transaction is different. It will not always be clear how a particular case should be handled. Questions regarding placement of an issuer on the Gray list or Restricted List and the effects of these restrictions should be directed to the GC and/or CCO.

- 1. <u>Placing Issuers on the Restricted List</u>. Generally, an issuer will be placed on the Restricted List if KACALP personnel are aware of confidential nonpublic information in connection with a proposed transaction that has *a more likely than not* prospect of being consummated. The senior officers of each private transaction group (or a designee thereof) will notify the GC and /or CCO that an issuer should be placed on the restricted list. In cases where confidential non-public information concerning an issuer is material to an investment decision with respect to another issuer, the latter issuer should be included in the Restricted List at the time the former issuer is included in the Restricted List. Unless the GC and/or CCO determine that an issuer should not be placed on the Restricted List, the GC and/or CCO will notify Compliance and Risk Management via email. Compliance or Risk Management will then add the issuer to the Restricted List maintained in the Firm's order management system, which restricts these issuers from being bought or sold.
- 2. <u>Placing Issuers on the Gray Lists</u>. An issuer should be placed on a Gray List in cases where KACALP personnel become aware of confidential non-public information concerning a public company *but no transaction is more likely than not* to be consummated in connection therewith. For the avoidance of doubt, where an executed confidentiality agreement has been entered into with a company, such company will be added to the Gray List. The senior officers of each private transaction group will notify the GC and/or the CCO that an issuer should be placed on the Gray List. Unless the GC or CCO determines that an issuer should not be placed on the Gray List, the GC and/or CCO will notify Compliance via email.
- 3. <u>Removing Issuers from the Restricted or Gray List</u>. The senior officers of each private transaction group (or a designee thereof) will notify either the GC and/or the CCO that an issuer that they placed on the Restricted List should be removed from the Restricted List. Issuers can be removed from the Restricted List when a deal has been consummated and announced or if the deal has been terminated. The GC and/or the CCO will notify Compliance and Risk Management via email of their decision. Compliance or Risk Management will then take the appropriate action of updating the Restricted List.

- 4. <u>Effect of Inclusion on the Gray Lists and Restricted List.</u> The Gray List and Restricted List are primarily designed to prevent misuse or the appearance of misuse of confidential non- public information. Each issuer shall be added to the Restricted or Gray List (as appropriate) within KACALP's ComplySci system (KACALP's employee security trading and pre- clearance system) and KACALP employees will not be allowed to purchase or sell securities of issuers on the Gray Lists or Restricted List for their own account. While inclusion on the Restricted List prohibits transactions in funds and accounts under management, trades may be effected in issuers on the Gray List in accordance with this Policy and as permitted by the GC and CCO. Affected personnel should not disclose to anyone else within KACALP any information regarding the halting of specific trades due to inclusion on the Restricted or Gray List. However, such disclosure is allowed if the GC or CCO has specifically authorized such disclosure on the ground that it is clear no material non-public information would be communicated by such disclosure.
- 5. <u>Amber List</u>. Depending on the nature of due diligence conducted during the evaluation of a particular transaction, such private transaction group may receive financial projections with respect to a particular issuer or company. As a general rule, financial projections received in connection with due diligence will be considered stale six months from the date of receipt in the absence of a basis to conclude otherwise including the filing of an 8-K in connection with M&A activity, filing of a 10-Q or other material earnings announcement, filing of an S-1, or another material event (e.g. change in control) as appropriate. During such six month period, those in possession of such projections are prohibited from discussing such issuer (other than possibly general commentary) with those on the public side of the Ethical Wall.

Given the severe penalties imposed on individuals and firms engaging in insider trading, employees:

Are not to trade the securities of any company in which they are deemed insiders who may possess material, non-public information about the company.

Are not to cause a securities transaction to be effected without first confirming that the issuer is not on the Restricted List.

Are not to engage in securities transactions of any company, except in accordance with KACALP's Personal Securities Transactions Policy and the securities laws.

Are not to discuss any potentially material, non-public information with colleagues, except as specifically required by their position.

Are immediately to report the potential receipt of non-public information to the CCO and GC.

In cases not involving prohibited insider trading, the GC may authorize a transaction in a security of an issuer then included in the Restricted List. Such authorization shall be in writing and explain the basis for allowing such transaction.



ATLANTA CINCINNATI COLUMBUS LOS ANGELES NEW YORK

CHICAGO CLEVELAND DAYTON MINNEAPOLIS WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 16, 2025

Via EDGAR filing

Securities & Exchange Commission 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20549

#### Re: Simplify Exchange Traded Funds, File Nos. 333-238475 and 811-23570

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Simplify Exchange Traded Funds, a registered investment company (the "Trust"), we hereby submit, via electronic filing, Post-Effective Amendment No. 157 (the "Amendment") to the Trust's Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). The Amendment is filed pursuant to Rule 485(b) promulgated under the Securities Act. We have reviewed the Amendment in accordance with Rule 485(b)(4) and represent that this update does not contain any disclosure that would render it ineligible to become effective pursuant to Rule 485(b). The main purpose of this filing is to respond to SEC comments and provide other completing disclosures for the Simplify Kayne Anderson Energy and Infrastructure Credit ETF.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (614) 469-3238 or JoAnn Strasser at (614) 469-3265.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Parker Bridgeport Parker Bridgeport Senior Counsel Thompson Hine LLP

THOMPSON HINE LLP Attorneys at Law 41 South High Street Suite 1700 Columbus, Ohio 43215-6101 www.ThompsonHine.com O: 614.469.3200 F: 614.469.3361