

## PROSPECTUS

<b>FUND NAME</b>	<b>TICKER SYMBOL</b>	<b>EXCHANGE</b>
EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF	ERM	NYSE Arca
EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF	TERM	NYSE Arca

Each of the funds listed above (each a “Fund,” and collectively, the “Funds”) lists and principally trades its shares on NYSE Arca, Inc. (“NYSE Arca” or the “Exchange”). Market prices may differ to some degree from the net asset value of the shares. Unlike mutual funds, each Fund issues and redeems shares at net asset value, only in large specified blocks consisting of 50,000 shares (each such block of shares called a “Creation Unit,” and collectively, the “Creation Units”). Each Fund’s Creation Units are generally issued and redeemed in-kind for securities in which the Fund invests, and in certain circumstances, for cash, and only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements.

**Each Fund is a series of the First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VIII (the “Trust”) and an actively managed exchange-traded fund organized as a separate series of a registered management company.**

**Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the shares are not redeemable securities of the Funds.**

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

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

January 2, 2018

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# SUMMARY INFORMATION

## EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF (ERM)

### Investment Objectives

The EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF (the "Fund") seeks to provide long term capital appreciation with capital preservation as a secondary objective.

### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

The following table describes the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. Investors purchasing and selling shares may be subject to costs (including customary brokerage commissions) charged by their broker, which are not reflected in the table below.

#### Shareholder Fees

(fees paid directly from your investment)

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
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#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

Management Fees	0.65%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees <sup>(1)</sup>	0.00%
Other Expenses	0.00%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0.65%</b>

*(1) Although the Fund has adopted a 12b-1 plan that permits it to pay up to 0.25% per annum, it will not pay 12b-1 fees at any time before January 19, 2019.*

#### Example

The example below is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other funds. This example does not take into account customary brokerage commissions that you pay when purchasing or selling shares of the Fund in the secondary market.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain at current levels until January 19, 2019, and thereafter at 0.90% to represent the imposition of the 12b-1 fee of 0.25% per annum of the Fund's average daily net assets. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
	\$66	\$262	\$474	\$1,085

#### 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. During the fiscal period April 10, 2017 (inception) through August 31, 2017, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 8% of the average value of its portfolio.

#### Principal Investment Strategies

Under normal market conditions, the Fund seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing in equity securities of companies domiciled in the U.S. or listed on a U.S. exchange. During periods when the U.S. equity market is determined to be unfavorable by the Fund's sub-advisor, Choice Financial Partners, Inc. d/b/a EquityCompass Strategies (the "Sub-Advisor"), the Fund may invest all or a portion of its assets in cash, cash equivalents and short-term fixed income exchange-traded funds ("ETFs").

## EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF (ERM)

The Fund's strategy seeks to provide exposure to U.S.-listed equity securities and to avoid large, prolonged market losses and reduce volatility. The equity securities held by the Fund are generally stocks in the S&P 100 Index and certain smaller capitalized stocks diversified across major economic sectors, typically within the S&P 500 Index. The portfolio of equity securities and allocation decisions are determined by analyzing technical and fundamental market indicators to determine the current overall favorability of the market. When these indicators determine that the market is entering an unfavorable period, the Fund may invest all or a portion of its assets in cash and cash equivalents, including money market funds and short-term fixed income ETFs. Certain of the ETFs in which the Fund invests may be advised by First Trust Advisors L.P., the Fund's investment advisor.

The equity securities in which the Fund invests may be of any market capitalization. The Fund is classified as "non-diversified" under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act").

### Principal Risks

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

**AUTHORIZED PARTICIPANT CONCENTRATION RISK.** Only an authorized participant (as defined in the "Frequent Purchases and Redemptions" Section) may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the Fund. The Fund has a limited number of institutions that act as authorized participants. To the extent that these institutions exit the business or are unable to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other authorized participant is able to step forward to create or redeem, in either of these cases, Fund shares may trade at a discount to the Fund's net asset value and possibly face delisting.

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

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

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

**ETF RISK.** The shares of an ETF trade like common stock and represent a portfolio of securities. The risks of owning an ETF generally reflect the risks of owning the underlying securities, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in it being more volatile and ETFs have management fees that increase their costs. An investment can be made in the underlying ETFs directly rather than through the Fund. These direct investments can be made without paying the fees and expenses associated with the Fund.

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

**FLUCTUATION OF NET ASSET VALUE RISK.** The net asset value of shares of the Fund will generally fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings. The market prices of shares will generally fluctuate in accordance with changes in net asset value as well as the relative supply of and demand for shares on NYSE Arca. The Fund's investment advisor cannot predict whether shares will trade below, at or above their net asset value because the shares trade on NYSE Arca at market prices and not at net asset value. Price differences may be due, in large part, to the fact that supply and demand forces at work in the secondary trading market for shares will be closely related to, but not identical to, the same forces influencing the prices of the holdings of the Fund trading individually or in the aggregate at any point in time. However, given that shares can only be purchased and redeemed either in-kind or for cash in Creation Units, and only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements (unlike shares of closed-end funds, which frequently trade at appreciable discounts from, and sometimes at premiums to, their net asset value), the Fund's investment advisor believes that large discounts or premiums to the net asset value of shares should not be sustained.

**INCOME RISK.** The income of the underlying ETFs could decline due to falling market interest rates. This is because, in a falling interest rate environment, the underlying ETFs generally will have to invest the proceeds from maturing portfolio securities, or portfolio securities that have been called, in lower-yielding securities.

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

**INVESTMENT RESTRICTION RISK.** The Fund's investment in ETFs is restricted by the 1940 Act and the Fund's associated exemptive relief which limits the amount of any single ETF that can be owned by the Fund, individually and in the aggregate with all other registered investment companies and private investment pools advised by First Trust and its affiliates. This limitation may prevent the Fund from purchasing shares of an ETF that it may have otherwise purchased pursuant to its investment objectives and principal investment strategy.

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

**MARKET MAKER RISK.** If the Fund has lower average daily trading volumes, it may rely on a small number of third-party market makers to provide a market for the purchase and sale of shares. Any trading halt or other problem relating to the trading activity of these market makers could result in a dramatic change in the spread between the Fund's net asset value and the price at which the Fund's shares are trading on NYSE Arca, which could result in a decrease in value of the Fund's shares. In addition, decisions by market makers or authorized participants to reduce their role or step away from these activities in times of market stress could inhibit the effectiveness of the arbitrage process in maintaining the relationship between the underlying values of the Fund's portfolio securities and the Fund's market price. This reduced effectiveness could result in Fund shares trading at a discount to net asset value and also in greater than normal intraday bid-ask spreads for Fund shares.

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

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK.** The Fund is classified as "non-diversified" under the 1940 Act. As a result, the Fund is only limited as to the percentage of its assets that may be invested in the securities of any one issuer by the diversification requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Fund may invest a relatively high percentage of its assets in a limited number of issuers. As a result, the Fund may be more susceptible to a single adverse economic or regulatory occurrence affecting one or more of these issuers, experience increased volatility and be highly invested in certain issuers.

**SMALLER COMPANIES RISK.** Small and/or mid capitalization companies may be more vulnerable to adverse general market or economic developments, and their securities may be less liquid and may experience greater price volatility than larger,

## EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF (ERM)

more established companies as a result of several factors, including limited trading volumes, products or financial resources, management inexperience and less publicly available information. Accordingly, such companies are generally subject to greater market risk than larger, more established companies.

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

**TRADING ISSUES RISK.** Although the shares of the Fund are listed for trading on NYSE Arca, there can be no assurance that an active trading market for such shares will develop or be maintained. Trading in shares on NYSE Arca may be halted due to market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of NYSE Arca, make trading in shares inadvisable. In addition, trading in shares on NYSE Arca is subject to trading halts caused by extraordinary market volatility pursuant to NYSE Arca "circuit breaker" rules. Market makers are under no obligation to make a market in the Fund's shares, and authorized participants are not obligated to submit purchase or redemption orders for Creation Units. There can be no assurance that the requirements of NYSE Arca necessary to maintain the listing of the Fund will continue to be met or will remain unchanged.

### Performance

The Fund has not yet operated for a full calendar year and, therefore, performance information is not included in this section of the prospectus. See "Total Return Information" for performance information regarding the Fund.

### Management

#### **Investment Advisor**

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

#### **Investment Sub-Advisor**

Choice Financial Partners, Inc. d/b/a EquityCompass Strategies ("*EquityCompass Strategies*" or the "*Sub-Advisor*")

#### **Advisor's Investment Committee**

The Advisor's Investment Committee (the "*Investment Committee*"), which manages the Fund's investments, consists of:

- Daniel J. Lindquist, Managing Director of First Trust
- Jon C. Erickson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- David G. McGarel, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of First Trust
- Roger F. Testin, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Todd Larson, CFA, Vice President of First Trust
- Chris A. Peterson, CFA, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- John Gambla, Senior Portfolio Manager, Alternatives Investment Team of First Trust
- Rob A. Guttschow, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, Alternatives Investment Team of First Trust

#### **Sub-Advisor Portfolio Managers**

- Timothy M. McCann, Senior Portfolio Manager of EquityCompass Strategies
- Bernard J. Kavanagh, III, Portfolio Manager of EquityCompass Strategies

The Investment Committee members are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund, while the Sub-Advisor portfolio managers provide non-discretionary investment advice to the Investment Committee. Each portfolio manager has served as part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2017.

### Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

The Fund issues and redeems shares on a continuous basis, at net asset value, only in Creation Units consisting of 50,000 shares. The Fund's Creation Units are generally issued and redeemed in-kind for securities in which the Fund invests and, in certain circumstances, for cash and only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements. Individual shares of the Fund may only be purchased and sold on NYSE Arca and other eligible securities exchanges through a broker-dealer. Shares of the Fund will trade on NYSE Arca at market prices rather than net asset value, which may cause the shares to trade at a price greater than net asset value (premium) or less than net asset value (discount).

**Tax Information**

The Fund's distributions are taxable and will generally be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains. Distributions on shares held in a tax-deferred account, while not immediately taxable, will be subject to tax when the shares are no longer held in a tax-deferred account.

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

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

## SUMMARY INFORMATION

### EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF (TERM)

#### Investment Objectives

The EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF (the "Fund") seeks to provide long term capital appreciation with capital preservation as a secondary objective.

#### Fees and Expenses of the Fund

The following table describes the fees and expenses you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Fund. Investors purchasing and selling shares may be subject to costs (including customary brokerage commissions) charged by their broker, which are not reflected in the table below.

#### Shareholder Fees

(fees paid directly from your investment)

Maximum Sales Charge (Load) Imposed on Purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	None
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#### Annual Fund Operating Expenses

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

Management Fees	0.65%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees <sup>(1)</sup>	0.00%
Other Expenses	0.00%
<b>Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0.65%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Although the Fund has adopted a 12b-1 plan that permits it to pay up to 0.25% per annum, it will not pay 12b-1 fees at any time before January 19, 2019.

#### Example

The example below is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other funds. This example does not take into account customary brokerage commissions that you pay when purchasing or selling shares of the Fund in the secondary market.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain at current levels until January 19, 2019, and thereafter at 0.90% to represent the imposition of the 12b-1 fee of 0.25% per annum of the Fund's average daily net assets. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
	\$66	\$262	\$474	\$1,085

#### 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. During the fiscal period April 10, 2017 (inception) through August 31, 2017, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 10% of the average value of its portfolio.

#### Principal Investment Strategies

Under normal market conditions, the Fund seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing in equity securities of companies domiciled in the U.S. or listed on a U.S. exchange. During periods when the U.S. equity market is determined to be unfavorable by the Fund's sub-advisor, Choice Financial Partners, Inc. d/b/a EquityCompass Strategies (the "Sub-Advisor"), the Fund may invest all or a portion of its assets in cash, cash equivalents and short-term fixed income exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). During such periods, the Fund may also invest a significant portion of its assets in securities designed to provide short exposure to broad U.S. market indexes.



## EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF (TERM)

The Fund's strategy seeks to provide exposure to U.S.-listed equity securities and to avoid large, prolonged market losses and reduce volatility. The equity securities held by the Fund are generally stocks in the S&P 100 Index and certain smaller capitalized stocks diversified across major economic sectors, typically within the S&P 500 Index. The portfolio of equity securities and allocation decisions are determined by analyzing technical and fundamental market indicators to determine the current overall favorability of the market. When these indicators determine that the market is entering an unfavorable period, the Fund may invest all or a portion of its assets in cash and cash equivalents, including money market funds and short-term fixed income ETFs. During an unfavorable market period, the Fund may also invest in inverse ETFs which seek to provide investment results that match a negative return of the performance of an underlying index like the S&P 500 Index. Certain of the ETFs in which the Fund invests may be advised by First Trust Advisors L.P., the Fund's investment advisor.

The equity securities in which the Fund invests may be of any market capitalization. The Fund is classified as "non-diversified" under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act").

### Principal Risks

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

**AUTHORIZED PARTICIPANT CONCENTRATION RISK.** Only an authorized participant (as defined in the "Frequent Purchases and Redemptions" Section) may engage in creation or redemption transactions directly with the Fund. The Fund has a limited number of institutions that act as authorized participants. To the extent that these institutions exit the business or are unable to proceed with creation and/or redemption orders with respect to the Fund and no other authorized participant is able to step forward to create or redeem, in either of these cases, Fund shares may trade at a discount to the Fund's net asset value and possibly face delisting.

**COUNTERPARTY RISK.** To the extent that the Fund or an underlying ETF engages in derivatives transactions, the Fund bears the risk that the counterparty to the derivative or other contract with a third-party may default on its obligations or otherwise fail to honor its obligations. If a counterparty defaults on its payment obligations the Fund will lose money and the value of the Fund's shares may decrease.

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

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

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

**ETF RISK.** The shares of an ETF trade like common stock and represent a portfolio of securities. The risks of owning an ETF generally reflect the risks of owning the underlying securities, although lack of liquidity in an ETF could result in it being more volatile and ETFs have management fees that increase their costs. An investment can be made in the underlying ETFs directly rather than through the Fund. These direct investments can be made without paying the fees and expenses associated with the Fund.

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

**FLUCTUATION OF NET ASSET VALUE RISK.** The net asset value of shares of the Fund will generally fluctuate with changes in the market value of the Fund's holdings. The market prices of shares will generally fluctuate in accordance with changes in net asset value as well as the relative supply of and demand for shares on NYSE Arca. The Fund's investment advisor cannot predict whether shares will trade below, at or above their net asset value because the shares trade on NYSE Arca at market prices and not at net asset value. Price differences may be due, in large part, to the fact that supply and demand forces at work in the secondary trading market for shares will be closely related to, but not identical to, the same forces influencing the prices of the holdings of the Fund trading individually or in the aggregate at any point in time. However, given that shares can only be purchased and redeemed either in-kind or for cash in Creation Units, and only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements (unlike shares of closed-end funds, which frequently trade at appreciable discounts from, and sometimes at premiums to, their net asset value), the Fund's investment advisor believes that large discounts or premiums to the net asset value of shares should not be sustained.

**INCOME RISK.** The income of the underlying ETFs could decline due to falling market interest rates. This is because, in a falling interest rate environment, the underlying ETFs generally will have to invest the proceeds from maturing portfolio securities, or portfolio securities that have been called, in lower-yielding securities.

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

**INVERSE ETF RISK.** Inverse ETFs are subject to the same risks as traditional ETFs. Additionally, because inverse ETFs seek to provide investment results that match a negative return of the performance of an underlying index like the S&P 500, the Fund will bear the risk that the performance of an inverse ETF will fall as the performance of that ETF's benchmark rises. The Fund's investment in an inverse ETF would subject the Fund to the risks of a short sales. The underlying ETF will incur a loss as a result of a short sale if the price of the security sold short increases in value between the date of the short sale and the date on which the Fund purchases the security to replace the borrowed security. In addition, a lender of a security may request, or market conditions may dictate, that securities sold short be returned to the lender on short notice, which may result in the underlying ETF having to buy the securities sold short at an unfavorable price. If this occurs, any anticipated gain to the underlying ETF may be reduced or eliminated or the short sale may result in a loss. In a rising stock market, the underlying ETF's short positions may significantly impact the ETF's overall performance and cause it to underperform traditional long-only equity funds or to sustain losses, particularly in a sharply rising market. The use of short sales may also cause the underlying ETF to have higher expenses than other funds.

**INVESTMENT RESTRICTION RISK.** The Fund's investment in ETFs is restricted by the 1940 Act and the Fund's associated exemptive relief which limits the amount of any single ETF that can be owned by the Fund, individually and in the aggregate with all other registered investment companies and private investment pools advised by First Trust and its affiliates. This limitation may prevent the Fund from purchasing shares of an ETF that it may have otherwise purchased pursuant to its investment objectives and principal investment strategy.

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

**MARKET MAKER RISK.** If the Fund has lower average daily trading volumes, it may rely on a small number of third-party market makers to provide a market for the purchase and sale of shares. Any trading halt or other problem relating to the trading activity of these market makers could result in a dramatic change in the spread between the Fund's net asset value and the price at which the Fund's shares are trading on NYSE Arca, which could result in a decrease in value of the Fund's shares. In

addition, decisions by market makers or authorized participants to reduce their role or step away from these activities in times of market stress could inhibit the effectiveness of the arbitrage process in maintaining the relationship between the underlying values of the Fund's portfolio securities and the Fund's market price. This reduced effectiveness could result in Fund shares trading at a discount to net asset value and also in greater than normal intraday bid-ask spreads for Fund shares.

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

**NON-DIVERSIFICATION RISK.** The Fund is classified as "non-diversified" under the 1940 Act. As a result, the Fund is only limited as to the percentage of its assets that may be invested in the securities of any one issuer by the diversification requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Fund may invest a relatively high percentage of its assets in a limited number of issuers. As a result, the Fund may be more susceptible to a single adverse economic or regulatory occurrence affecting one or more of these issuers, experience increased volatility and be highly invested in certain issuers.

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

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

**TRADING ISSUES RISK.** Although the shares of the Fund are listed for trading on NYSE Arca, there can be no assurance that an active trading market for such shares will develop or be maintained. Trading in shares on NYSE Arca may be halted due to market conditions or for reasons that, in the view of NYSE Arca, make trading in shares inadvisable. In addition, trading in shares on NYSE Arca is subject to trading halts caused by extraordinary market volatility pursuant to NYSE Arca "circuit breaker" rules. Market makers are under no obligation to make a market in the Fund's shares, and authorized participants are not obligated to submit purchase or redemption orders for Creation Units. There can be no assurance that the requirements of NYSE Arca necessary to maintain the listing of the Fund will continue to be met or will remain unchanged.

## Performance

The Fund has not yet operated for a full calendar year and, therefore, performance information is not included in this section of the prospectus. See "Total Return Information" for performance information regarding the Fund.

## Management

### **Investment Advisor**

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

### **Investment Sub-Advisor**

Choice Financial Partners, Inc. d/b/a EquityCompass Strategies ("*EquityCompass Strategies*" or the "*Sub-Advisor*")

### **Advisor's Investment Committee**

The Advisor's Investment Committee (the "*Investment Committee*"), which manages the Fund's investments, consists of:

- Daniel J. Lindquist, Managing Director of First Trust
- Jon C. Erickson, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- David G. McGarel, Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director of First Trust
- Roger F. Testin, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- Todd Larson, CFA, Vice President of First Trust
- Chris A. Peterson, CFA, Senior Vice President of First Trust
- John Gambla, Senior Portfolio Manager, Alternatives Investment Team of First Trust

## EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF (TERM)

- Rob A. Guttschow, CFA, Senior Portfolio Manager, Alternatives Investment Team of First Trust

### ***Sub-Advisor Portfolio Managers***

- Timothy M. McCann, Senior Portfolio Manager of EquityCompass Strategies
- Bernard J. Kavanagh, III, Portfolio Manager of EquityCompass Strategies

The Investment Committee members are primarily and jointly responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund, while the Sub-Advisor portfolio managers provide non-discretionary investment advice to the Investment Committee. Each portfolio manager has served as part of the portfolio management team of the Fund since 2017.

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

The Fund issues and redeems shares on a continuous basis, at net asset value, only in Creation Units consisting of 50,000 shares. The Fund's Creation Units are generally issued and redeemed in-kind for securities in which the Fund invests and, in certain circumstances, for cash and only to and from broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements. Individual shares of the Fund may only be purchased and sold on NYSE Arca and other eligible securities exchanges through a broker-dealer. Shares of the Fund will trade on NYSE Arca at market prices rather than net asset value, which may cause the shares to trade at a price greater than net asset value (premium) or less than net asset value (discount).

### **Tax Information**

The Fund's distributions are taxable and will generally be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains. Distributions on shares held in a tax-deferred account, while not immediately taxable, will be subject to tax when the shares are no longer held in a tax-deferred account.

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

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

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

Each Fund's investment objectives are fundamental policies that may only be changed with shareholder approval. Unless an investment policy is identified as being fundamental, all investment policies included in the prospectus and the Funds' Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") are non-fundamental and may be changed by the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Trust, of which each Fund is a series, without shareholder approval. If there is a material change to a Fund's principal investment strategies, you should consider whether the Fund remains an appropriate investment for you. There is no guarantee that the Funds will achieve their investment objectives.

### **Fund Investments**

#### **Principal Investments**

##### **Equity Securities**

The Funds invest in equity securities, which primarily include common stocks.

##### **Investment Companies**

The Funds may invest in securities of money market funds and ETFs. ETFs are managed registered investment companies which invest in various types of securities. ETFs issue shares of common stock that are traded on a securities exchange. ETFs trade on a securities exchange and their shares may, at times, trade at a premium or discount to their net asset value. As a shareholder in a pooled investment vehicle, a Fund will bear its ratable share of that vehicle's expenses, and would remain subject to payment of the fund's advisory and administrative fees with respect to assets so invested. Shareholders would therefore be subject to duplicative expenses to the extent a Fund invests in other pooled investment vehicles. In addition, each Fund will incur brokerage costs when purchasing and selling shares of money market funds and ETFs. Securities of other pooled investment vehicles may be leveraged, in which case the value and/or yield of such securities will tend to be more volatile than securities of unleveraged vehicles.

In addition, the EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF may invest in inverse ETFs. An inverse ETF is a special type of index ETF that is designed to provide investment results that move in the opposite direction of the daily price movement of the index to which it is benchmarked. These ETFs may pursue this strategy by utilizing short selling, trading derivatives such as futures contracts and employing other leveraged investment techniques.

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

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

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

#### **Non-Principal Investments**

##### **Derivative Instruments**

In an unfavorable market environment, the EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF may invest a portion of its assets in derivative instruments designed to provide short exposure to broad U.S. market indexes, including exchange-traded futures, options and swaps. Derivatives are financial instruments whose value depends upon, or is derived from, an underlying reference asset, such as an equity index.

## Illiquid Securities

The Funds may invest up to 15% of their net assets in securities and other instruments that are illiquid (determined using the Securities and Exchange Commission's standard applicable to investment companies, *i.e.*, securities that cannot be disposed of by a Fund within seven days in the ordinary course of business at approximately the price at which the Fund has valued the securities).

## Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings

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

## Additional Risks of Investing in the Funds

Risk is inherent in all investing. Investing in a Fund involves risk, including the risk that you may lose all or part of your investment. There can be no assurance that a Fund will meet its stated objectives. Before you invest, you should consider the following supplemental disclosure pertaining to the Principal Risks set forth above as well as additional Non-Principal Risks set forth below in this prospectus.

### Principal Risks

**CALL RISK.** The underlying ETFs are subject to the possibility that during periods of falling interest rates, a bond issuer will call its high yielding bonds. The underlying ETFs would then be forced to invest the unanticipated proceeds at lower interest rates, resulting in a decline in the underlying ETF's income.

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

**ETF RISK.** An investment in ETFs involves certain further risks, including that an ETF may fail to accurately track the returns of the market segment or index that it is designed to track, and the price of an ETF's shares may fluctuate. In addition, because they, unlike traditional mutual funds, are traded on an exchange, ETFs are subject to the following risks: (i) the performance of the ETF may not replicate the performance of the underlying index that it is designed to track; (ii) the market price of the ETF's shares may trade at a premium or discount to the ETF's net asset value; (iii) an active trading market for an ETF may not develop or be maintained; and (iv) there is no assurance that the requirements of the exchange necessary to maintain the listing of the ETF will continue to be met or remain unchanged. In the event substantial market or other disruptions affecting ETFs should occur in the future, the liquidity and value of the Fund's shares could also be substantially and adversely affected. An investment company's investments in other investment companies are typically subject to statutory limitations prescribed by the 1940 Act. The Funds may invest in certain investment companies in excess of the limits imposed under the 1940 Act, subject to certain terms and conditions, pursuant to an exemptive order that the SEC has issued to the Trust.

**INTEREST RATE RISK.** The value of the underlying ETF's debt securities will fluctuate in value with changes in interest rates. In general, debt securities will increase in value when interest rates fall and decrease in value when interest rates rise. The underlying ETFs may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates than would normally be the case due to the current period of historically low rates and the effect of potential government fiscal policy initiatives and resulting market reaction to those initiatives.

Interest rate risk is generally lower for shorter-term investments and higher for longer-term investments. Duration is a common measure of interest rate risk. Duration measures a debt security's expected life on a present value basis, taking into account the debt security's yield, interest payments and final maturity. Duration is a reasonably accurate measure of a debt security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates. The longer the duration of a debt security, the greater the debt security's price sensitivity is to changes in interest rates. Rising interest rates also may lengthen the duration of debt securities with call features, since exercise of the call becomes less likely as interest rates rise, which in turn will make the securities more sensitive to changes in interest rates and result in even steeper price declines in the event of further interest rate increases.

An increase in interest rates could also cause principal payments on a debt security to be repaid at a slower rate than expected. This risk is particularly prevalent for a callable security where an increase in interest rates could cause the issuer of that security to not redeem the security as anticipated on the call date, which could have the effect of lengthening that debt security's expected maturity, in turn making that security more vulnerable to interest rate risk and reducing its market value.

When interest rates fall, an underlying ETF may be required to reinvest the proceeds from the sale, redemption or early prepayment of a debt security at a lower interest rate.

## **Non-Principal Risks**

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

**CASH TRANSACTIONS RISK.** The Funds may, under certain circumstances, effect a portion of creations and redemptions for cash, rather than in-kind securities. As a result, an investment in the Funds may be less tax-efficient than an investment in an ETF that effects its creations and redemptions for in-kind securities. ETFs are able to make in-kind redemptions and avoid being taxed on gains on the distributed portfolio securities at the fund level. Because the Funds may effect a portion of redemptions for cash, they may be required to sell portfolio securities in order to obtain the cash needed to distribute redemption proceeds. Any recognized gain on these sales by the Funds will generally cause the Funds to recognize gain they might not otherwise have recognized, or to recognize such gain sooner than would otherwise be required if they were to distribute portfolio securities in-kind. The Funds generally intend to distribute these gains to shareholders to avoid being taxed on this gain at the fund level and otherwise comply with the special tax rules that apply to them. This strategy may cause shareholders to be subject to tax on gains they would not otherwise be subject to, or at an earlier date than if they had made an investment in a different ETF. Moreover, cash transactions may have to be carried out over several days if the securities market is relatively illiquid and may involve considerable brokerage fees and taxes. These brokerage fees and taxes, which will be higher than if the Funds sold and redeemed their shares in-kind, will be passed on to purchasers and redeemers of Creation Units in the form of creation and redemption transaction fees. In addition, these factors may result in wider spreads between the bid and the offered prices of the Funds' shares than for ETFs that distribute portfolio securities in-kind.

**DEPENDENCE ON KEY PERSONNEL.** The Sub-Advisor is dependent upon the experience and expertise of the Funds' portfolio managers in providing advisory services with respect to the Funds' investments. If the Sub-Advisor were to lose the services of any of these portfolio managers, its ability to service the Funds could be adversely affected. There can be no assurance that a suitable replacement could be found for any of the portfolio managers in the event of their death, resignation, retirement or inability to act on behalf of the Sub-Advisor.

**DERIVATIVES INVESTMENT RISK.** The EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF may invest in derivatives, including futures, options and swaps. The use of derivatives can lead to losses because of adverse movements in the price or value of the underlying asset, index or rate, which may be magnified by certain features of the derivatives. These risks are heightened when the Fund's portfolio managers use derivatives to enhance the Fund's return or as a substitute for a position or security, rather than solely to hedge (or offset) the risk of a position or security held by the Fund.

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

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

**LEGISLATION/LITIGATION RISK.** From time to time, various legislative initiatives are proposed in the United States and abroad, which may have a negative impact on certain companies in which the Funds invests. In addition, litigation regarding any of the issuers of the securities owned by the Funds, or industries represented by these issuers, may negatively impact the value of the securities. Such legislation or litigation may cause the Funds to lose value or may result in higher portfolio turnover if the Advisor determines to sell such a holding.

**NON-U.S. SECURITIES RISK.** Non-U.S. securities are subject to higher volatility than securities of domestic issuers due to possible adverse political, social or economic developments, restrictions on foreign investment or exchange of securities, lack of liquidity, currency exchange rates, excessive taxation, government seizure of assets, different legal or accounting standards, and less government supervision and regulation of exchanges in foreign countries.

## Fund Organization

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

## Management of the Funds

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

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

First Trust serves as advisor or sub-advisor to seven mutual fund portfolios, 10 exchange-traded funds consisting of 128 series and 16 closed-end funds. It is also the portfolio supervisor of certain unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. ("FTP"), an affiliate of First Trust, 120 East Liberty Drive, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. FTP specializes in the underwriting, trading and distribution of unit investment trusts and other securities. FTP is the principal underwriter of the shares of the Funds.

The Funds and First Trust have retained Choice Financial Partners, Inc. d/b/a EquityCompass Strategies, 1 South Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, to serve as a non-discretionary investment sub-advisor. In this capacity, EquityCompass Strategies is responsible for providing recommendations to First Trust regarding the selection and allocation of the securities in each Fund's investment portfolio. EquityCompass Strategies is a research and investment advisory unit of Choice Financial Partners, Inc., a Securities and Exchange Commission registered investment adviser offering a comprehensive range of investment portfolios and products to institutional and individual investors primarily through Stifel Nicolaus and Company. As of September 30, 2017, EquityCompass Strategies had \$3.5 billion in total assets.

There is no one individual primarily responsible for portfolio management decisions for the Funds. Investments are made under the direction of the Investment Committee, consisting of:

- Mr. Lindquist is responsible for overseeing the implementation of each Fund's investment strategy. Mr. Lindquist was a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP from September 2005 to July 2012 and is now a Managing Director of First Trust and FTP.
- Mr. Erickson joined First Trust in 1994 and is a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP. As the head of First Trust's Equity Research Group, Mr. Erickson is responsible for determining the securities to be purchased and sold by funds that do not utilize quantitative investment strategies.
- Mr. McGarel is the Chief Investment Officer, Chief Operating Officer and a Managing Director of First Trust and FTP. As First Trust's Chief Investment Officer, Mr. McGarel consults with the other portfolio managers on market conditions and First Trust's general investment philosophy. Mr. McGarel was a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP from January 2004 to July 2012.
- Mr. Testin is a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP. Mr. Testin is the head of First Trust's Portfolio Management Group. Mr. Testin has been a Senior Vice President of First Trust and FTP since November 2003.
- Mr. Larson, CFA, joined First Trust in 2007 as Portfolio Manager for the Investment Grade Fixed Income Team and has 24 years of investment experience. Prior to joining First Trust, Mr. Larson was Vice President and Portfolio Manager for ABN AMRO Asset Management. Mr. Larson also served on ABN AMRO's Macroeconomic Committee and Global Credit Committee. His previous positions also include Portfolio Manager at Van Kampen American Capital and Portfolio Manager at Horizon Cash Management. Mr. Larson has extensive experience in the portfolio management of core-style investment grade mandates and enhanced cash strategies. Mr. Larson received a B.A. in Business Administration from North Park College. He holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Chicago.



- Mr. Peterson, CFA, is a Senior Vice President and head of First Trust's strategy research group. He joined First Trust in January of 2000. Mr. Peterson is responsible for developing and implementing quantitative equity investment strategies. Mr. Peterson received his B.S. in Finance from Bradley University in 1997 and his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 2005. He has over 18 years of financial services industry experience and is a recipient of the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.
- Mr. Gambla, CFA, FRM, PRM, is a senior portfolio manager for the Alternatives Investment Team at First Trust. Prior to joining First Trust in July 2011, Mr. Gambla was co-Chief Investment Officer at the Nuveen HydePark Group LLC where he started in 2007. While at Nuveen HydePark Group LLC, Mr. Gambla co-directed investment activities including research, product development, trading, portfolio management and performance attribution. Mr. Gambla also led the research systems and infrastructure development for Nuveen HydePark Group LLC. Previously, Mr. Gambla was a Senior Trader and Quantitative specialist at Nuveen Asset Management. While there, he was responsible for trading all derivatives for the 120+ municipal mutual funds with Nuveen Asset Management. Mr. Gambla, has served in a variety of roles throughout his career including: portfolio management, research, business development and strategy development.
- Mr. Guttschow, CFA, is a senior portfolio manager for the Alternatives Investment Team at First Trust. Prior to joining First Trust in July 2011, Mr. Guttschow was co-Chief Investment Officer at the Nuveen HydePark Group LLC where he started in 2007. While at Nuveen HydePark Group LLC, Mr. Guttschow co-directed investment activities including research, product development, trading, portfolio management and performance attribution. Previously, Mr. Guttschow was an Overlay Manager and Senior Portfolio Manager at Nuveen Asset Management. While there, he developed Nuveen's buy-side derivative desk for fixed income and equity portfolio hedging.

The Sub-Advisor portfolio managers, as set forth below, provide non-discretionary investment advice to the Investment Committee:

- Mr. McCann is a Senior Portfolio Manager responsible for managing quantitative equity portfolios, investment research, and new product development at EquityCompass. Mr. McCann joined EquityCompass' predecessor the Portfolio Strategy Group in 2002 as a quantitative analyst. He led the efforts to develop, refine and implement the EquityCompass proprietary quantitative models and rules-based investment strategies. Mr. McCann has more than 17 years of industry experience. Prior to EquityCompass, he worked at Morgan Stanley and UBS Securities (via PaineWebber) in various positions. Mr. McCann has a B.S. in business from The College of Notre Dame of Maryland.
- Mr. Kavanagh is a Portfolio Manager and senior member of the investment management team that is responsible for developing and researching quantitative portfolio strategies at EquityCompass. Prior to joining EquityCompass in May 2011, Mr. Kavanagh was a member of Stifel Financial Corp.'s ("*Stifel*") Institutional Equity Sales group from the time Stifel acquired Legg Mason's Capital Markets Group in December of 2005. At Legg Mason, Mr. Kavanagh began his career in May 2000 as an associate in the Equity Marketing and Strategy Group. Prior to Legg Mason, he was an associate at T. Rowe Price beginning in 1997. Mr. Kavanagh has an M.B.A. from Loyola College in Maryland and a B.A. from Rutgers University. He is a Chartered Market Technician.

For additional information concerning First Trust and the Sub-Advisor, including a description of the services provided to the Funds, see the Funds' SAI. Additional information about the portfolio managers' compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers and the portfolio managers' ownership of securities in the Fund is provided in the SAI.

### **Management Fee**

Pursuant to an investment management agreement between First Trust and the Trust, on behalf of the Funds (the "*Investment Management Agreement*"), First Trust is responsible for the selection and ongoing monitoring of the securities in each Fund's portfolio, based on recommendations provided by the Sub-Advisor. First Trust is paid an annual management fee by each Fund equal to 0.65% of each Fund's average daily net assets and is responsible for each Fund's expenses, including the cost of transfer agency, sub-advisory, custody, fund administration, legal, audit and other services and license fees, but excluding fee payments under the Investment Management Agreement, interest, taxes, brokerage commissions and other expenses connected with the execution of portfolio transactions, distribution and service fees payable pursuant to a Rule 12b-1 plan, if any, and extraordinary expenses. First Trust has agreed to reduce the management fees otherwise payable by each Fund pursuant to the Investment Management Agreement by the portion of the management fees earned by First Trust from the Fund for assets invested in other investment companies advised by First Trust. This contractual agreement shall

continue until the earliest of (i) April 10, 2019, (ii) its termination at the direction of the Board or (iii) upon the termination of the Investment Management Agreement.

A discussion regarding the Board's approval of the Investment Management Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement for each Fund is available in the Funds' Annual Report to Shareholders for the fiscal period ended August 31, 2017.

## How to Buy and Sell Shares

Most investors buy and sell shares of a Fund in secondary market transactions through brokers. Shares of the Funds are listed for trading on the secondary market on the Exchange. Shares can be bought and sold throughout the trading day like other publicly traded shares. There is no minimum investment when buying shares on the Exchange. Although shares are generally purchased and sold in "round lots" of 100 shares, brokerage firms typically permit investors to purchase or sell shares in smaller "odd lots," at no per-share price differential. When buying or selling shares through a broker, investors should expect to incur customary brokerage commissions, investors may receive less than the net asset value of the shares because shares are bought and sold at market prices rather than at net asset value, and investors may pay some or all of the spread between the bid and the offer price in the secondary market on each leg of a round trip (purchase and sale) transaction. Share prices are reported in dollars and cents per share.

For purposes of the 1940 Act, the Funds are treated as a registered investment companies, and, absent an available exemption or exemptive relief, the acquisition of shares by other registered investment companies and companies relying on Sections 3(c)(1) or 3(c)(7) of the 1940 Act is subject to the restrictions of Section 12(d)(1) of the 1940 Act.

### Book Entry

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company ("DTC") or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding shares of the Funds 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 share 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 stocks that you hold in book-entry or "street name" form.

### Share Trading Prices

The trading price of shares of a Fund on the Exchange is based on market price and may differ from the Fund's daily net asset value and can be affected by market forces of supply and demand, economic conditions and other factors.

Information regarding the intraday value of the shares of a Fund, also referred to as the "indicative optimized portfolio value" ("IOPV"), is disseminated every 15 seconds throughout such Fund's trading day by the national securities exchange on which the shares are listed or by market data vendors or other information providers. The IOPV should not be viewed as a "real-time" update of the net asset value per share of a Fund because the IOPV may not be calculated in the same manner as the net asset value, which is computed once a day, generally at the end of the business day. The price of a non-U.S. security that is primarily traded on a non-U.S. exchange shall be updated, using the last sale price, every 15 seconds throughout the trading day, provided that upon the closing of such non-U.S. exchange, the closing price of the security, after being converted to U.S. dollars, will be used. This will likely cause the IOPV to deviate significantly from the true market value of the portfolio. Furthermore, in calculating the IOPV of a Fund's shares, exchange rates may be used throughout the day (9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., Eastern Time) that may differ from those used to calculate the net asset value per share of the Fund and consequently may result in differences between the net asset value and the IOPV. A Fund is not involved in, or responsible for, the calculation or dissemination of the IOPV of shares of such Fund and such Fund does not make any warranty as to its accuracy.

### Frequent Purchases and Redemptions of the Fund's Shares

The Funds impose no restrictions on the frequency of purchases and redemptions ("*market timing*"). In determining not to approve a written, established policy, the Board evaluated the risks of market timing activities by the Funds' shareholders. The Board considered that the Funds' shares can only be purchased and redeemed directly from a Fund in Creation Units by broker-dealers and large institutional investors that have entered into participation agreements (*i.e.*, authorized participants

("APs") and that the vast majority of trading in the Funds' shares occurs on the secondary market. Because the secondary market trades do not involve the Funds directly, it is unlikely those trades would cause many of the harmful effects of market timing, including dilution, disruption of portfolio management, increases in the Funds' trading costs and the realization of capital gains. With respect to trades directly with the Funds, to the extent effected in-kind (*i.e.*, for securities), those trades do not cause any of the harmful effects that may result from frequent cash trades. To the extent that the Funds may effect the purchase or redemption of Creation Units in exchange wholly or partially for cash, the Board noted that such trades could result in dilution to a Fund and increased transaction costs, which could negatively impact the Funds' ability to achieve its investment objectives. However, the Board noted that direct trading by APs is critical to ensuring that the shares trade at or close to net asset value. In addition, the Funds impose fixed and variable transaction fees on purchases and redemptions of Creation Units to cover the custodial and other costs incurred by the Funds in effecting trades. Finally, the Advisor monitors purchase and redemption orders from APs for patterns of abusive trading and the Funds reserve the right to not accept orders from APs that the Advisor has determined may be disruptive to the management of the Funds, or otherwise not in the Funds' best interests.

## **Dividends, Distributions and Taxes**

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid quarterly by the Funds. The Funds distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually.

Distributions in cash may be reinvested automatically in additional whole shares only if the broker through whom you purchased shares makes such option available. Such shares will generally be reinvested by the broker based upon the market price of those shares and investors may be subject to customary brokerage commissions charged by the broker.

## **Federal Tax Matters**

This section summarizes some of the main U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning shares of the Funds. This section is current as of the date of this prospectus. Tax laws and interpretations change frequently, and these summaries do not describe all of the tax consequences to all taxpayers. For example, these summaries generally do not describe your situation if you are a corporation, a non-U.S. person, a broker-dealer or other investor with special circumstances. In addition, this section does not describe your state, local or non-U.S. tax consequences.

This federal income tax summary is based in part on the advice of counsel to the Funds. The Internal Revenue Service could disagree with any conclusions set forth in this section. In addition, counsel to the Funds was not asked to review, and has not reached a conclusion with respect to, the federal income tax treatment of the assets to be included in the Funds. This may not be sufficient for you to use for the purpose of avoiding penalties under federal tax law.

As with any investment, you should seek advice based on your individual circumstances from your own tax advisor.

### **Fund Status**

Each Fund intends to continue to qualify as a "regulated investment company" under the federal tax laws. If a Fund qualifies as a regulated investment company and distributes its income as required by the tax law, the Fund generally will not pay federal income taxes.

### **Distributions**

The Funds' distributions are generally taxable. After the end of each year, you will receive a tax statement that separates the distributions of a Fund into two categories: ordinary income distributions and capital gain dividends. Ordinary income distributions are generally taxed at your ordinary tax rate, however, as further discussed below, certain ordinary income distributions received from the Fund may be taxed at the capital gains tax rates. Generally, you will treat all capital gain dividends as long-term capital gains regardless of how long you have owned your shares.

To determine your actual tax liability for your capital gain dividends, you must calculate your total net capital gain or loss for the tax year after considering all of your other taxable transactions, as described below. In addition, the Funds may make distributions that represent a return of capital for tax purposes and thus will generally not be taxable to you; however, such distributions may reduce your tax basis in your shares, which could result in you having to pay higher taxes in the future when shares are sold, even if you sell the shares at a loss from your original investment. The tax status of your distributions from a Fund is not affected by whether you reinvest your distributions in additional shares or receive them in cash. The income from a Fund that you must take into account for federal income tax purposes is not reduced by amounts used to pay a deferred

sales fee, if any. The tax laws may require you to treat distributions made to you in January as if you had received them on December 31 of the previous year.

Income from a Fund may also be subject to a 3.8% "Medicare tax." This tax generally applies to your net investment income if your adjusted gross income exceeds certain threshold amounts, which are \$250,000 in the case of married couples filing joint returns and \$200,000 in the case of single individuals.

### **Dividends Received Deduction**

A corporation that owns shares generally will not be entitled to the dividends received deduction with respect to many dividends received from a Fund because the dividends received deduction is generally not available for distributions from regulated investment companies. However, certain ordinary income dividends on shares that are attributable to qualifying dividends received by the Funds from certain corporations may be reported by the Funds as being eligible for the dividends received deduction.

### **Capital Gains and Losses and Certain Ordinary Income Dividends**

If you are an individual, the maximum marginal stated federal tax rate for net capital gain is generally 20% (15% or 0% for taxpayers with taxable incomes below certain thresholds). Some capital gain dividends may be taxed at a higher maximum stated federal tax rate. Capital gain received from assets held for more than one year that is considered "unrecaptured section 1250 gain" (which may be the case, for example, with some capital gains attributable to equity interests in real estate investment trusts that constitute interests in entities treated as real estate investment trusts for federal income tax purposes) is taxed at a maximum marginal stated federal tax rate of 25%. In the case of capital gain dividends, the determination of which portion of the capital gain dividend, if any, is subject to the 25% tax rate, will be made based on rules prescribed by the United States Treasury. Capital gains may also be subject to the Medicare tax described above.

Net capital gain equals net long-term capital gain minus net short-term capital loss for the taxable year. Capital gain or loss is long-term if the holding period for the asset is more than one year and is short-term if the holding period for the asset is one year or less. You must exclude the date you purchase your shares to determine your holding period. However, if you receive a capital gain dividend from a Fund and sell your shares at a loss after holding it for six months or less, the loss will be recharacterized as long-term capital loss to the extent of the capital gain dividend received. The tax rates for capital gains realized from assets held for one year or less are generally the same as for ordinary income. The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, treats certain capital gains as ordinary income in special situations.

Ordinary income dividends received by an individual shareholder from a regulated investment company such as the Funds are generally taxed at the same rates that apply to net capital gain (as discussed above), provided certain holding period requirements are satisfied and provided the dividends are attributable to qualifying dividends received by the Funds themselves. Each Fund will provide notice to its shareholders of the amount of any distribution which may be taken into account as a dividend which is eligible for the capital gains tax rates.

### **Sale of Shares**

If you sell or redeem your shares, you will generally recognize a taxable gain or loss. To determine the amount of this gain or loss, you must subtract your tax basis in your shares from the amount you receive in the transaction. Your tax basis in your shares is generally equal to the cost of your shares, generally including sales charges. In some cases, however, you may have to adjust your tax basis after you purchase your shares.

### **Taxes on Purchase and Redemption of Creation Units**

If you exchange securities for Creation Units you will generally recognize a gain or a loss. The gain or loss will be equal to the difference between the market value of the Creation Units at the time and your aggregate basis in the securities surrendered and the cash component paid. If you exchange Creation Units for securities, you will generally recognize a gain or loss equal to the difference between your basis in the Creation Units and the aggregate market value of the securities received and the cash redemption amount. The Internal Revenue Service, however, may assert that a loss realized upon an exchange of securities for Creation Units or Creation Units for securities cannot be deducted currently under the rules governing "wash sales," or on the basis that there has been no significant change in economic position.

## **Deductibility of Fund Expenses**

Expenses incurred and deducted by the Funds will generally not be treated as income taxable to you. In some cases, however, you may be required to treat your portion of these Fund expenses as income. In these cases, you may be able to take a deduction for these expenses. However, certain miscellaneous itemized deductions, such as investment expenses, may not be deductible.

## **Non-U.S. Investors**

If you are a non-U.S. investor (*i.e.*, an investor other than a U.S. citizen or resident or a U.S. corporation, partnership, estate or trust), you should be aware that, generally, subject to applicable tax treaties, distributions from a Fund will be characterized as dividends for federal income tax purposes (other than dividends which a Fund properly reports as capital gain dividends) and will be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes, subject to certain exceptions described below. However, distributions received by a non-U.S. investor from a Fund that are properly reported by such Fund as capital gain dividends may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met. Distributions from a Fund that are properly reported by the Fund as an interest-related dividend attributable to certain interest income received by the Fund or as a short-term capital gain dividend attributable to certain net short-term capital gain income received by the Fund may not be subject to U.S. federal income taxes, including withholding taxes when received by certain non-U.S. investors, provided that the Fund makes certain elections and certain other conditions are met.

Distributions may be subject to a U.S. withholding tax of 30% in the case of distributions to (i) certain non-U.S. financial institutions that have not entered into an agreement with the U.S. Treasury to collect and disclose certain information and are not resident in a jurisdiction that has entered into such an agreement with the U.S. Treasury and (ii) certain other non-U.S. entities that do not provide certain certifications and information about the entity's U.S. owners. Dispositions of shares by such persons may be subject to such withholding after December 31, 2018.

## **Investments in Certain Non-U.S. Corporations**

If a Fund holds an equity interest in any passive foreign investment companies ("*PFICs*"), which are generally certain non-U.S. corporations that receive at least 75% of their annual gross income from passive sources (such as interest, dividends, certain rents and royalties or capital gains) or that hold at least 50% of their assets in investments producing such passive income, such Fund could be subject to U.S. federal income tax and additional interest charges on gains and certain distributions with respect to those equity interests, even if all the income or gain is timely distributed to its shareholders. The Funds will not be able to pass through to its shareholders any credit or deduction for such taxes. The Funds may be able to make an election that could ameliorate these adverse tax consequences. In this case, a Fund would recognize as ordinary income any increase in the value of such PFIC shares, and as ordinary loss any decrease in such value to the extent it did not exceed prior increases included in income. Under this election, a Fund might be required to recognize in a year income in excess of its distributions from PFICs and its proceeds from dispositions of PFIC stock during that year, and such income would nevertheless be subject to the distribution requirement and would be taken into account for purposes of the 4% excise tax. Dividends paid by PFICs are not treated as qualified dividend income.

## **Distribution Plan**

FTP serves as the distributor of Creation Units for the Funds on an agency basis. FTP does not maintain a secondary market in shares.

The Board has adopted a Distribution and Service Plan pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the 1940 Act. In accordance with the Rule 12b-1 plan, the Fund are authorized to pay an amount up to 0.25% of their average daily net assets each year to reimburse FTP for amounts expended to finance activities primarily intended to result in the sale of Creation Units or the provision of investor services. FTP may also use this amount to compensate securities dealers or other persons that are APs for providing distribution assistance, including broker-dealer and shareholder support and educational and promotional services.

The Fund does not currently pay 12b-1 fees, and pursuant to a contractual arrangement, the Funds will not pay 12b-1 fees any time before January 19, 2019. However, in the event 12b-1 fees are charged in the future, because these fees are paid out of the Funds' assets, over time these fees will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than certain other types of sales charges.

## Net Asset Value

Each Fund's net asset value is determined as of the close of trading (normally 4:00 p.m., Eastern time) on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") on each day the NYSE is open for trading. If the NYSE closes early on a valuation day, each Fund's net asset value will be determined as of that time. Net asset value per share is calculated for a Fund by taking the market price of the Fund's total assets, including interest or dividends accrued but not yet collected, less all liabilities, and dividing such amount by the total number of shares outstanding. The result, rounded to the nearest cent, is the net asset value per share. All valuations are subject to review by the Board or its delegate.

Each Fund's investments are valued daily at market or, in the absence of market value with respect to any investments, at fair value. Market value prices represent last sale or official closing prices from a national or foreign exchange (*i.e.*, a regulated market) and are primarily obtained from third party pricing services ("*Pricing Services*"). Fair value prices represent any prices not considered market value prices and are either obtained from a Pricing Service or determined by the Advisor's pricing committee (the "*Pricing Committee*"), in accordance with valuation procedures (which may be revised from time to time) adopted by the Board, and in accordance with provisions of the 1940 Act. As a general principle, the current "fair value" of a security would appear to be the amount which the owner might reasonably expect to receive for the security upon its current sale. Valuing a Fund's assets using fair value pricing can result in using prices for those assets (particularly assets that trade in foreign markets) that may differ from current market valuations.

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

Portfolio securities traded on more than one securities exchange are valued at the last sale price or official closing price, as applicable, on the business day as of which such value is being determined at the close of the exchange representing the principal market for such securities. Portfolio securities traded in the over-the-counter market, but excluding securities trading on Nasdaq or the AIM, are fair valued at the mean of the most recent bid and asked price, if available, and otherwise at the closing bid price. Short-term investments that mature in less than 60 days when purchased are fair valued at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discount, provided that Advisor's Pricing Committee has determined that the use of amortization cost is an appropriate reflection of the fair value given market and issuer-specific conditions existing at the time of determination. Net assets may change on days when investors may not sell or redeem Fund shares.

Certain securities in which the Fund may invest are not listed on any securities exchange or board of trade. Such securities are typically bought and sold by institutional investors in individually negotiated private transactions that function in many respects like an over-the-counter secondary market, although typically no formal market makers exist. Certain securities, particularly debt securities, have few or no trades, or trade infrequently, and information regarding a specific security may not be widely available or may be incomplete. Accordingly, determinations of the fair value of debt securities may be based on infrequent and dated information. Because there is less reliable, objective data available, elements of judgment may play a greater role in valuation of debt securities than for other types of securities. Typically, short-term debt instruments are fair valued using information provided by a Pricing Service or obtained from broker-dealer quotations. Short-term debt instruments having a remaining maturity of 60 days or less when purchased are typically valued at cost adjusted for amortization of premiums and accretion of discounts, provided that the Pricing Committee has determined that the use of amortized cost is an appropriate reflection of fair value given market and issuer-specific conditions existing at the time of the determination.

## Fund Service Providers

The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, 101 Barclay Street, New York, New York 10286, acts as the administrator, custodian and fund accounting and transfer agent for the Funds. Chapman and Cutler LLP, 111 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603, serves as legal counsel to the Funds.

## Premium/Discount Information

The tables that follow present information about the differences between each Fund's daily market price on the applicable Exchange and its net asset value. The "Market Price" of a Fund generally is determined using the midpoint between the highest

bid and lowest offer on the Exchange, as of the time a Fund's net asset value is calculated. A Fund's Market Price may be at, above, or below its net asset value. The net asset value of a Fund will fluctuate with changes in the market value of its portfolio holdings. The Market Price of a Fund will fluctuate in accordance with changes in its net asset value, as well as market supply and demand.

Premiums or discounts are the differences (generally expressed as a percentage) between the net asset value and Market Price of a Fund on a given day, generally at the time net asset value is calculated. A premium is the amount that a Fund is trading above the reported net asset value. A discount is the amount that a Fund is trading below the reported net asset value.

The following information shows the frequency distribution of premiums and discounts of the daily bid/ask price of each Fund against its net asset value. The information shown for each Fund is for the periods indicated. Shareholders may pay more than net asset value when they buy Fund shares and receive less than net asset value when they sell those shares because shares are bought and sold at current market price. All data presented here represents past performance, which cannot be used to predict future results. Information about the premiums and discounts at which the Funds' shares have traded is available on the Funds' website at [www.ftportfolios.com](http://www.ftportfolios.com).

**EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF (ERM)  
Bid/Ask Midpoint vs. Net Asset Value**

**Number of Days Bid/Ask Midpoint At/Above Net Asset Value**

	0.00% - 0.49%	0.50% - 0.99%	1.00% - 1.99%	>=2.00%
4/10/2017 - 9/30/2017	107	0	0	0

**Number of Days Bid/Ask Midpoint Below Net Asset Value**

	0.00% - 0.49%	0.50% - 0.99%	1.00% - 1.99%	>=2.00%
4/10/2017 - 9/30/2017	13	0	0	0

**EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF (TERM)  
Bid/Ask Midpoint vs. Net Asset Value**

**Number of Days Bid/Ask Midpoint At/Above Net Asset Value**

	0.00% - 0.49%	0.50% - 0.99%	1.00% - 1.99%	>=2.00%
4/10/2017 - 9/30/2017	96	0	0	0

**Number of Days Bid/Ask Midpoint Below Net Asset Value**

	0.00% - 0.49%	0.50% - 0.99%	1.00% - 1.99%	>=2.00%
4/10/2017 - 9/30/2017	24	0	0	0

**Total Return Information**

The table below compares the total return of each Fund to a specialty securities market index. The information presented for each Fund is for the period indicated.

"Average annual total returns" represent the average annual change in the value of an investment over the period indicated. "Cumulative total returns" represent the total change in value of an investment over the period indicated. The net asset value per share of the Funds is the value of one share of the Funds and is computed by dividing the value of all assets of the Fund (including accrued interest and dividends), less liabilities (including accrued expenses and dividends declared but unpaid), by the total number of outstanding shares. The net asset value return is based on the net asset value per share of the Funds, and the market return is based on the market price per share of the Funds. The price used to calculate market return ("Market Price") generally is determined by using the midpoint between the highest bid and the lowest offer on NYSE Arca on which the shares of the Funds are listed for trading, as of the time that the Fund's net asset value is calculated. Since the shares of

each Fund typically do not trade in the secondary market until several days after the Fund's inception, for the period from inception to the first day of secondary market trading in shares of the Funds, the net asset value of the Funds is used as a proxy for the secondary market trading price to calculate market returns. Market and net asset value returns assume that all distributions have been reinvested in the Funds at Market Price and net asset value, respectively. An index is a statistical composite that tracks a specified financial market or sector. Unlike each Fund, an index does not actually hold a portfolio of securities and therefore does not incur the expenses incurred by the Funds. These expenses negatively impact the performance of each Fund. Also, market returns do not include brokerage commissions that may be payable on secondary market transactions. If brokerage commissions were included, market returns would be lower. The total returns reflect the reinvestment of dividends on securities in the Indices. The returns shown in the table below do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption or sale of shares of the Funds. The investment return and principal value of shares of the Funds will vary with changes in market conditions. Shares of the Funds may be worth more or less than their original cost when they are redeemed or sold in the market. The Funds' past performance is no guarantee of future results.

**EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF (ERM)  
Total Returns as of August 31, 2017**

	<b>Cumulative Inception (4/10/2017)</b>
<b>Fund Performance</b>	
Net Asset Value	2.44%
Market Price	2.49%
<b>Index Performance</b>	
S&P 500® Index	5.71%
Hedge Fund Research HFRI Equity Hedge Index <sup>(1)</sup>	3.31%

<sup>(1)</sup> Cumulative total return for the period April 30, 2017 through August 31, 2017. Performance data is not available for the entire period shown in the table for the index because performance data for the index is only available on a month-end basis. Performance data for the index may be updated on an ongoing basis and is subject to change.

**EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF (TERM)  
Total Returns as of August 31, 2017**

	<b>Cumulative Inception (4/10/2017)</b>
<b>Fund Performance</b>	
Net Asset Value	2.44%
Market Price	2.44%
<b>Index Performance</b>	
S&P 500® Index	5.71%
Hedge Fund Research HFRI Equity Hedge Index <sup>(1)</sup>	3.31%

<sup>(1)</sup> Cumulative total return for the period April 30, 2017 through August 31, 2017. Performance data is not available for the entire period shown in the table for the index because performance data for the index is only available on a month-end basis. Performance data for the index may be updated on an ongoing basis and is subject to change.



## Financial Highlights

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

### First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VIII

#### Financial Highlights

#### For a Share outstanding throughout the period

#### EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF (ERM)

	<b>For the Period 4/10/2017<sup>(a)</sup> through 8/31/2017</b>
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$ 20.05
<hr/>	
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>	
Net investment income (loss)	0.10
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.39
Total from investment operations	0.49
<hr/>	
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>	
Net investment income	(0.04)
<hr/>	
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$ 20.50
<hr/>	
<b>Total Return <sup>(b)</sup></b>	2.44%
<b>Ratios/supplemental data:</b>	
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$10,250
<b>Ratios to average net assets:</b>	
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	0.65% <sup>(c)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	1.81% <sup>(c)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(d)</sup>	8%

(a) Inception date is consistent with the commencement of investment operations and is the date the initial creation units were established.

(b) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all distributions at net asset value during the period, and redemption at net asset value on the last day of the period. The return presented does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption or sale of Fund shares. Total return is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than a year.

(c) Annualized.

(d) Portfolio turnover is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than a year and does not include securities received or delivered from processing creations or redemptions and in-kind transactions.

## First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund VIII

### Financial Highlights

For a Share outstanding throughout the period

EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF (TERM)

	For the Period 4/10/2017 <sup>(a)</sup> through 8/31/2017
<b>Net asset value, beginning of period</b>	\$ 20.05
<b>Income from investment operations:</b>	
Net investment income (loss)	0.09
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.40
Total from investment operations	0.49
<b>Distributions paid to shareholders from:</b>	
Net investment income	(0.04)
<b>Net asset value, end of period</b>	\$ 20.50
<b>Total Return <sup>(b)</sup></b>	2.44%
<b>Ratios/supplemental data:</b>	
Net assets, end of period (in 000's)	\$22,551
<b>Ratios to average net assets:</b>	
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	0.65% <sup>(c)</sup>
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	1.85% <sup>(c)</sup>
Portfolio turnover rate <sup>(d)</sup>	10%

(a) Inception date is consistent with the commencement of investment operations and is the date the initial creation units were established.

(b) Total return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all distributions at net asset value during the period, and redemption at net asset value on the last day of the period. The return presented does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Fund distributions or the redemption or sale of Fund shares. Total return is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than a year.

(c) Annualized.

(d) Portfolio turnover is calculated for the time period presented and is not annualized for periods of less than a year and does not include securities received or delivered from processing creations or redemptions and in-kind transactions.

## Other Information

### Continuous Offering

Each Fund issues, on a continuous offering basis, its shares in one or more groups of a fixed number of Fund shares (each such group of such specified number of individual Fund shares, a "Creation Unit Aggregation"). The method by which Creation Unit Aggregations of Fund shares are created and traded may raise certain issues under applicable securities laws. Because new Creation Unit Aggregations of shares are issued and sold by a Fund on an ongoing basis, a "distribution," as such term is used in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 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 that could render them statutory underwriters and subject them to the prospectus delivery requirement and liability provisions of the 1933 Act.

For example, a broker-dealer firm or its client may be deemed a statutory underwriter if it takes Creation Unit Aggregations after placing an order with FTP, breaks them down into constituent shares and sells such 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 1933 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-dealer firms should also note that dealers who are not “underwriters” but are effecting transactions in shares, whether or not participating in the distribution of shares, are generally required to deliver a prospectus. This is because the prospectus delivery exemption in Section 4(a)(3) of the 1933 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 the shares that are part of an overallotment within the meaning of Section 4(a)(3)(C) of the 1933 Act would be unable to take advantage of the prospectus delivery exemption provided by Section 4(a)(3) of the 1933 Act. Firms that incur a prospectus delivery obligation with respect to shares are reminded that, under Rule 153 of the 1933 Act (“*Rule 153*”), a prospectus delivery obligation under Section 5(b)(2) of the 1933 Act owed to a broker-dealer in connection with a sale on NYSE Arca is satisfied by the fact that the prospectus is available from NYSE Arca upon request. The prospectus delivery mechanism provided in Rule 153 is available with respect to transactions on a national securities exchange, a trading facility or an alternative trading system.

EquityCompass Risk Manager ETF  
EquityCompass Tactical Risk Manager ETF**For More Information**

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

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