November 16, 2015

Supplement to the Prospectuses and Summary Prospectuses, each dated May 1, 2015

Portfolio	Prospectus
Pioneer Bond VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II
Pioneer Disciplined Value VCT Portfolio	Class II
Pioneer Emerging Markets VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II
Pioneer Equity Income VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II
Pioneer Fund VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II
Pioneer High Yield VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II
Pioneer Mid Cap Value VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II
Pioneer Real Estate Shares VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II
Pioneer Select Mid Cap Growth VCT Portfolio	Class I
Pioneer Strategic Income VCT Portfolio	Class I and Class II

Pioneer Investment Management, Inc. (the "Adviser"), each portfolio's investment adviser, is currently an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of UniCredit S.p.A. ("UniCredit"). On November 11, 2015, UniCredit announced that it signed a binding master agreement with Banco Santander and affiliates of Warburg Pincus and General Atlantic (the "Private Equity Firms") with respect to Pioneer Investments ("Pioneer") and Santander Asset Management ("SAM") (the "Transaction").

The Transaction, as previously announced by UniCredit, will establish a holding company, with the name Pioneer Investments, to be owned by UniCredit (50%) and the Private Equity Firms (50% between them). The holding company will control Pioneer's U.S. operations, including the Adviser. The holding company also will own 66.7% of Pioneer's and SAM's combined operations outside the U.S., while Banco Santander will own directly the remaining 33.3% stake. The closing of the Transaction is expected to happen in 2016, subject to certain regulatory and other approvals.

Under the Investment Company Act of 1940, completion of the Transaction will cause each portfolio's current investment advisory agreement with the Adviser to terminate. Accordingly, each portfolio's Board of Trustees will be asked to approve a new investment advisory agreement. If approved by the Board, each portfolio's new investment advisory agreement will be submitted to the shareholders of the portfolio for their approval.

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Underwriter of Pioneer mutual funds
Member SIPC

Pioneer Strategic Income VCT Portfolio

A portfolio of Pioneer Variable Contracts Trust

Class II Shares

Prospectus, May 1, 2015

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Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities agency has approved or disapproved the portfolio's shares or determined whether this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a crime.

PIONEER Investments®

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Portfolio summary

Investment objective

A high level of current income.

Fees and expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the portfolio. **Your costs would be higher if fees or sales charges imposed by a Variable Contract for which the portfolio is an investment option were included.** Please consult your insurance company's separate account prospectus or disclosure document for more information.

Annual portfolio operating expenses

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	**Class II**
Management Fees	0.65%
Distribution and Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%
Other Expenses	0.55%
Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses	1.45%

Example

This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the portfolio with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest $10,000 in the portfolio for the time periods shown and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. It also assumes that (a) your investment has a 5% return each year and (b) the portfolio's total annual operating expenses remain the same. This example does not reflect any fees or sales charges imposed by a Variable Contract for which the portfolio is an investment option. If they were included, your costs would be higher.

Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	Number of years you own your shares (with or without redemption)			
	1	**3**	**5**	**10**
Class II	$148	$459	$792	$1,735

Portfolio turnover

The portfolio pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in annual portfolio operating expenses or in the example, affect the portfolio's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the portfolio turnover rate was 88% of the average value of the portfolio.

Principal investment strategies

Normally, the portfolio invests at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of borrowings, if any, for investment purposes) in debt securities. Derivative investments that provide exposure to debt securities or have similar economic characteristics may be used to satisfy the portfolio's 80% policy. The portfolio has the flexibility to invest in a broad range of issuers and segments of the debt securities markets. The portfolio's investment adviser allocates the portfolio's investments among the following three segments of the debt markets:

- Below investment grade (high yield or "junk bond") securities of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers
- Investment grade securities of U.S. issuers
- Investment grade securities of non-U.S. issuers

The adviser's allocations among the segments of the debt markets depend upon its outlook for economic, interest rate and political trends. At any given time, the portfolio may have a substantial amount of its assets in any one of such segments. The portfolio may invest in securities of issuers in any market capitalization range, industry or market sector.

The portfolio invests primarily in debt securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities or non-U.S. governmental entities; debt securities of U.S. and non-U.S. corporate issuers (including convertible debt); and mortgage-related securities, including "sub-prime" mortgages, and asset-backed securities.

The portfolio invests in securities with a broad range of maturities and maintains an average portfolio maturity which varies based upon the judgment of the portfolio's investment adviser. The portfolio's investments may have fixed or variable principal payments and all types of interest rate payment and reset terms, including fixed rate, adjustable rate, floating rate, zero coupon, contingent, deferred, payment in kind and auction rate features. The portfolio's investments may include instruments that allow for balloon payments or negative amortization payments.

Depending upon the adviser's allocation among market segments, up to 70% of the portfolio's total assets may be in debt securities rated below investment grade at the time of purchase or determined to be of equivalent quality by the adviser. Up to 20% of the portfolio's total assets may be invested in debt securities rated below CCC by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or the equivalent by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization or determined to be of equivalent credit quality by the adviser. The portfolio's investments in debt securities rated below investment grade may include securities that are in default. The portfolio may invest in subordinated debt securities, event-linked bonds and other insurance-linked securities, and municipal securities. The portfolio may also invest in Treasury Inflation Protected Securities ("TIPS") and other inflation-linked debt securities.

Up to 85% of the portfolio's total assets may be in debt securities of non-U.S. corporate and governmental issuers, including debt securities of corporate and governmental issuers in emerging markets.

The portfolio may invest up to 20% of its total assets in equity securities, including common stocks, preferred stocks, rights, warrants, depositary receipts, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that invest primarily in equity securities and equity interests in real estate trusts (REITs).

The portfolio may, but is not required to, use derivatives, such as credit default swaps, forward foreign currency exchange contracts, and bond and interest rate futures. The portfolio may use derivatives for a variety of purposes, including: in an attempt to hedge against adverse changes in the market price of securities, interest rates or currency exchange rates; as a substitute for purchasing or selling securities; to attempt to increase the portfolio's return as a non-hedging strategy that may be considered speculative; to manage portfolio characteristics; and as a cash flow management technique. The portfolio may choose not to make use of derivatives for a variety of reasons, and any use may be limited by applicable law and regulations. The portfolio also may hold cash or other short-term investments.

The adviser considers both broad economic and issuer specific factors in selecting investments. In assessing the appropriate maturity, rating, sector and country weightings of the portfolio, the adviser considers a variety of factors that are expected to influence economic activity and interest rates. The adviser selects individual securities to buy and sell based upon such factors as a security's yield, liquidity and rating, an assessment of credit quality, and sector and issuer diversification.

Principal risks of investing in the portfolio

You could lose money on your investment in the portfolio. As with any mutual fund, there is no guarantee that the portfolio will achieve its objective.

Market risk. The values of securities held by the portfolio may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic, political, or regulatory conditions, inflation, changes in interest or currency rates, lack of liquidity in the bond markets or adverse investor sentiment. The global financial crisis that began in 2008 has caused a significant decline in the value and liquidity of many securities and unprecedented volatility in the markets. In response to the crisis, the U.S.

government and the Federal Reserve, as well as certain foreign governments and their central banks have taken steps to support financial markets, including by keeping interest rates at historically low levels. More recently, the Federal Reserve has reduced its market support activities. Further reduction or withdrawal of this support, failure of efforts in response to the crisis, or investor perception that these efforts are not succeeding could negatively affect financial markets generally as well as result in higher interest rates, increase market volatility and reduce the value and liquidity of certain securities. Whether or not the portfolio invests in securities of issuers located in or with significant exposure to countries experiencing economic and financial difficulties, the value and liquidity of the portfolio's investments may be negatively affected. In addition, policy and legislative changes in the U.S. and in other countries are affecting many aspects of financial regulation. The impact of these changes on the markets, and the practical implications for market participants, may not be fully known for some time. The portfolio may experience a substantial or complete loss on any individual security or derivative position.

High yield or "junk" bond risk. Debt securities that are below investment grade, called "junk bonds," are speculative, have a higher risk of default or are already in default, tend to be less liquid and are more difficult to value than higher grade securities. Junk bonds tend to be volatile and more susceptible to adverse events and negative sentiments. These risks are more pronounced for securities that are already in default.

Interest rate risk. Interest rates may go up, causing the value of the portfolio's investments to decline (this risk generally will be greater for securities with longer maturities or durations). Interest rates in the U.S. recently have been historically low, so the fund faces a heightened risk that interest rates may rise.

Rising interest rates can lead to increased default rates, as issuers of floating rate securities find themselves faced with higher payments. Unlike fixed rate securities, floating rate securities generally will not increase in value if interest rates decline. Changes in interest rates also will affect the amount of interest income the fund earns on its floating rate investments.

Credit risk. If an issuer or guarantor of a security held by the portfolio or a counterparty to a financial contract with the portfolio defaults on its obligation to pay principal and/or interest, has its credit rating downgraded or is perceived to be less creditworthy, or the credit quality or value of any underlying assets declines, the value of your investment will typically decline.

Prepayment or call risk. Many issuers have a right to prepay their securities. If interest rates fall, an issuer may exercise this right. If this happens, the portfolio will not benefit from the rise in market price that normally accompanies a decline in interest rates, and will be forced to reinvest prepayment proceeds at a time when yields on securities available in the market are lower than the yield on the prepaid security. The portfolio also may lose any premium it paid on the security.

Extension risk. During periods of rising interest rates, the average life of certain types of securities may be extended because of slower than expected principal payments. This may lock in a below market interest rate, increase the security's duration and reduce the value of the security.

Liquidity risk. Some securities and derivatives held by the portfolio may be impossible or difficult to purchase, sell or unwind, particularly during times of market turmoil. An instrument's liquidity may be affected by reduced trading volume, a relative lack of market makers or legal restrictions, and illiquid securities and derivatives also may be difficult to value. Liquidity risk may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment. If the portfolio is forced to sell an illiquid asset or unwind a derivatives position to meet redemption requests or other cash needs, the portfolio may be forced to sell at a loss.

Portfolio selection risk. The adviser's judgment about the quality, relative yield, relative value or market trends affecting a particular sector or region, market segment, security or about interest rates generally may prove to be incorrect.

U.S. Treasury obligations risk. The market value of direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury may vary due to changes in interest rates. In addition, changes to the financial condition or credit rating of the U.S. government may cause the value of the portfolio's investments in obligations issued by the U.S. Treasury to decline.

U.S. government agency obligations risk. The portfolio invests in obligations issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. government. Government-sponsored entities such as Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and the Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBs), although chartered or sponsored by Congress, are not funded by congressional appropriations and the debt and mortgage-backed securities issued by them are neither guaranteed nor issued by the U.S. government. Such debt and mortgage-backed securities are subject to the risk of default on the payment of interest and/or principal, similar to debt of private issuers. Although the U.S. government has provided financial support to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the past, there can be no assurance that it will support these or other government-sponsored entities in the future.

Mortgage-related and asset-backed securities risk. The value of mortgage-related and asset-backed securities will be influenced by factors affecting the housing market and the assets underlying such securities. As a result, during periods of declining asset value, difficult or frozen credit markets, swings in interest rates, or deteriorating economic conditions, mortgage-related and asset-backed securities may decline in value, face valuation difficulties, become more volatile and/or become illiquid. Mortgage-backed securities tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rate than other types of debt securities. These securities are also subject to prepayment and extension risks. Some of these securities may receive little or no collateral protection from the underlying assets and are thus subject to the risk of default. The risk of such defaults is generally higher in the case of mortgage-backed investments that include so-called "sub-prime" mortgages. The structure of some of these securities may be complex and there may be less available information than for other types of debt securities. Upon the occurrence of certain triggering events or defaults, the portfolio may become the holder of underlying assets at a time when those assets may be difficult to sell or may be sold only at a loss.

Risks of instruments that allow for balloon payments or negative amortization payments. Certain debt instruments allow for balloon payments or negative amortization payments. Such instruments permit the borrower to avoid paying currently a portion of the interest accruing on the instrument. While these features make the debt instrument more affordable to the borrower in the near term, they increase the risk that the borrower will be unable to make the resulting higher payment or payments that become due at the maturity of the loan.

Risks of investing in floating rate loans. Floating rate loans and similar investments may be illiquid or less liquid than other investments and difficult to value. The value of collateral, if any, securing a floating rate loan can decline or may be insufficient to meet the issuer's obligations or may be difficult to liquidate. No active trading market may exist for many floating rate loans, and many loans are subject to restrictions on resale. Market quotations for these securities may be volatile and/or subject to large spreads between bid and ask prices. Any secondary market may be subject to irregular trading activity and extended trade settlement periods.

Collateral risk. The value of collateral, if any, securing a floating rate loan can decline, and may be insufficient to meet the issuer's obligations or may be difficult to liquidate. In addition, the fund's access to collateral may be limited by bankruptcy or other insolvency laws. Uncollateralized loans involve a greater risk of loss.

Risk of disadvantaged access to confidential information. The adviser's decision not to receive material, non-public information about an issuer of a loan either held by, or considered for investment by, the fund, under normal circumstances could place it at a disadvantage, relative to other loan investors, in assessing a loan or the loan's issuer, and adversely affect the fund's investment performance.

Risks of investing in insurance-linked securities. The return of principal and the payment of interest on "event-linked" bonds and other insurance-linked securities are contingent on the non-occurrence of a pre-defined "trigger" event, such as a hurricane or an earthquake of a specific magnitude or other event that leads to physical or economic loss. If a trigger event, as defined within the terms of an event-linked bond, involves losses or other metrics exceeding a specific magnitude in the geographic region and time period specified, the portfolio may lose a portion or all of its accrued interest and/or principal invested in the event-linked bond. In addition to the specified trigger events, event-linked bonds may expose the portfolio to other risks, including but not limited to issuer (credit) default, adverse regulatory or jurisdictional interpretations and adverse tax consequences. Certain insurance-linked securities may have limited liquidity, or may be illiquid. The portfolio has limited transparency into the individual contracts underlying certain insurance-linked securities, which may make the risk assessment and valuation of such securities more difficult.

Inflation-linked securities risk. The principal or interest of inflation-linked securities such as TIPS is adjusted periodically to a specified rate of inflation. The inflation index used may not accurately measure the real rate of inflation. Inflation-linked securities may lose value or interest payments on such securities may decline in the event that the actual rate of inflation is different than the rate of the inflation index, and losses may exceed those experienced by other debt securities with similar durations. The values of inflation-linked securities may not be directly correlated to changes in interest rates, for example if interest rates rise for reasons other than inflation.

Risks of subordinated securities. A holder of securities that are subordinated or "junior" to more senior securities of an issuer is entitled to payment after holders of more senior securities of the issuer. Subordinated securities are more likely to suffer a credit loss than non-subordinated securities of the same issuer, any loss incurred by the subordinated securities is likely to be proportionately greater, and any recovery of interest or principal may take more time. As a result, even a perceived decline in creditworthiness of the issuer is likely to have a greater impact on them.

Municipal securities risk. The municipal bond market can be susceptible to unusual volatility, particularly for lower-rated and unrated securities. Liquidity can be reduced unpredictably in response to overall economic conditions or credit tightening. Municipal issuers may be adversely affected by rising health care costs, increasing unfunded pension liabilities, and by the phasing out of federal programs providing financial support. Unfavorable conditions and developments relating to projects financed with municipal securities can result in lower revenues to issuers of municipal securities, potentially resulting in defaults. Issuers often depend on revenues from these projects to make principal and interest payments. The value of municipal securities can also be adversely affected by changes in the financial condition of one or more individual municipal issuers or insurers of municipal issuers, regulatory and political developments, tax law changes or other legislative actions, and by uncertainties and public perceptions concerning these and other factors. Municipal issuers may be more susceptible to downgrades or defaults during recessions or similar periods of economic stress. In recent periods, an increasing number of municipal issuers in the United States have defaulted on obligations and commenced insolvency proceedings. Financial difficulties of municipal issuers may continue or get worse. To the extent the portfolio invests significantly in a single state or in securities the payments on which are dependent upon a single project or source of revenues, or that relate to a sector or industry, the portfolio will be more susceptible to associated risks and developments.

Risks of zero coupon bonds, payment in kind, deferred and contingent payment securities. These securities may be more speculative and may fluctuate more in value than securities which pay income periodically and in cash. In addition, although the portfolio receives no periodic cash payments on such securities, the portfolio is deemed for tax purposes to receive income from such securities, which applicable tax rules require the portfolio to distribute to shareholders. Such distributions may be taxable when distributed to taxable shareholders.

Risks of non-U.S. investments. Investing in non-U.S. issuers, or in U.S. issuers that have significant exposure to foreign markets, may involve unique risks compared to investing in securities of U.S. issuers. These risks are more pronounced for issuers in emerging markets or to the extent that the portfolio invests significantly in one region or country. These risks may include different financial reporting practices and regulatory standards, less liquid trading markets, extreme price volatility, currency risks, changes in economic, political, regulatory and social conditions, sustained economic downturns, financial instability, tax burdens, and investment and repatriation restrictions. Lack of information and less market regulation also may affect the value of these securities. Withholding and other non-U.S. taxes may decrease the portfolio's return. Non-U.S. issuers may be located in parts of the world that have historically been prone to natural disasters. Investing in depositary receipts is subject to many of the same risks as investing directly in non-U.S. issuers. Depositary receipts may involve higher expenses and may trade at a discount (or premium) to the underlying security.

Currency risk. The portfolio could experience losses based on changes in the exchange rate between non-U.S. currencies and the U.S. dollar or as a result of currency conversion costs. Currency exchange rates can be volatile, and are affected by factors such as general economic conditions, the actions of the U.S. and foreign governments or central banks, the imposition of currency controls and speculation.

Equity securities risk. Equity securities represent an ownership interest in an issuer, rank junior in a company's capital structure to debt securities and consequently may entail greater risk of loss than debt securities. Equity securities are subject to the risk that stock prices may rise and fall in periodic cycles and may perform poorly relative to other investments. This risk may be greater in the short term.

Risks of convertible securities. The market values of convertible securities tend to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, to increase as interest rates decline. A downturn in equity markets may cause the price of convertible securities to decrease relative to other fixed income securities.

Preferred stocks risk. Preferred stocks may pay fixed or adjustable rates of return. Preferred stocks are subject to issuer-specific and market risks applicable generally to equity securities. In addition, a company's preferred stocks generally pay dividends only after the company makes required payments to holders of its bonds and other debt. Thus, the value of preferred stocks will usually react more strongly than bonds and other debt to actual or perceived changes in the company's financial condition or prospects. The market value of preferred stocks generally decreases when interest rates rise. Preferred stocks of smaller companies may be more vulnerable to adverse developments than preferred stocks of larger companies.

Derivatives risk. Using swaps, futures and other derivatives can increase portfolio losses and reduce opportunities for gains when market prices, interest rates or the derivative instruments themselves behave in a way not anticipated by the portfolio. Using derivatives may increase the volatility of the portfolio's net asset value and may not provide the result intended. Derivatives may have a leveraging effect on the portfolio. Some derivatives have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the portfolio's initial investment. Changes in a derivative's value may not correlate well with the referenced asset or metric. The portfolio also may have to sell assets at inopportune times to satisfy its obligations. Derivatives may be difficult to sell, unwind or value, and the counterparty may default on its obligations to the portfolio. The U.S. government is in the process of adopting and implementing regulations governing derivatives markets, including mandatory clearing of certain derivatives, margin and reporting requirements. The ultimate impact of the regulations remains unclear. Additional regulation of derivatives may make them more costly, may limit their availability, may disrupt markets or may otherwise adversely affect their value or performance.

Credit default swap risk. Credit default swap contracts, a type of derivative instrument, involve special risks and may result in losses to the portfolio. Credit default swaps may in some cases be illiquid, and they increase credit risk since the portfolio has exposure to the issuer of the referenced obligation and either the counterparty to the credit default swap or, if it is a cleared transaction, the brokerage firm through which the trade was cleared and the clearing organization that is the counterparty to that trade.

Risks of investing in inverse floating rate obligations. The interest rate on inverse floating rate obligations will generally decrease as short-term interest rates increase, and increase as short-term rates decrease. Due to their leveraged structure, the sensitivity of the market value of an inverse floating rate obligation to changes in interest rates is generally greater than a comparable long-term bond issued by the same issuer and with similar credit quality, redemption and maturity provisions. Inverse floating rate obligations may be volatile and involve leverage risk.

Forward foreign currency transactions risk. The portfolio may not fully benefit from or may lose money on forward foreign currency transactions if changes in currency rates do not occur as anticipated or do not correspond accurately to changes in the value of the portfolio's holdings, or if the counterparty defaults. Such transactions may also prevent the portfolio from realizing profits on favorable movements in exchange rates. Risk of counterparty default is greater for counterparties located in emerging markets.

Leveraging risk. The value of your investment may be more volatile and other risks tend to be compounded if the portfolio borrows or uses derivatives or other investments , such as ETFs, that have embedded leverage. Leverage generally magnifies the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of the portfolio's underlying assets and creates a risk of loss of value on a larger pool of assets than the portfolio would otherwise have, potentially resulting in the loss of all assets. Engaging in such transactions may cause the portfolio to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or meet segregation requirements.

Repurchase agreement risk. In the event that the other party to a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligations, the portfolio may encounter delay and incur costs before being able to sell the security. Such a delay may involve loss of interest or a decline in price of the security. In addition, if the portfolio is characterized by a court as an unsecured creditor, it would be at risk of losing some or all of the principal and interest involved in the transaction.

Market segment risk. To the extent the portfolio emphasizes, from time to time, investments in a market segment, the portfolio will be subject to a greater degree to the risks particular to that segment, and may experience greater market fluctuation than a portfolio without the same focus.

Valuation risk. The sales price the portfolio could receive for any particular portfolio investment may differ from the portfolio's last valuation of the investment, particularly for illiquid securities and securities that trade in thin or volatile markets or that are valued using a fair value methodology. Investors who purchase or redeem portfolio shares on days when the portfolio is holding fair-valued securities may receive fewer or more shares or lower or higher redemption proceeds than they would have received if the portfolio had not fair-valued the security or had used a different valuation methodology.

Expense risk. Your actual costs of investing in the portfolio may be higher than the expenses shown in "Annual portfolio operating expenses" for a variety of reasons. For example, expense ratios may be higher than those shown if overall net assets decrease. Net assets are more likely to decrease and portfolio expense ratios are more likely to increase when markets are volatile.

Please note that there are many other factors that could adversely affect your investment and that could prevent the portfolio from achieving its goals.

An investment in the portfolio is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

The portfolio's past performance

The bar chart and table indicate the risks and volatility of an investment in the portfolio by showing how the portfolio has performed in the past. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the portfolio's Class II shares from calendar year to calendar year. The table shows the average annual total returns for Class II

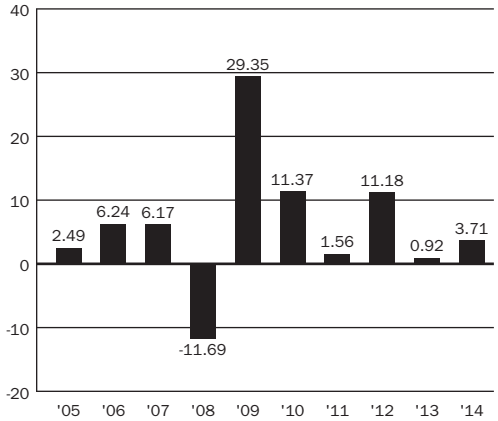
shares of the portfolio over time and compares these returns to the returns of the Barclays Capital U.S. Universal Index, a broad-based measure of market performance that has characteristics relevant to the portfolio's investment strategies.

The performance shown for Class II shares for periods prior to the commencement of operations of Class II shares on May 1, 2003 is based on the performance of Class I shares of the portfolio, reduced to reflect the higher distribution fee of Class II shares.

The bar chart and table do not reflect any fees or expenses payable with respect to a Variable Contract. Such fees and expenses will reduce your return.

The portfolio's past performance does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

Annual return Class II Shares (%)
(Year ended December 31)



For the period covered by the bar chart:

The highest calendar quarterly return was 12.55% (04/01/2009 to 06/30/2009).
The lowest calendar quarterly return was –9.38% (10/01/2008 to 12/31/2008).

Average annual total return (%)
(for periods ended December 31, 2014)

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception (07/29/99)
Class II	3.71	5.65	5.68	7.04
Barclays Capital U.S. Universal Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	5.56	4.81	4.91	5.80

Management

Investment adviser Pioneer Investment Management, Inc.

Portfolio management Kenneth J. Taubes, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, U.S. of Pioneer (portfolio manager of the portfolio since 1999), Andrew Feltus, Director of High Yield and Senior Vice President of Pioneer (portfolio manager of the portfolio since 2012), and Charles Melchreit, Senior Vice President and Director of Investment Grade of Pioneer (portfolio manager of the portfolio since 2012)

Tax information

Shares of the portfolio are held by life insurance company separate accounts that fund the benefits under variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts (Variable Contracts) issued by their companies and by certain qualified pension and retirement plans (Qualified Plans). Owners of Variable Contracts should read the prospectus of their insurance company's Variable Contract for a discussion of the tax status of a Variable Contract, including the tax consequences of withdrawals or other payments. Participants in a Qualified Plan should consult their tax advisers regarding the tax consequences of participating in and receiving distributions or other payments relating to such plans.

Payments to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries

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

In addition, shares of the portfolio are offered to insurance companies to fund the benefits under Variable Contracts issued by their companies and are additionally offered to Qualified Plans. The portfolio and its related companies may pay the sponsoring insurance companies and their affiliated broker-dealers and service providers for the sale of portfolio shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing insurance companies to recommend the portfolio over another investment. Your insurance company's separate account prospectus or disclosure document may contain additional information about these payments.

More on the portfolio's investment objective and strategies

Investment objective

A high level of current income.

The portfolio's investment objective may be changed without shareholder approval. The portfolio will provide at least 30 days' notice prior to implementing any change to its investment objective.

Principal investment strategies

Normally, the portfolio invests at least 80% of its net assets (plus the amount of borrowings, if any, for investment purposes) in debt securities. Derivative instruments that provide exposure to debt securities or have similar economic characteristics may be used to satisfy the portfolio's 80% policy. The portfolio has the flexibility to invest in a broad range of issuers and segments of the debt securities markets. Pioneer Investment Management, Inc. ("Pioneer"), the portfolio's investment adviser, allocates the portfolio's investments among the following three segments of the debt markets:

- Below investment grade (high yield or "junk bond") securities of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers
- Investment grade securities of U.S. issuers
- Investment grade securities of non-U.S. issuers

Pioneer's allocations among the segments of the debt markets depend upon its outlook for economic, interest rate and political trends. At any given time, the portfolio may have a substantial amount of its assets in any one of such segments. The portfolio may invest in securities of issuers in any market capitalization range, industry or market sector.

The portfolio invests primarily in:

- Debt securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, its agencies or instrumentalities or non-U.S. governmental entities
- Debt securities of U.S. and non-U.S. corporate issuers, including convertible debt
- Mortgage-related securities, including "sub-prime" mortgages, and asset-backed securities

The portfolio invests in securities with a broad range of maturities and maintains an average portfolio maturity which varies based upon the judgment of Pioneer. The portfolio's investments may have fixed or variable principal payments and all types of interest rate payment and reset terms, including fixed rate, adjustable rate, floating rate, zero coupon, contingent, deferred, payment in kind and auction rate features. The portfolio's investments may include instruments that allow for balloon payments or negative amortization payments.

Depending upon Pioneer's allocation among market segments, up to 70% of the portfolio's total assets may be in debt securities rated below investment grade at the time of purchase or determined to be of equivalent quality by Pioneer. Up to 20% of the portfolio's total assets may be invested in debt securities rated below CCC by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or the equivalent by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization or determined to be of equivalent credit quality by Pioneer. The portfolio's investments in debt securities rated below investment grade may include securities that are in default. The portfolio may invest in subordinated debt securities, event-linked bonds and other insurance-linked securities, and municipal securities. The portfolio may also invest in Treasury Inflation Protected Securities ("TIPS") and other inflation-linked debt securities.

Depending upon Pioneer's allocation among market segments, up to 85% of the portfolio's total assets may be in debt securities of non-U.S. corporate and governmental issuers, including debt securities of corporate and governmental issuers in emerging markets.

The portfolio may invest up to 20% of its total assets in equity securities, including common stocks, preferred stocks, rights, warrants, depositary receipts, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that invest primarily in equity securities and equity interests in real estate trusts (REITs). The portfolio may invest in equity securities as a

consequence of holding debt of the same issuer or when Pioneer believes they offer the potential for capital gains or other portfolio management purposes, although equity securities may not pay dividends or contribute to achieving the portfolio's investment objective of a high level of current income.

Pioneer considers both broad economic and issuer specific factors in selecting a portfolio designed to achieve the portfolio's investment objective. In assessing the appropriate maturity, rating, sector and country weightings of the portfolio, Pioneer considers a variety of factors that are expected to influence economic activity and interest rates. These factors include fundamental economic indicators, such as the rates of economic growth and inflation, Federal Reserve monetary policy and the relative value of the U.S. dollar compared to other currencies. Once Pioneer determines the preferable portfolio characteristics, Pioneer selects individual securities based upon the terms of the securities (such as yields compared to U.S. Treasuries or comparable issuers), liquidity and rating, sector and issuer diversification. Pioneer also employs fundamental research to assess an issuer's credit quality, taking into account financial condition and profitability, future capital needs, potential for change in rating, industry outlook, the competitive environment and management ability. In making these portfolio decisions, Pioneer relies on the knowledge, experience and judgment of its staff and the staff of its affiliates who have access to a wide variety of research.

Investment grade securities

A debt security is considered investment grade if it is:

- Rated BBB or higher at the time of purchase by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC;
- Rated the equivalent rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization; or
- Determined to be of equivalent credit quality by Pioneer

Securities in the lowest category of investment grade (i.e., BBB) are considered to have speculative characteristics.

Below investment grade securities ("Junk bonds")

The portfolio may invest in debt securities rated below investment grade or, if unrated, of equivalent quality as determined by Pioneer. A debt security is below investment grade if it is rated BB or lower by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC or the equivalent rating by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization or determined to be of equivalent credit quality by Pioneer. Debt securities rated below investment grade are commonly referred to as "junk bonds" and are considered speculative. Below investment grade debt securities involve greater risk of loss, are subject to greater price volatility and are less liquid, especially during periods of economic uncertainty or change, than higher quality debt securities. Below investment grade securities also may be more difficult to value.

Debt rating considerations

For purposes of the portfolio's credit quality policies, if a security receives different ratings from nationally recognized statistical rating organizations, the portfolio will use the rating chosen by the portfolio manager as most representative of the security's credit quality. The ratings of nationally recognized statistical rating organizations represent their opinions as to the quality of the securities that they undertake to rate and may not accurately describe the risks of the securities. A rating organization may have a conflict of interest with respect to a security for which it assigns a quality rating. In addition, there may be a delay between a change in the credit quality of a security or other asset and a change in the quality rating assigned to the security or other asset by a rating organization. If a rating organization changes the quality rating assigned to one or more of the portfolio's securities, Pioneer will consider if any action is appropriate in light of the portfolio's investment objective and policies. An investor can still lose significant amounts when investing in investment grade securities.

U.S. government securities

The portfolio may invest in U.S. government securities. U.S. government securities are obligations of, or guaranteed by, the U.S. government, its agencies or government-sponsored entities. U.S. government securities include obligations: directly issued by or supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, like

Treasury bills, notes and bonds and Government National Mortgage Association certificates; supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury, like those of the Federal Home Loan Banks; supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency's securities like those of the Federal National Mortgage Association; or supported only by the credit of the issuer itself, like the Tennessee Valley Authority. U.S. government securities include issues by non-governmental entities (like financial institutions) that carry direct guarantees from U.S. government agencies as part of government initiatives in response to the market crisis or otherwise.

Although the U.S. government guarantees principal and interest payments on securities issued by the U.S. government and some of its agencies, such as securities issued by the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), this guarantee does not apply to losses resulting from declines in the market value of these securities. Some of the U.S. government securities that the portfolio may hold are not guaranteed or backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, such as those issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Mortgage-backed securities

The portfolio may invest in mortgage-backed securities. Mortgage-backed securities may be issued by private issuers, by government-sponsored entities such as the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) or Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) or by agencies of the U.S. government, such as the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae). Mortgage-backed securities represent direct or indirect participation in, or are collateralized by and payable from, mortgage loans secured by real property. The portfolio's investments in mortgage-related securities may include mortgage derivatives and structured securities.

The portfolio may invest in collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs). A CMO is a mortgage-backed bond that is issued in multiple classes, each with a specified fixed or floating interest rate and a final scheduled distribution date. The holder of an interest in a CMO is entitled to receive specified cash flows from a pool of underlying mortgages or other mortgage-backed securities. Depending upon the class of CMO purchased, the holder may be entitled to payment before the cash flow from the pool is used to pay holders of other classes of the CMO or, alternatively, the holder may be paid only to the extent that there is cash remaining after the cash flow has been used to pay other classes. A subordinated interest may serve as a credit support for the senior securities purchased by other investors.

Asset-backed securities

The portfolio may invest in asset-backed securities. Asset-backed securities represent participations in, or are secured by and payable from, assets such as installment sales or loan contracts, leases, credit card receivables and other categories of receivables. The portfolio's investments in asset-backed securities may include derivative and structured securities.

The portfolio may invest in asset-backed securities issued by special entities, such as trusts, that are backed by a pool of financial assets. The portfolio may invest in collateralized debt obligations (CDOs), which include collateralized bond obligations (CBOs), collateralized loan obligations (CLOs) and other similarly structured securities. A CDO is a trust backed by a pool of fixed income securities. The trust typically is split into two or more portions, called tranches, which vary in credit quality, yield, credit support and right to repayment of principal and interest. Lower tranches pay higher interest rates but represent lower degrees of credit quality and are more sensitive to the rate of defaults in the pool of obligations. Certain CDOs may use derivatives, such as credit default swaps, to create synthetic exposure to assets rather than holding such assets directly.

Floating rate loans

Floating rate loans are provided by banks and other financial institutions to large corporate customers in connection with recapitalizations, acquisitions, and refinancings. These loans are generally acquired as a participation interest in, or assignment of, loans originated by a lender or other financial institution. These

loans are rated below investment grade, but typically are secured with specific collateral and have a senior position in the capital structure of the borrower. These loans typically have rates of interest that are reset periodically by reference to a base lending rate, such as the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), plus a premium.

Subordinated securities
The portfolio may invest in securities that are subordinated or "junior" to more senior securities of the issuer. The investor in a subordinated security of an issuer is entitled to payment after other holders of debt in that issuer.

Non-U.S. investments
The portfolio may invest in securities of non-U.S. issuers, including securities of emerging markets issuers. Non-U.S. issuers are issuers that are organized and have their principal offices outside of the United States. Non-U.S. securities may be issued by non-U.S. governments, banks or corporations, or private issuers, and certain supranational organizations, such as the World Bank and the European Union. The portfolio considers emerging market issuers to include issuers organized under the laws of an emerging market country, issuers with a principal office in an emerging market country, issuers that derive at least 50% of their gross revenues or profits from goods or services produced in emerging markets, and emerging market governmental issuers.

Event-linked bonds and other insurance-linked securities
The portfolio may invest in "event-linked" bonds, which sometimes are referred to as "insurance-linked" or "catastrophe" bonds. Event-linked bonds are debt obligations for which the return of principal and the payment of interest are contingent on the non-occurrence of a pre-defined "trigger" event, such as a hurricane or an earthquake of a specific magnitude or other event that leads to physical or economic loss. For some event-linked bonds, the trigger event's magnitude may be based on losses to a company or industry, industry indexes or readings of scientific instruments rather than specified actual losses. The portfolio is entitled to receive principal and interest payments so long as no trigger event occurs of the description and magnitude specified by the instrument.

Event-linked bonds may be issued by government agencies, insurance companies, reinsurers, special purpose corporations or other on-shore or off-shore entities. The portfolio may invest in interests in pooled entities that invest primarily in event-linked bonds.

Event-linked bonds are typically rated by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating agency, but also may be unrated. The rating for an event-linked bond primarily reflects the rating agency's calculated probability that a pre-defined trigger event will occur. This rating also assesses the event-linked bond's credit risk and the model used to calculate the probability of a trigger event.

In addition to event-linked bonds, the portfolio may also invest in other insurance-linked securities, including structured reinsurance instruments such as quota share instruments (a form of proportional reinsurance whereby an investor participates in the premiums and losses of a reinsurer's portfolio of catastrophe-oriented policies, sometimes referred to as "reinsurance sidecars") and collateralized reinsurance investments, industry loss warranties, and other insurance- and reinsurance-related securities. Quota share instruments and other structured reinsurance instruments generally will be considered illiquid securities by the portfolio.

Zero coupon securities
The portfolio may invest in zero coupon securities. Zero coupon securities are debt instruments that do not pay interest during the life of the security but are issued at a discount from the amount the investor will receive when the issuer repays the amount borrowed (the face value). The discount approximates the total amount of interest that would be paid at an assumed interest rate.

Repurchase agreements
In a repurchase agreement, the portfolio purchases securities from a broker/dealer or a bank, called the counterparty, upon the agreement of the counterparty to repurchase the securities from the portfolio at a later date, and at a specified price, which is typically higher than the purchase price paid by the portfolio. The securities purchased serve as the portfolio's collateral for the obligation of the counterparty to repurchase the securities. If the counterparty does not repurchase the securities, the portfolio is entitled to sell the securities, but the portfolio may not be able to sell them for the price at which they were purchased, thus causing a loss. Additionally, if the counterparty becomes insolvent, there is some risk that the portfolio will not have a right to the securities, or the immediate right to sell the securities.

Derivatives
The portfolio may, but is not required to, use futures and options on securities, indices and currencies, forward foreign currency exchange contracts, bond and interest rate futures, swaps and other derivatives. The portfolio also may enter into credit default swaps, which can be used to acquire or to transfer the credit risk of a security or index of securities without buying or selling the security or securities comprising the relevant index. A derivative is a security or instrument whose value is determined by reference to the value or the change in value of one or more securities, currencies, indices or other financial instruments. The portfolio may use derivatives for a variety of purposes, including:

- In an attempt to hedge against adverse changes in the market prices of securities, interest rates or currency exchange rates
- As a substitute for purchasing or selling securities
- To attempt to increase the portfolio's return as a non-hedging strategy that may be considered speculative
- To manage portfolio characteristics (for example, the duration or credit quality of the portfolio)
- As a cash flow management technique

The portfolio may choose not to make use of derivatives for a variety of reasons, and any use may be limited by applicable law and regulations.

Inverse floating rate obligations
The portfolio may invest in inverse floating rate obligations (a type of derivative instrument). The interest rate on inverse floating rate obligations will generally decrease as short-term interest rates increase, and increase as short-term rates decrease. Due to their leveraged structure, the sensitivity of the market value of an inverse floating rate obligation to changes in interest rates is generally greater than a comparable long-term bond issued by the same issuer and with similar credit quality, redemption and maturity provisions. Inverse floating rate obligations may be volatile and involve leverage risk.

Cash management and temporary investments
Normally, the portfolio invests substantially all of its assets to meet its investment objective. The portfolio may invest the remainder of its assets in securities with remaining maturities of less than one year or cash equivalents, or may hold cash. For temporary defensive purposes, including during periods of unusual cash flows, the portfolio may depart from its principal investment strategies and invest part or all of its assets in these securities or may hold cash. The portfolio may adopt a defensive strategy when the adviser believes securities in which the portfolio normally invests have special or unusual risks or are less attractive due to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions. During such periods, it may be more difficult for the portfolio to achieve its investment objective.

Additional investment strategies

In addition to the principal investment strategies discussed above, the portfolio may also use other techniques, including the following non-principal investment strategies.

Reverse repurchase agreements and borrowing

The portfolio may enter into reverse repurchase agreements pursuant to which the portfolio transfers securities to a counterparty in return for cash, and the portfolio agrees to repurchase the securities at a later date and for a higher price. Reverse repurchase agreements are treated as borrowings by the portfolio, are a form of leverage and may make the value of an investment in the portfolio more volatile and increase the risks of investing in the portfolio. The portfolio also may borrow money from banks or other lenders for temporary purposes. The portfolio may borrow up to 33⅓% of its total assets. Entering into reverse repurchase agreements and other borrowing transactions may cause the portfolio to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so in order to satisfy its obligations or meet segregation requirements.

Short-term trading

The portfolio usually does not trade for short-term profits. The portfolio will sell an investment, however, even if it has only been held for a short time, if it no longer meets the portfolio's investment criteria. If the portfolio does a lot of trading, it may incur additional operating expenses, which would reduce performance.

More on the risks of investing in the portfolio

Principal investment risks

You could lose money on your investment in the portfolio. As with any mutual fund, there is no guarantee that the portfolio will achieve its objective.

Market risk. The values of securities held by the portfolio may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably, due to general market conditions, such as real or perceived adverse economic, political, or regulatory conditions, inflation, changes in interest or currency rates, lack of liquidity in the bond markets or adverse investor sentiment. Adverse market conditions may be prolonged and may not have the same impact on all types of securities. The values of securities may fall due to factors affecting a particular issuer, industry or the securities market as a whole. High public debt in the U.S. and other countries creates ongoing and systemic market risks and policymaking uncertainty. The global financial crisis that began in 2008 has caused a significant decline in the value and liquidity of many securities and unprecedented volatility in the markets; in particular, the values of some sovereign debt and of securities of issuers that invest in sovereign debt and related investments have fallen, credit has become more scarce worldwide and there has been significant uncertainty in the markets. Governmental and non-governmental issuers have defaulted on, or been forced to restructure, their debts; and many other issuers have faced difficulties obtaining credit or refinancing existing obligations. These market conditions may continue, worsen or spread, including in the U.S., Europe and beyond. Further defaults or restructurings by governments and others of their debt could have additional adverse effects on economies, financial markets and asset valuations around the world. In response to the crisis, the U.S. government and the Federal Reserve, as well as certain foreign governments and their central banks have taken steps to support financial markets, including by keeping interest rates at historically low levels. More recently, the Federal Reserve has reduced its market support activities. Further reduction or withdrawal of this support, failure of efforts in response to the crisis, or investor perception that such efforts are not succeeding could negatively affect financial markets generally as well as result in higher interest rates, increase market volatility and reduce the value and liquidity of certain securities. This environment could make identifying investment risks and opportunities especially difficult for the adviser, and whether or not the portfolio invests in securities of issuers located in or with significant exposure to countries experiencing economic and financial difficulties, the value and liquidity of the portfolio's investments may be negatively affected. In addition, policy and legislative changes in the U.S. and other countries are affecting many aspects of financial regulation. The impact of these changes on the markets, and the practical implications for market participants, may not be fully known for some time. The portfolio may experience a substantial or complete loss on any individual security or derivative position. Particularly during periods of declining or illiquid markets, the portfolio may experience periods of heavy redemptions that could cause the portfolio to liquidate its assets at inopportune times or at a loss or depressed value, and could cause the remaining shareholders in the portfolio to lose money. This redemption risk is greater to the extent that the portfolio has investors with large shareholdings, short investment horizons or unpredictable cash flow needs.

High yield or "junk" bond risk. Debt securities that are below investment grade, called "junk bonds," are speculative, have a higher risk of default or are already in default, tend to be less liquid and are more difficult to value than higher grade securities and may involve major risk of exposure to adverse conditions and negative sentiments. These securities have a higher risk of issuer default because, among other reasons, issuers of junk bonds often have more debt in relation to total capitalization than issuers of investment grade securities. Junk bonds tend to be volatile and more susceptible to adverse events and negative sentiments. These risks are more pronounced for securities that are already in default.

Interest rate risk. When interest rates rise, the value of fixed income securities and therefore the value of your investment in the portfolio, generally falls. Interest rates have been historically low, so the portfolio faces a heightened risk that interest rates may rise. A change in interest rates will not have the same impact on all fixed income securities. Generally, the longer the maturity or duration of a fixed income security, the greater the impact of a rise in interest rates on the security's value. For example, if interest rates increase by 1%, the value of a fund's portfolio with a portfolio duration of ten years would be expected to decrease by 10%, all

other things being equal. Calculations of duration and maturity may be based on estimates and may not reliably predict a security's price sensitivity to changes in interest rates. Moreover, securities can change in value in response to other factors, such as credit risk. In addition, different interest rate measures (such as short- and long-term interest rates and U.S. and foreign interest rates), or interest rates on different types of securities or securities of different issuers, may not necessarily change in the same amount or in the same direction. When interest rates go down, the income received by the portfolio, and the portfolio's yield, may decline.

Certain fixed income securities pay interest at variable or floating rates. Variable rate securities tend to reset at specified intervals, while floating rate securities may reset whenever there is a change in a specified index rate. In most cases, these reset provisions reduce the impact of changes in market interest rates on the value of the security. However, some securities do not track the underlying index directly, but reset based on formulas that may produce a leveraging effect; others may also provide for interest payments that vary inversely with market rates. The market prices of these securities may fluctuate significantly when interest rates change. Yield generated by the portfolio may decline due to a decrease in market interest rates.

The values of securities with floating interest rates generally are less sensitive to interest rate changes but may decline in value if their interest rates do not rise as much, or as quickly, as prevailing interest rates. In addition, rising interest rates can also lead to increased default rates, as issuers of floating rate securities find themselves faced with higher payments. Further, in the case of some instruments, if the underlying reference interest rate does not move by at least a prescribed increment, no adjustment will occur in the floating rate instrument's interest rate. This means that, when prevailing interest rates increase, a corresponding increase in the instrument's interest rate may not result and the instrument may decline in value. Unlike fixed rate securities, floating rate securities generally will not increase in value if interest rates decline. Changes in interest rates also will affect the amount of interest income the fund earns on its floating rate investments. Unlike fixed rate securities, when prevailing interest rates decrease, the interest rate payable on floating rate investments will decrease.

The interest rates of some floating rate obligations adjust only periodically. Between the times that interest rates on floating rate obligations adjust, the interest rate on those obligations may not correlate to prevailing rates that will affect the value of the loans and may cause the net asset values of the portfolio's shares to fluctuate.

Credit risk. If an obligor (such as the issuer itself or a party offering credit enhancement) for a security held by the portfolio fails to pay, otherwise defaults, is perceived to be less creditworthy, becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy, a security's credit rating is downgraded or the credit quality or value of an underlying asset declines, the value of your investment could decline. If the portfolio enters into financial contracts (such as certain derivatives, repurchase agreements, reverse repurchase agreements, and when-issued, delayed delivery and forward commitment transactions), the portfolio will be subject to the credit risk presented by the counterparty. In addition, the portfolio may incur expenses to protect the portfolio's interest in securities experiencing these events. Credit risk is broadly gauged by the credit ratings of the securities in which the portfolio invests. However, ratings are only the opinions of the companies issuing them and are not guarantees as to quality.

Prepayment or call risk. Many fixed income securities give the issuer the option to prepay or call the security prior to its maturity date. Issuers often exercise this right when interest rates fall. Accordingly, if the portfolio holds a fixed income security that can be prepaid or called prior to its maturity date, it will not benefit fully from the increase in value that other fixed income securities generally experience when interest rates fall. Upon prepayment of the security, the portfolio also would be forced to reinvest the proceeds at then current yields, which would be lower than the yield of the security that was prepaid or called. In addition, if the portfolio purchases a fixed income security at a premium (at a price that exceeds its stated par or principal value), the portfolio may lose the amount of the premium paid in the event of prepayment.

Extension risk. During periods of rising interest rates, the average life of certain types of securities may be extended because of slower than expected principal payments. This may lock in a below market interest rate, increase the security's duration (the estimated period until the security is paid in full) and reduce the value of the security.

To the extent the portfolio invests significantly in mortgage-related and asset-backed securities, its exposure to extension risks may be greater than if it invested in other fixed income securities.

Liquidity risk. Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are impossible or difficult to purchase or sell. Although most of the portfolio's securities and other investments must be liquid at the time of investment, securities and other investments may become illiquid after purchase by the portfolio, particularly during periods of market turmoil. Markets may become illiquid when, for instance, there are few, if any, interested buyers and sellers or when dealers are unwilling to make a market for certain securities or when dealer market-making capacity is otherwise reduced, and this is more likely to occur as a result of the reduction of market support activity by the Federal Reserve. A lack of liquidity or other adverse credit market conditions may affect the portfolio's ability to sell the securities in which it invests or to find and purchase suitable investments. When the portfolio holds illiquid investments, its portfolio may be harder to value, especially in changing markets. If the portfolio is forced to sell or unwind these investments to meet redemptions or for other cash needs, the portfolio may suffer a loss. In addition, when there is illiquidity in the market for certain securities and other investments, the portfolio, due to limitations on investments in illiquid securities, may be unable to achieve its desired level of exposure to a certain sector. Liquidity risk may be magnified in a rising interest rate environment in which investor redemptions from fixed-income mutual funds may be higher than normal. If an auction fails for an auction rate security, there may be no secondary market for the security and the portfolio may be forced to hold the security until the security is refinanced by the issuer or a secondary market develops. To the extent the portfolio holds a material percentage of the outstanding debt securities of an issuer, this practice may impact adversely the liquidity and market value of those investments.

Portfolio selection risk. The adviser's judgment about the quality, relative yield, relative value or market trends affecting a particular sector or region, market segment, security or about interest rates generally may prove to be incorrect.

U.S. Treasury obligations risk. The market value of direct obligations of the U.S. Treasury may vary due to changes in interest rates. In addition, changes to the financial condition or credit rating of the U.S. government may cause the value of the portfolio's investments in obligations issued by the U.S. Treasury to decline.

U.S. government agency obligations risk. The portfolio invests in obligations issued by agencies and instrumentalities of the U.S. government. Government-sponsored entities such as Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) and the Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLBs), although chartered or sponsored by Congress, are not funded by congressional appropriations and the debt and mortgage-backed securities issued by them are neither guaranteed nor issued by the U.S. government. Such debt and mortgage-backed securities are subject to the risk of default on the payment of interest and/or principal, similar to debt of private issuers. Although the U.S. government has provided financial support to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the past, there can be no assurance that it will support these or other government-sponsored entities in the future.

Mortgage-related and asset-backed securities risk. The repayment of certain mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities depends primarily on the cash collections received from the issuer's underlying asset portfolio and, in certain cases, the issuer's ability to issue replacement securities. As a result, there could be losses to the portfolio in the event of credit or market value deterioration in the issuer's underlying portfolio, mismatches in the timing of the cash flows of the underlying asset interests and the repayment obligations of maturing securities, or the issuer's inability to issue new or replacement securities. Mortgage-backed securities tend to be more sensitive to changes in interest rate than other types of debt securities. These securities are also subject to prepayment and extension risks. Upon the occurrence of certain triggering events

or defaults, the portfolio may become the holder of underlying assets at a time when those assets may be difficult to sell or may be sold only at a loss. In the event of a default, the value of the underlying collateral may be insufficient to pay certain expenses, such as litigation and foreclosure expenses, and inadequate to pay any principal or unpaid interest. Privately issued mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities are not traded on an exchange and may have a limited market. Without an active trading market, these securities may be particularly difficult to value given the complexities in valuing the underlying collateral.

Certain mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities may pay principal only at maturity or may represent only the right to receive payments of principal or interest on the underlying obligations, but not both. The value of these types of instruments may change more drastically than debt securities that pay both principal and interest during periods of changing interest rates. Principal only instruments generally increase in value if interest rates decline, but are also subject to the risk of prepayment. Interest only instruments generally increase in value in a rising interest rate environment when fewer of the underlying obligations are prepaid. Interest only instruments could lose their entire value in a declining interest rate environment if the underlying obligations are prepaid.

Unlike mortgage-related securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies and instrumentalities, mortgage-related securities issued by private issuers do not have a government or government-sponsored entity guarantee (but may have other credit enhancement), and may, and frequently do, have less favorable collateral, credit risk or other characteristics. The portfolio may invest in other mortgage-related securities, including mortgage derivatives and structured securities. These securities typically are not secured by real property. Because these securities have embedded leverage features, small changes in interest or prepayment rates may cause large and sudden price movements. These securities also can become illiquid and difficult to value in volatile or declining markets.

Mortgage-backed securities are particularly susceptible to prepayment and extension risks, because prepayments on the underlying mortgages tend to increase when interest rates fall and decrease when interest rates rise. Prepayments may also occur on a scheduled basis or due to foreclosure. When market interest rates increase, mortgage refinancings and prepayments slow, which lengthens the effective duration of these securities. As a result, the negative effect of the interest rate increase on the market value of mortgage-backed securities is usually more pronounced than it is for other types of fixed income securities, potentially increasing the volatility of the portfolio. Conversely, when market interest rates decline, while the value of mortgage-backed securities may increase, the rates of prepayment of the underlying mortgages tend to increase, which shortens the effective duration of these securities. Mortgage-backed securities are also subject to the risk that the underlying borrowers will be unable to meet their obligations.

At times, some of the mortgage-backed securities in which the portfolio may invest will have higher than market interest rates and therefore will be purchased at a premium above their par value. Prepayments may cause losses on securities purchased at a premium.

The value of mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities may be affected by changes in credit quality or value of the mortgage loans or other assets that support the securities. In addition, for mortgage-backed securities, when market conditions result in an increase in the default rates on the underlying mortgages and the foreclosure values of the underlying real estate are below the outstanding amount of the underlying mortgages, collection of the full amount of accrued interest and principal on these investments may be less likely.

The portfolio may invest in CMOs. Principal prepayments on the underlying mortgage loans may cause a CMO to be retired substantially earlier than its stated maturity or final distribution date. If there are defaults on the underlying mortgage loans, the portfolio will be less likely to receive payments of principal and interest, and will be more likely to suffer a loss. This risk may be increased to the extent the underlying mortgages include sub-prime mortgages. As market conditions change, and particularly during periods of rapid or unanticipated

changes in market interest rates, the attractiveness of a CMO class and the ability of the structure to provide the anticipated investment characteristics may be significantly reduced. Such changes can result in volatility in the market value, and in some instances reduced liquidity, of a CMO class.

In response to the financial crisis that began in 2008, the Federal Reserve has attempted to keep mortgage rates low by acting as a buyer of mortgage-backed assets. This support has recently ended. As a result, mortgage rates may rise and prices of mortgage-backed securities may fall. To the extent the portfolio's assets are invested in mortgage-backed securities, returns to portfolio investors may decline.

Asset-backed securities are structured like mortgage-backed securities and are subject to many of the same risks. The ability of an issuer of asset-backed securities to enforce its security interest in the underlying asset or to otherwise recover from the underlying obligor may be limited. Certain asset-backed securities present a heightened level of risk because, in the event of default, the liquidation value of the underlying assets may be inadequate to pay any unpaid principal or interest.

Risks of instruments that allow for balloon payments or negative amortization payments. Certain debt instruments allow for balloon payments or negative amortization payments. Such instruments permit the borrower to avoid paying currently a portion of the interest accruing on the instrument. While these features make the debt instrument more affordable to the borrower in the near term, they increase the risk that the borrower will be unable to make the resulting higher payment or payments that become due at the maturity of the loan.

Risks of investing in floating rate loans. Floating rate loans and similar investments may be illiquid or less liquid than other investments and difficult to value. No active trading market may exist for many floating rate loans, and many loans are subject to restrictions on resale. Market quotations for these securities may be volatile and/or subject to large spreads between bid and ask prices. Any secondary market may be subject to irregular trading activity and extended trade settlement periods. An economic downturn generally leads to a higher non-payment rate, and a loan may lose significant value before a default occurs.

When the portfolio invests in a loan participation, the portfolio does not have a direct claim against the borrower and must rely upon an intermediate participant to enforce any rights against the borrower. As a result, the portfolio is subject to the risk that an intermediate participant between the portfolio and the borrower will fail to meet its obligations to the portfolio, in addition to the risk that the issuer of the loan will default on its obligations.

There is less readily available, reliable information about most senior loans than is the case for other types of securities. Although the features of senior loans, including being secured by collateral and having priority over other obligations of the issuer, reduce some of the risks of investment in below investment grade securities, the loans are subject to significant risks. Pioneer believes, based on its experience, that senior floating rate loans generally have more favorable loss recovery rates than most other types of below investment grade obligations. However, there can be no assurance that the portfolio's actual loss recovery experience will be consistent with Pioneer's prior experience or that the senior loans in which the portfolio invests will achieve any specific loss recovery rate.

Second lien loans generally are subject to similar risks as those associated with senior loans. Because second lien loans are subordinated or unsecured and thus lower in priority on payment to senior loans, they are subject to the additional risk that the cash flow of the borrower and property securing the loan or debt, if any, may be insufficient to meet scheduled payments after giving effect to the senior secured obligations of the borrower. This risk is generally higher for subordinated unsecured loans or debt, which are not backed by a security interest in any specific collateral. Second lien loans generally have greater price volatility than senior loans and may be less liquid.

Certain floating rate loans and other corporate debt securities involve refinancings, recapitalizations, mergers and acquisitions, and other financings for general corporate purposes. Other loans are incurred in restructuring or "work-out" scenarios, including debtor-in-possession facilities in bankruptcy. Loans in restructuring or similar scenarios may be especially vulnerable to the inherent uncertainties in restructuring processes. In addition, the highly leveraged capital structure of the borrowers in any of these transactions, whether acquisition financing or restructuring, may make the loans especially vulnerable to adverse economic or market conditions and the risk of default.

Collateral risk. The value of collateral, if any, securing a floating rate loan can decline, and may be insufficient to meet the issuer's obligations or may be difficult to liquidate. In addition, the portfolio's access to collateral may be limited by bankruptcy or other insolvency laws. These laws may be less developed and more cumbersome with respect to the portfolio's non-U.S. floating rate investments. Floating rate loans may not be fully collateralized or may be uncollateralized. Uncollateralized loans involve a greater risk of loss. In the event of a default, the portfolio may have difficulty collecting on any collateral and would not have the ability to collect on any collateral for an uncollateralized loan. Further, the portfolio's access to collateral, if any, may be limited by bankruptcy law. To the extent that a loan is collateralized by stock of the borrower or its affiliates, this stock may lose all or substantially all of its value in the event of bankruptcy of the borrower. Loans that are obligations of a holding company are subject to the risk that, in a bankruptcy of a subsidiary operating company, creditors of the subsidiary may recover from the subsidiary's assets before the lenders to the holding company would receive any amount on account of the holding company's interest in the subsidiary.

Risk of disadvantaged access to confidential information. The issuer of a floating rate loan may offer to provide material, non-public information about the issuer to investors, such as the portfolio. Normally, Pioneer will seek to avoid receiving this type of information about the issuer of a loan either held by, or considered for investment by, the portfolio. Pioneer's decision not to receive the information may place it at a disadvantage, relative to other loan investors, in assessing a loan or the loan's issuer. For example, in instances where holders of floating rate loans are asked to grant amendments, waivers or consents, Pioneer's inability to assess the impact of these actions may adversely affect the value of the portfolio. For this and other reasons, it is possible that Pioneer's decision not to receive material, non-public information under normal circumstances could adversely affect the portfolio's investment performance.

Risks of investing in insurance-linked securities. The return of principal and the payment of interest on "event-linked" bonds and other insurance-linked securities are contingent on the non-occurrence of a pre-defined "trigger" event, such as a hurricane or an earthquake of a specific magnitude or other event that leads to physical or economic loss. If a trigger event, as defined within the terms of an event-linked bond, involves losses or other metrics exceeding a specific magnitude in the geographic region and time period specified, the portfolio may lose a portion or all of its accrued interest and/or principal invested in the event-linked bond. In addition to the specified trigger events, event-linked bonds may expose the portfolio to other risks, including but not limited to issuer (credit) default, adverse regulatory or jurisdictional interpretations and adverse tax consequences. Event-linked bonds are also subject to the risk that the model used to calculate the probability of a trigger event was not accurate and underestimated the likelihood of a trigger event. Upon the occurrence or possible occurrence of a trigger event, and until the completion of the processing and auditing of applicable loss claims, the portfolio's investment in an event-linked bond may be priced using fair value methods. Lack of a liquid market may impose the risk of higher transaction costs and the possibility that the portfolio may be forced to liquidate positions when it would not be advantageous to do so. Certain insurance-linked securities represent interests in baskets of underlying reinsurance contracts. The portfolio has limited transparency into the individual contracts underlying such securities and therefore must rely on the risk assessment and sound underwriting practices of the issuer. The lack of transparency may also make the valuation of such securities more difficult.

Inflation-linked securities risk. Unlike a conventional bond, whose issuer makes regular fixed interest payments and repays the face value of the bond at maturity, an inflation-indexed security provides principal payments and interest payments, both of which are adjusted over time to reflect a rise (inflation) or a drop (deflation) in the general price level. The inflation index generally used is a non-seasonally adjusted index, which is not statistically smoothed to overcome highs and lows observed at different points each year. The use of a non-seasonally adjusted index can cause the portfolio's income level to fluctuate. As inflationary expectations increase, inflation-linked securities will become more attractive, because they protect future interest payments against inflation. Conversely, as inflationary concerns decrease, inflation-linked securities will become less attractive and less valuable. The inflation index used may not accurately measure the real rate of inflation. Inflation-linked securities may lose value or interest payments on such securities may decline in the event that the actual rate of inflation is different than the rate of the inflation index, and losses may exceed those experienced by other debt securities with similar durations. The values of inflation-linked securities may not be directly correlated to changes in interest rates, for example if interest rates rise for reasons other than inflation. In general, the price of an inflation-linked security tends to decline when real interest rates increase.

Risks of subordinated securities. A holder of securities that are subordinated or "junior" to more senior securities of an issuer is entitled to payment after holders of more senior securities of the issuer. Subordinated securities are more likely to suffer a credit loss than non-subordinated securities of the same issuer, any loss incurred by the subordinated securities is likely to be proportionately greater, and any recovery of interest or principal may take more time. If there is a default, bankruptcy or liquidation of the issuer, most subordinated securities are paid only if sufficient assets remain after payment of the issuer's non-subordinated securities. As a result, even a perceived decline in creditworthiness of the issuer is likely to have a greater impact on them.

Municipal securities risk. The municipal bond market can be susceptible to unusual volatility, particularly for lower-rated and unrated securities. Liquidity can be reduced unpredictably in response to overall economic conditions or credit tightening. Municipal issuers may be adversely affected by rising health care costs, increasing unfunded pension liabilities and by the phasing out of federal programs providing financial support. Unfavorable conditions and developments relating to projects financed with municipal securities can result in lower revenues to issuers of municipal securities, potentially resulting in defaults. Issuers often depend on revenues from those projects to make principal and interest payments. The value of municipal securities can also be adversely affected by changes in the financial condition of one or more individual municipal issuers or insurers of municipal issuers, regulatory and political developments, tax law changes or other legislative actions, and by uncertainties and public perceptions concerning these and other factors. Municipal issuers may be more susceptible to downgrades or defaults during recessions or similar periods of economic stress. In recent periods, an increasing number of municipal issuers in the United States have defaulted on obligations and commenced insolvency proceedings. Financial difficulties of municipal issuers may continue or get worse. To the extent the fund invests significantly in a single state or in securities the payments on which are dependent upon a single project or source of revenues, or that relate to a sector or industry, the fund will be more susceptible to associated risks and developments.

Risks of zero coupon bonds, payment in kind, deferred and contingent payment securities. Zero coupon bonds (which do not pay interest until maturity) and payment in kind securities (which pay interest in the form of additional securities) may be more speculative and may fluctuate more in value than securities which pay income periodically and in cash. These securities are more likely to respond to changes in interest rates than interest-bearing securities having similar maturities and credit quality. These securities are more sensitive to the credit quality of the underlying issuer. Payment in kind securities may be difficult to value because their continuing accruals require judgments about the collectability of the deferred payments and the value of any collateral. Deferred interest securities are obligations that generally provide for a period of delay before the regular payment of interest begins and are issued at a significant discount from face value.

The interest rate on contingent payment securities is determined by the outcome of an event, such as the performance of a financial index. If the financial index does not increase by a prescribed amount, the portfolio may receive no interest.

Unlike bonds that pay interest throughout the period to maturity, the portfolio generally will realize no cash until maturity and, if the issuer defaults, the portfolio may obtain no return at all on its investment. In addition, although the portfolio receives no periodic cash payments on such securities, the portfolio is deemed for tax purposes to receive income from such securities, which applicable tax rules require the portfolio to distribute to shareholders. Such distributions may be taxable when distributed to taxable shareholders and, in addition, could reduce the portfolio's reserve position and require the portfolio to sell securities and incur a gain or loss at a time it may not otherwise want in order to provide the cash necessary for these distributions.

Risks of non-U.S. investments. Investing in non-U.S. issuers, or in U.S. issuers that have significant exposure to foreign markets, may involve unique risks compared to investing in securities of U.S. issuers. These risks are more pronounced for issuers in emerging markets or to the extent that the portfolio invests significantly in one region or country. These risks may include:

- Less information about non-U.S. issuers or markets may be available due to less rigorous disclosure or accounting standards or regulatory practices
- Many non-U.S. markets are smaller, less liquid and more volatile. In a changing market, the adviser may not be able to sell the portfolio's securities at times, in amounts and at prices it considers reasonable
- Adverse effect of currency exchange rates or controls on the value of the portfolio's investments, or its ability to convert non-U.S. currencies to U.S. dollars
- The economies of non-U.S. countries may grow at slower rates than expected or may experience a downturn or recession
- Economic, political, regulatory and social developments may adversely affect the securities markets
- It may be difficult for the portfolio to pursue claims or enforce judgments against a foreign bank, depository or issuer of a security, or any of their agents, in the courts of a foreign country
- Withholding and other non-U.S. taxes may decrease the portfolio's return. The value of the portfolio's foreign investments also may be affected by U.S. tax considerations and restrictions in receiving investment proceeds from a foreign country
- Some markets in which the portfolio may invest are located in parts of the world that have historically been prone to natural disasters that could result in a significant adverse impact on the economies of those countries and investments made in those countries
- It is often more expensive for the portfolio to buy, sell and hold securities in certain foreign markets than in the United States
- A governmental entity may delay, or refuse or be unable to pay, interest or principal on its sovereign debt due to cash flow problems, insufficient foreign currency reserves, political considerations, the relative size of the governmental entity's debt position in relation to the economy or the failure to put in place economic reforms
- Investing in depositary receipts is subject to many of the same risks as investing directly in non-U.S. issuers. Depositary receipts may involve higher expenses and may trade at a discount (or premium) to the underlying security. In addition, depositary receipts may not pass through voting and other shareholder rights, and may be less liquid than the underlying securities listed on an exchange.
- A number of countries in the European Union (EU) have experienced, and may continue to experience, severe economic and financial difficulties. Additional EU member countries may also fall subject to such difficulties. These events could negatively affect the value and liquidity of the portfolio's investments in euro-denominated securities and derivative contracts, securities of issuers located in the EU or with significant exposure to EU issuers or countries
- If one or more stockholders of a supranational entity such as the World Bank fail to make necessary additional capital contributions, the entity may be unable to pay interest or repay principal on its debt securities

Additional risks of investing in emerging markets include:

- The extent of economic development, political stability, market depth, infrastructure, capitalization and regulatory oversight can be less than in more developed markets
- Emerging market countries may experience rising interest rates, or, more significantly, rapid inflation or hyperinflation
- The portfolio could experience a loss from settlement and custody practices in some emerging markets
- The possibility that a counterparty may not complete a currency or securities transaction
- Low trading volumes may result in a lack of liquidity and in extreme price volatility
- Current and any future sanctions or other government actions against Russia could negatively impact the portfolio's investments in securities issued by Russian issuers or economically tied to Russian markets.

Currency risk. Because the portfolio may invest in non-U.S. currencies, securities denominated in non-U.S. currencies, and other currency-related investments, the portfolio is subject to currency risk, meaning that the portfolio could experience losses based on changes in the exchange rate between non-U.S. currencies and the U.S. dollar or as a result of currency conversion costs. Currency exchange rates can be volatile, and are affected by factors such as general economic conditions, the actions of the U.S. and foreign governments or central banks, the imposition of currency controls and speculation.

Equity securities risk. Equity securities are subject to the risk that stock prices may rise and fall in periodic cycles and may perform poorly relative to other investments. This risk may be greater in the short term. Equity securities represent an ownership interest in an issuer, rank junior in a company's capital structure to debt securities and consequently may entail greater risk of loss than fixed income securities.

Risks of convertible securities. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality. As with all fixed income securities, the market values of convertible securities tend to decline as interest rates increase and, conversely, to increase as interest rates decline. However, when the market price of the common stock underlying a convertible security approaches or exceeds the conversion price, the convertible security tends to reflect the market price of the underlying common stock. As the market price of the underlying common stock declines, the convertible security tends to trade increasingly on a yield basis and thus may not decline in price to the same extent as the underlying common stock. Convertible securities rank senior to common stocks in an issuer's capital structure and consequently entail less risk than the issuer's common stock. The value of a synthetic convertible security will respond differently to market fluctuations than a traditional convertible security because a synthetic convertible security is composed of two or more separate securities or instruments, each with its own market value. If the value of the underlying common stock or the level of the index involved in the convertible component falls below the exercise price of the warrant or option, the warrant or option may lose all value.

Preferred stocks risk. Preferred stocks may pay fixed or adjustable rates of return. Preferred stocks are subject to issuer-specific and market risks applicable generally to equity securities. In addition, a company's preferred stocks generally pay dividends only after the company makes required payments to holders of its bonds and other debt. Thus, the value of preferred stocks will usually react more strongly than bonds and other debt to actual or perceived changes in the company's financial condition or prospects. The market value of preferred stocks generally decreases when interest rates rise. Preferred stocks of smaller companies may be more vulnerable to adverse developments than preferred stocks of larger companies.

Derivatives risk. Using swaps, futures and other derivatives exposes the portfolio to additional risks, may increase the volatility of the portfolio's net asset value, may not provide the expected result and may result in losses to the portfolio. Derivatives may have a leveraging effect on the portfolio, and they can disproportionately increase losses and reduce opportunities for gain when market prices, interest rates or currencies, or the derivative instruments themselves, behave in a way not anticipated by the portfolio, especially in abnormal market conditions. Some derivatives have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the portfolio's initial investment. If changes in a derivative's value do not correspond to changes in the value of the portfolio's other investments or do not correlate well with the underlying assets, rate or index, the portfolio may not fully

benefit from, or could lose money on, or could experience unusually high expenses as a result of, the derivative position. Derivatives involve the risk of loss if the counterparty defaults on its obligation or if the clearing firm through which the derivative has been traded becomes insolvent. Certain derivatives may be less liquid, which may reduce the returns of the portfolio if it cannot sell or terminate the derivative at an advantageous time or price. The portfolio also may have to sell assets at inopportune times to satisfy its obligations. The portfolio may be unable to terminate or sell its derivative positions. In fact, many over-the-counter derivative instruments will not have liquidity beyond the counterparty to the instrument. Some derivatives may involve the risk of improper valuation. The portfolio's use of derivatives may also increase the amount of taxes payable by shareholders. Suitable derivatives may not be available in all circumstances or at reasonable prices and may not be used by the portfolio for a variety of reasons. Risks associated with the use of derivatives are magnified to the extent that a large portion of the portfolio's assets are committed to derivatives in general or are invested in just one or a few types of derivatives.

The U.S. government is in the process of adopting and implementing regulations governing derivatives markets, including mandatory clearing of certain derivatives, margin and reporting requirements. The ultimate impact of the regulations remains unclear. Additional regulation of derivatives may make them more costly, may limit their availability, may disrupt markets or may otherwise adversely affect their value or performance. The portfolio may be exposed to additional risks as a result of the additional regulations. The extent and impact of the regulations are not yet fully known and may not be for some time.

For derivatives that are required to be traded through a clearinghouse or exchange, the portfolio also will be exposed to the credit risk of the clearinghouse and the broker that submits trades for the portfolio. It is possible that certain derivatives that are required to be cleared, such as certain swap contracts, will not be accepted for clearing. In addition, regulated trading facilities for swap contracts are relatively new; they may not function as intended, which could impair the ability to enter into swap contracts. The portfolio's ability to use certain derivative instruments currently is limited by Commodity Futures Trading Commission rules.

Credit default swap risk. Credit default swap contracts, a type of derivative instrument, involve heightened risks and may result in losses to the portfolio. Credit default swaps may in some cases be illiquid and difficult to value, and they increase credit risk since the portfolio has exposure to both the issuer of the referenced obligation and the counterparty to the credit default swap. If the portfolio buys a credit default swap, it will be subject to the risk that the credit default swap may expire worthless, as the credit default swap would only generate income in the event of a default on the underlying debt security or other specified event. As a buyer, the portfolio would also be subject to credit risk relating to the seller's payment of its obligations in the event of a default (or similar event). If the portfolio sells a credit default swap, it will be exposed to the credit risk of the issuer of the obligation to which the credit default swap relates. As a seller, the portfolio would also be subject to leverage risk, because it would be liable for the full notional amount of the swap in the event of default (or similar event). Swaps may be difficult to unwind or terminate. Certain index-based credit default swaps are structured in tranches, whereby junior tranches assume greater default risk than senior tranches. The absence of a central exchange or market for swap transactions may lead, in some instances, to difficulties in trading and valuation, especially in the event of market disruptions. New regulations require many kinds of swaps to be executed through a regulated exchange or market facility and cleared through a regulated clearinghouse. Although this clearing mechanism is generally expected to reduce counterparty credit risk, it may disrupt or limit the swap market and may not result in swaps being easier to trade or value. As swaps become more standardized, the portfolio may not be able to enter into swaps that meet its investment needs. The portfolio also may not be able to find a clearinghouse willing to accept the swaps for clearing. In a cleared swap, a central clearing organization will be the counterparty to the transaction. The portfolio will assume the risk that the clearing house may be unable to perform its obligations. The portfolio will be required to maintain its positions with a clearing organization through one or more clearing brokers. The clearing organization will require the portfolio to post margin and the broker may require the portfolio to post additional margin from time to time. In addition, cleared transactions may be more expensive to maintain than over-the-counter

transactions and may require the portfolio to deposit larger amounts of margin. The portfolio may not be able to recover margin amounts if the broker has financial difficulties. Also, the broker may require the portfolio to terminate a derivatives position under certain circumstances. This may cause the portfolio to lose money. The new regulations may make using swaps more costly, may limit their availability, or may otherwise adversely affect their value or performance.

Risks of investing in inverse floating rate obligations. The interest rate on inverse floating rate obligations will generally decrease as short-term interest rates increase, and increase as short-term rates decrease. Due to their leveraged structure, the sensitivity of the market value of an inverse floating rate obligation to changes in interest rates is generally greater than a comparable long-term bond issued by the same issuer and with similar credit quality, redemption and maturity provisions. Inverse floating rate obligations may be volatile and involve leverage risk.

Forward foreign currency transactions risk. To the extent that the portfolio enters into forward foreign currency transactions, it may not fully benefit from or may lose money on the transactions if changes in currency rates do not occur as anticipated or do not correspond accurately to changes in the value of the portfolio's holdings, or if the counterparty defaults. Such transactions may also prevent the portfolio from realizing profits on favorable movements in exchange rates. Risk of counterparty default is greater for counterparties located in emerging markets. The portfolio's ability to use forward foreign currency transactions successfully depends on a number of factors, including the forward foreign currency transactions being available at prices that are not too costly, the availability of liquid markets, and Pioneer's judgment regarding the direction of changes in currency exchange rates.

Leveraging risk. The value of your investment may be more volatile and other risks tend to be compounded if the portfolio borrows or uses derivatives or other investments , such as ETFs, that have embedded leverage. Leverage generally magnifies the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of the portfolio's underlying assets and creates a risk of loss of value on a larger pool of assets than the portfolio would otherwise have, potentially resulting in the loss of all assets. Engaging in such transactions may cause the portfolio to liquidate positions when it may not be advantageous to do so to satisfy its obligations or meet segregation requirements.

Repurchase agreement risk. In the event that the other party to a repurchase agreement defaults on its obligations, the portfolio may encounter delay and incur costs before being able to sell the security. Such a delay may involve loss of interest or a decline in price of the security. In addition, if the portfolio is characterized by a court as an unsecured creditor, it would be at risk of losing some or all of the principal and interest involved in the transaction.

Market segment risk. To the extent the portfolio emphasizes, from time to time, investments in a market segment, the portfolio will be subject to a greater degree to the risks particular to that segment, and may experience greater market fluctuation, than a portfolio without the same focus. For example, industries in the financial segment, such as banks, insurance companies, broker-dealers and real estate investment trusts (REITs), may be sensitive to changes in interest rates and general economic activity and are generally subject to extensive government regulation.

Valuation risk. The sales price the portfolio could receive for any particular portfolio investment may differ – higher or lower - from the portfolio's last valuation of the investment, and such differences could be significant, particularly for illiquid securities and securities that trade in thin or volatile markets. If market conditions make it difficult to value some investments, the portfolio may value these investments using more subjective methods, such as fair value methodologies. Investors who purchase or redeem portfolio shares on days when the portfolio is holding fair-valued securities may receive fewer or more shares or lower or higher redemption proceeds than they would have received if the portfolio had not fair-valued the security or had used a different valuation methodology. The value of foreign securities, certain fixed income securities and currencies, as applicable, may be materially affected by events after the close of the market on which they are valued, but before the portfolio determines its net asset value.

Cash management risk. The value of the investments held by the portfolio for cash management or temporary defensive purposes may be affected by market risks, changing interest rates and by changes in credit ratings of the investments. To the extent that the portfolio has any uninvested cash, the portfolio would be subject to credit risk with respect to the depository institution holding the cash. If the portfolio holds cash uninvested, the portfolio will not earn income on the cash and the portfolio's yield will go down. During such periods, it may be more difficult for the portfolio to achieve its investment objective.

Expense risk. Your actual costs of investing in the portfolio may be higher than the expenses shown in "Annual portfolio operating expenses" for a variety of reasons. For example, expense ratios may be higher than those shown if overall net assets decrease. Net assets are more likely to decrease and portfolio expense ratios are more likely to increase when markets are volatile.

To learn more about the portfolio's investments and risks, you should obtain and read the statement of additional information. Please note that there are many other factors that could adversely affect your investment and that could prevent the portfolio from achieving its goals.

Disclosure of portfolio holdings

The portfolio's policies and procedures with respect to disclosure of the portfolio's securities are described in the statement of additional information.

Management

Investment adviser

Pioneer, the portfolio's investment adviser, selects the portfolio's investments and oversees the portfolio's operations.

Pioneer is an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of UniCredit S.p.A., one of the largest banking groups in Italy. Pioneer is part of the global asset management group providing investment management and financial services to mutual funds, institutional and other clients. As of March 31, 2015, assets under management were approximately $242 billion worldwide, including over $70 billion in assets under management by Pioneer (and its U.S. affiliates).

Pioneer's main office is at 60 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109.

The firm's U.S. mutual fund investment history includes creating in 1928 one of the first mutual funds.

Pioneer has received an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission that permits Pioneer, subject to the approval of the portfolio's Board of Trustees, to hire and terminate a subadviser that is not affiliated with Pioneer (an "unaffiliated subadviser") or to materially modify an existing subadvisory contract with an unaffiliated subadviser for the portfolio without shareholder approval. Pioneer retains the ultimate responsibility to oversee and recommend the hiring, termination and replacement of any unaffiliated subadviser.

Portfolio management

Day-to-day management of the portfolio is the responsibility of Kenneth J. Taubes. Mr. Taubes is supported by portfolio managers Andrew Feltus and Charles Melchreit and the fixed income team. Members of this team manage other Pioneer funds investing primarily in fixed income securities. The portfolio manager and the team also may draw upon the research and investment management expertise of the global research teams, which provide fundamental and quantitative research on companies and include members from one or more of Pioneer's affiliates.

Mr. Taubes, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, U.S. of Pioneer, is responsible for overseeing the U.S. and global fixed income teams. He joined Pioneer as a senior vice president in September 1998 and has been an investment professional since 1982. Mr. Taubes has served as portfolio manager of the portfolio since 1999.

Mr. Feltus, Senior Vice President and Director of High Yield of Pioneer, joined Pioneer in 1994 and has served as a portfolio manager of the portfolio since 2012.

Mr. Melchreit, Senior Vice President and Director of Investment Grade of Pioneer, joined Pioneer in 2006 and has served as a portfolio manager of the portfolio since 2012.

The portfolio's statement of additional information provides additional information about the portfolio managers' compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers, and the portfolio managers' ownership of shares of the portfolio.

Management fee

The portfolio pays Pioneer a fee for managing the portfolio and to cover the cost of providing certain services to the portfolio. Pioneer's annual fee is equal to 0.65% of the portfolio's average daily net assets. The fee is normally accrued daily and paid monthly.

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, the portfolio paid management fees (excluding waivers and/or assumption of expenses) equivalent to 0.65% of the portfolio's average daily net assets.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board of Trustees' approval of the management contract is available in the portfolio's annual report to shareholders for the period ended December 31, 2014.

Distributor and transfer agent

Pioneer Funds Distributor, Inc. is the portfolio's distributor. Pioneer Investment Management Shareholder Services, Inc. is the portfolio's transfer agent. The portfolio compensates the distributor and transfer agent for their services. The distributor and the transfer agent are affiliates of Pioneer.

Distribution plan

The portfolio has adopted a distribution plan for Class II shares in accordance with Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Under the plan, the portfolio pays to Pioneer Funds Distributor, Inc. a distribution fee of 0.25% of the average daily net assets attributable to Class II shares. Because these fees are an ongoing expense, over time they increase the cost of an investment and the shares may cost more than shares that are subject to other types of sales charges.

Pricing of shares

Net asset value

The portfolio's net asset value is the value of its securities plus any other assets minus its accrued operating expenses and other liabilities. The portfolio calculates a net asset value for each class of shares every day the New York Stock Exchange is open when regular trading closes (normally 4:00 p.m. Eastern time). If the New York Stock Exchange closes at another time, the portfolio will calculate a net asset value for each class of shares as of the actual closing time. On days when the New York Stock Exchange is closed for trading, including certain holidays listed in the statement of additional information, a net asset value is not calculated. The portfolio's most recent net asset value is available on the portfolio's website, us.pioneerinvestments.com.

The portfolio generally values debt securities and certain derivative instruments by using the prices supplied by independent third party pricing services. A pricing service may use market prices or quotations from one or more brokers or other sources, or may use a pricing matrix or other fair value methods or techniques to provide an estimated value of the security or instrument. A pricing matrix is a means of valuing a debt security on the basis of current market prices for other debt securities, historical trading patterns in the market for fixed income securities and/or other factors. Non-U.S. debt securities that are listed on an exchange will be valued at the bid price obtained from an independent third party pricing service.

Senior loans are valued at the mean between the last available bid and asked prices for one or more brokers or dealers as obtained from an independent third party pricing service. If no reliable prices are available from either the primary or an alternative pricing service, broker quotes will be solicited. Event linked bonds are valued at the bid price obtained from an independent third party pricing service. Other insurance-linked securities may be valued at the bid price obtained from an independent third party pricing service, or through a third party using a pricing matrix, insurance industry valuation models, or other fair value methods or techniques to provide an estimated value of the instrument.

The portfolio generally values its equity securities and certain derivative instruments that are traded on an exchange using the last sale price on the principal exchange on which they are traded. Equity securities that are not traded on the date of valuation, or securities for which no last sale prices are available, are valued at the mean between the last bid and asked prices or, if both last bid and asked prices are not available, at the last quoted bid price. Last sale, bid and asked prices are provided by independent third party pricing services. In the case of equity securities not traded on an exchange, prices are typically determined by independent third party pricing services approved by the Board of Trustees using a variety of techniques and methods. The portfolio may use a fair value model developed by an independent pricing service to value non-U.S. equity securities.

To the extent that the portfolio invests in shares of other mutual funds that are not traded on an exchange, such shares of other mutual funds are valued at their net asset values as provided by those funds. The prospectuses for those funds explain the circumstances under which those funds will use fair value pricing methods and the effects of using fair value pricing methods.

The valuations of securities traded in non-U.S. markets and certain fixed income securities will generally be determined as of the earlier closing time of the markets on which they primarily trade. When the portfolio holds securities or other assets that are denominated in a foreign currency, the portfolio will normally use the currency exchange rates as of 3:00 p.m. (Eastern time). Non-U.S. markets are open for trading on weekends and other days when the portfolio does not price its shares. Therefore, the value of the portfolio's shares may change on days when you will not be able to purchase or redeem portfolio shares.

When independent third party pricing services are unable to supply prices for an investment, or when prices or market quotations are considered by Pioneer to be unreliable, the value of that security may be determined using quotations from one or more broker-dealers. When such prices or quotations are not available, or when they are considered by Pioneer to be unreliable, the portfolio uses fair value methods to value its securities pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. The portfolio also may use fair value methods if it is determined that a significant event has occurred between the time at which a price is determined and the time at which the portfolio's net asset value is calculated. Because the portfolio may invest in securities

rated below investment grade — some of which may be thinly traded and for which prices may not be readily available or may be unreliable — the portfolio may use fair value methods more frequently than funds that primarily invest in securities that are more widely traded. Valuing securities using fair value methods may cause the net asset value of the portfolio's shares to differ from the net asset value that would be calculated only using market prices.

The prices used by the portfolio to value its securities may differ from the amounts that would be realized if these securities were sold and these differences may be significant, particularly for securities that trade in relatively thin markets and/or markets that experience extreme volatility.

Shareholder information

Additional payments to intermediaries

Pioneer and its affiliates may make payments to your financial intermediary in addition to other forms of compensation it may receive. These payments by Pioneer may provide your financial intermediary with an incentive to favor the portfolio over other funds or assist the distributor in its efforts to promote the sale of the portfolio's shares, including through Variable Contracts and Qualified Plans. Financial intermediaries include broker-dealers, banks (including bank trust departments), insurance companies, registered investment advisers, financial planners, retirement plan administrators and other types of intermediaries.

Pioneer makes these additional payments (sometimes referred to as "revenue sharing") to financial intermediaries out of its own assets, which may include profits derived from services provided to the portfolio. Pioneer may base these payments on a variety of criteria, such as the amount of sales or assets of the Pioneer funds (including the portfolio) attributable to the financial intermediary.

Not all financial intermediaries receive additional compensation and the amount of compensation paid varies for each financial intermediary. In certain cases, these payments may be significant. Pioneer determines which firms to support and the extent of the payments it is willing to make, generally choosing firms that have a strong capability to effectively distribute shares of the Pioneer funds and that are willing to cooperate with Pioneer's promotional efforts. To the extent intermediaries sell more shares of the Pioneer funds or retain shares of the Pioneer funds in their clients' accounts, Pioneer receives greater management and other fees due to the increase in the Pioneer funds' assets.

In addition to these payments, Pioneer may compensate financial intermediaries, including insurance companies that sponsor Variable Contracts, for providing certain administrative and other services. Although an intermediary may request additional compensation from Pioneer to offset costs incurred by the financial intermediary in providing these services, the intermediary may earn a profit on these payments, if the amount of the payment exceeds the intermediary's costs.

The compensation that Pioneer pays to financial intermediaries is discussed in more detail in the portfolio's statement of additional information. Intermediaries may categorize and disclose these arrangements differently than in the discussion above and in the statement of additional information. In addition to the payments by Pioneer, the insurance company sponsors of Variable Contracts that invest in the portfolio similarly may compensate financial intermediaries out of their own resources. You can ask your financial intermediary about any payments it receives, as well as about fees and/or commissions it charges.

Investments in shares of the portfolio

The portfolio may sell its shares directly to separate accounts established and maintained by insurance companies for the purpose of funding Variable Contracts and to Qualified Plans. Shares of the portfolio are sold at net asset value. Investments in the portfolio are expressed in terms of the full and fractional shares of the portfolio purchased. Investments in the portfolio are credited to an insurance company's separate account or Qualified Plan account immediately upon acceptance of the investment by the portfolio. Investments will be processed at the net asset value next determined after an order is received and accepted by the portfolio. The offering of shares of the portfolio may be suspended for a period of time and the portfolio reserves the right to reject any specific purchase order. Purchase orders may be refused if, in Pioneer's opinion, they are of a size or frequency that would disrupt the management of the portfolio.

Since you may not directly purchase shares of the portfolio, you should read the prospectus for your insurance company's Variable Contract to learn how to purchase a Variable Contract based on the portfolio.

The interests of Variable Contracts and Qualified Plans investing in the portfolio could conflict due to differences of tax treatment and other considerations. The portfolio currently does not foresee any disadvantages to investors arising out of the fact that the portfolio may offer its shares to insurance company separate accounts that serve as the investment vehicles for their Variable Contracts or that the portfolio may offer its shares to

Qualified Plans. Nevertheless, the portfolio's Board of Trustees intends to monitor events in order to identify any material irreconcilable conflicts which may possibly arise and to determine what action, if any, should be taken in response to such conflicts. If such a conflict were to occur, one or more insurance companies' separate accounts or Qualified Plans might be required to withdraw their investments in the portfolio and shares of another portfolio may be substituted. This might force the portfolio to sell securities at disadvantageous prices. In addition, the Board of Trustees may refuse to sell shares of the portfolio to any separate account or Qualified Plan or may suspend or terminate the offering of shares of the portfolio if such action is required by law or regulatory authority or is in the best interests of the shareholders of the portfolio.

Insurance companies and plan fiduciaries are required to notify the portfolio if the tax status of their separate account or Qualified Plan is revoked or challenged by the Internal Revenue Service. The portfolio may redeem any account of any shareholder whose qualification as a diversified segregated asset account or a Qualified Plan satisfying the requirements of Treasury Regulation §1.817-5 is revoked or challenged. The portfolio will not treat an investor as a Qualified Plan for this purpose unless the investor is among the categories specifically enumerated in Revenue Ruling 2007-58, 2007-2 C.B. 562. An insurance company separate account or Qualified Plan whose tax status is revoked or challenged by the Internal Revenue Service may be liable to the portfolio or Pioneer for losses incurred by the portfolio or Pioneer as a result of such action.

Selling

Shares of the portfolio may be sold on any business day. Portfolio shares are sold at net asset value next determined after receipt by the portfolio of a redemption request in good order. Sale proceeds will normally be forwarded by bank wire to the selling insurance company or Qualified Plan on the next business day after receipt of the sales instructions by the portfolio but in no event later than 7 days following receipt of instructions. The portfolio may suspend transactions in shares or postpone payment dates when trading on the New York Stock Exchange is closed or restricted, or when the Securities and Exchange Commission determines an emergency or other circumstances exist that make it impracticable for the portfolio to sell or value its investments.

Excessive trading

Frequent trading into and out of the portfolio can disrupt portfolio management strategies, harm portfolio performance by forcing the portfolio to hold excess cash or to liquidate certain portfolio securities prematurely and increase expenses for all investors, including long-term investors who do not generate these costs. An investor may use short-term trading as a strategy, for example, if the investor believes that the valuation of the portfolio's securities for purposes of calculating its net asset value does not fully reflect the then-current fair market value of those holdings. The portfolio discourages, and does not take any intentional action to accommodate, excessive and short-term trading practices, such as market timing. Although there is no generally applied standard in the marketplace as to what level of trading activity is excessive, we may consider trading in the portfolio's shares to be excessive for a variety of reasons, such as if a Variable Contract owner or plan participant provides instructions to the insurance company or plan administrator for:

- The sale of shares of the portfolio within a short period of time after the shares were purchased;
- Two or more purchases and redemptions within a short period of time; or
- A series of transactions that indicate a timing pattern or strategy.

The portfolio's Board of Trustees has adopted policies and procedures with respect to frequent purchases and redemptions of portfolio shares by investors. Because the insurance company aggregates the trading by Variable Contract owners, we are not able to monitor trading at the Variable Contract owner level. If we are advised by an insurance company that a Variable Contract owner, initiating transactions in the portfolio through a separate account that is the owner of record, has engaged in excessive short-term trading that we believe may be harmful to the portfolio, we will ask the insurance company to restrict the Variable Contract owner from placing further purchase orders in the portfolio. We may seek limitations on trading activity by Qualified Plans investing in the portfolio in similar circumstances. In determining whether to take such action, we seek

to act in a manner that is consistent with the best interests of the portfolio's shareholders. In order to prevent short-term trading in portfolios that primarily invest in non-U.S. securities, these portfolios use a fair value pricing service, as discussed under "Net asset value" in this prospectus.

While we use efforts that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances to detect excessive trading activity, there can be no assurance that our efforts will be successful or that market timers will not employ tactics designed to evade detection. If we are not successful, the return of an investor in a portfolio may be adversely affected. However, we are dependent upon the insurance companies that offer Variable Contracts and the administrators of the qualified plans that invest in the portfolios to monitor and restrict such activities. Consequently, an investment in a portfolio may involve the risk that certain investors will engage in short-term or excessive trading.

The portfolio may reject any purchase or exchange order before its acceptance or the issuance of shares, or request that the insurance company or plan administrator restrict transaction activity by a Variable Contract owner, for any reason, without prior notice, including transactions that the portfolio believes are requested on behalf of market timers. The portfolio reserves the right to reject any purchase request by a Qualified Plan or insurance company if the portfolio believes that any combination of trading activity in the account or related accounts is potentially disruptive to the portfolio. A prospective investor whose purchase order is rejected will not achieve the investment results, whether gain or loss, that would have been realized if the order were accepted and an investment made in the portfolio. The portfolio and its shareholders do not incur any gain or loss as a result of a rejected order. The portfolio may impose further restrictions on trading activities by market timers in the future.

Distributions and taxes

Shares of the portfolio are held by life insurance company separate accounts that fund Variable Contracts and by certain Qualified Plans. Owners of Variable Contracts should read the prospectus of their insurance company's Variable Contract for a discussion of the tax status of a Variable Contract, including the tax consequences of withdrawals or other payments, and should keep all statements received from the insurance company or the portfolio to assist in personal recordkeeping. Participants in a Qualified Plan should consult their tax advisers regarding the tax consequences of participating in and receiving distributions or other payments relating to such plans.

The portfolio is treated as a separate entity for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The portfolio has elected to be treated, and has qualified and intends to continue to qualify each year, as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). In order to so qualify, the portfolio generally must satisfy certain requirements relating to the sources of its income and the diversification of its assets. If the portfolio qualifies as a regulated investment company and meets certain distribution requirements, it generally will not be subject to federal income tax on any net investment income and net realized capital gains that are distributed to its shareholders.

Under the Code, the portfolio's dividends and distributions of ordinary income or of net short-term capital gain that are paid to insurance company separate accounts or to Qualified Plans are generally treated as dividend income; distributions of net long-term capital gain in excess of net short-term capital loss are generally treated as long-term capital gain. Dividends and capital gain distributions are treated as received by the insurance company or Qualified Plan rather than by the owner of the Variable Contract or the plan participant. Insurance companies and Qualified Plans should consult their own tax advisers regarding the tax treatment of dividends or capital gain distributions they receive from the portfolio.

In addition to satisfying the requirements applicable to regulated investment companies described above, the portfolio also intends to satisfy the diversification requirements applicable to separate accounts of insurance companies. If the portfolio qualifies as a regulated investment company and only sells its shares to separate accounts and to certain other permitted investors, including Qualified Plans, then the separate accounts invested in the portfolio will be allowed to look through to the portfolio's investments in testing their compliance with the diversification requirements. If the portfolio fails to meet the diversification requirements applicable to separate accounts or fails to qualify as a regulated investment company, or if the portfolio's shares are sold to any investor other than certain permitted investors, then that look-through treatment would not be available and separate accounts invested in the portfolio might fail to satisfy the diversification requirements, and Variable Contracts invested in those separate accounts might not qualify for their expected federal income tax treatment. More specific information on these diversification requirements is contained in the insurance company's separate account prospectus and in the SAI.

Distributions

The portfolio declares a dividend daily. The dividend consists of substantially all of the portfolio's net income other than net short-term and long-term capital gains. Investors begin to earn dividends on the first business day following receipt of payment for shares, and continue to earn dividends up to and including the date of sale. Dividends are normally paid on the last business day of each month. The portfolio generally pays any distributions of net short- and long-term capital gains in June. The portfolio may also pay dividends and capital gain distributions at other times if necessary for the portfolio to avoid federal income or excise tax.

Financial highlights

The financial highlights table helps you understand the portfolio's financial performance. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share of the portfolio. The total returns in the table represent the rate that you would have earned on an investment in the portfolio (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The information below for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014 has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, whose report is included in the portfolio's annual report along with the portfolio's financial statements. The information below for each of the periods ended on or prior to December 31, 2013 was audited by another independent registered public accounting firm. The portfolio's annual report is incorporated by reference in the statement of additional information and is available upon request.

Pioneer Strategic Income VCT Portfolio

Class II

	Year Ended 12/31/14	Year Ended 12/31/13	Year Ended 12/31/12	Year Ended 12/31/11	Year Ended 12/31/10
Net asset value, beginning of period	$ 10.35	$ 10.74	$ 10.22	$ 10.62	$ 10.06
Increase (decrease) from investment operations:					
Net investment income (loss)	$ 0.30	$ 0.37	$ 0.36	$ 0.52	$ 0.48
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	0.09	(0.27)	0.76	(0.35)	0.64
Net increase (decrease) from investment operations	$ 0.39	$ 0.10	$ 1.12	$ 0.17	$ 1.12
Distribution to shareowners:					
Net investment income	$ (0.36)	$ (0.43)	$ (0.50)	$ (0.52)	$ (0.56)
Net realized gain	(0.12)	(0.06)	(0.10)	(0.05)	—
Total distributions	$ (0.48)	$ (0.49)	$ (0.60)	$ (0.57)	$ (0.56)
Net increase (decrease) in net asset value	$ (0.09)	$ (0.39)	$ 0.52	$ (0.40)	$ 0.56
Net asset value, end of period	$ 10.26	$ 10.35	$ 10.74	$ 10.22	$ 10.62
Total return*	3.71%	0.92%	11.18%	1.56%(a)	11.37%
Ratio of total expenses plus interest expense to average net assets (b)	1.45%	1.47%	1.53%	1.47%	1.47%
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	2.96%	3.74%	3.92%	5.06%	4.96%
Portfolio turnover rate	88%	30%	25%	43%	92%
Net assets, end of period (in thousands)	$31,526	$28,261	$25,265	$16,511	$16,315

* Assumes initial investment at net asset value at the beginning of each period, reinvestment of all distributions, the complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of each period.

(a) If the Portfolio had not recognized gains in settlement of class action lawsuits during the year ended December 31, 2011, the total return would have been 1.50%.

(b) Includes interest expense of 0.00%†, 0.00%, 0.00%, 0.00% and 0.00%, respectively.

† Amount rounds to less than 0.01%.

Notes

Pioneer Variable Contracts Trust

Pioneer Strategic Income VCT Portfolio
Class II Shares

You can obtain more free information about the portfolio by writing to Pioneer Investment Management Shareholder Services, Inc., 60 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109. You may also call **1-800-225-6292** for information about the portfolio, to request copies of the portfolio's statement of additional information and shareowner reports, and to make other inquiries. The portfolio's statement of additional information and shareowner reports are available, free of charge, on the Pioneer website at www.pioneerinvestments.com.

Shareowner reports
Annual and semiannual reports to shareowners, and quarterly reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, provide additional information about the portfolio's investments. The annual report discusses market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the portfolio's performance during its last fiscal year.

Statement of additional information
The statement of additional information provides more detailed information about the portfolio.

The statement of additional information, dated May 1, 2015, as may be amended from time to time, and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, is incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

You can also review and copy the portfolio's shareowner reports, prospectus and statement of additional information at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Call 1-202-551-8090 for information. The Commission charges a fee for copies. You can get the same information free from the Commission's EDGAR database on the Internet (http://www.sec.gov). You may also e-mail requests for these documents to publicinfo@sec.gov or make a request in writing to the Commission's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-1520.

(Investment Company Act file no. 811-08786)

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