

NORTHERN INSTITUTIONAL FUNDS

PRIME OBLIGATIONS PORTFOLIO
GFS SHARES (NPOXX)**Prospectus dated April 1, 2012**

An investment in the Portfolio is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC"), any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank. An investment in the Portfolio involves investment risks, including possible loss of principal.

Although the Portfolio seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in the Portfolio.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

3 PRIME OBLIGATIONS PORTFOLIO

6 INVESTMENT ADVISER

7 ADVISORY FEES

8 OTHER PORTFOLIO SERVICES

9 PURCHASING AND SELLING GFS SHARES

9 INVESTORS

9 SHARE CLASSES

9 PURCHASE AND SALE OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

10 ACCOUNT POLICIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

12 DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAX CONSIDERATIONS

14 SECURITIES, TECHNIQUES AND RISKS

14 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE,
PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RELATED RISKS

19 ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES AND COMMON
INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES

21 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

24 FOR MORE INFORMATION

PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

PRIME OBLIGATIONS PORTFOLIO

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Portfolio is a money market fund that seeks to maintain a stable net asset value (“NAV”) of \$1.00 per share. The Portfolio seeks to maximize current income to the extent consistent with the preservation of capital and maintenance of liquidity by investing exclusively in high quality money market instruments.

FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE PORTFOLIO

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Portfolio.

Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)

None

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

	GFS Shares
Management Fees	0.15%
Distribution (12b-1) Fees	None
Other Expenses	0.12%
Administration Fees	0.10%
Service Agent Fees	None
Other Operating Expenses	0.02%
Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses	0.27%
Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement ⁽¹⁾	(0.12)%
Total Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement	0.15%

⁽¹⁾ Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“NTI” or the “Investment Adviser”) has contractually agreed to waive a portion of its management fees and reimburse certain expenses of the Portfolio. The contractual waiver and reimbursement arrangements are expected to continue until at least April 1, 2013. After this date, NTI or the Portfolio may terminate the contractual arrangements. The Portfolio’s Board of Trustees may terminate the contractual arrangements at any time if it determines that it is in the best interest of the Portfolio and its shareholders.

EXAMPLE

The following Example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in shares of 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 indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Portfolio’s operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
GFS Shares	\$15	\$75	\$140	\$331

PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The Portfolio seeks to achieve its objective by investing in a broad range of high-quality, U.S. dollar-denominated government, bank and commercial obligations that are available in the money markets, including:

- Obligations of U.S. banks (including obligations of foreign branches of such banks);
- Obligations of foreign commercial banks;
- Commercial paper and other obligations issued or guaranteed by U.S. and foreign corporations and other issuers;
- Corporate bonds, notes, paper and other instruments;
- Asset-backed securities, asset-backed commercial paper and structured notes;
- Securities issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises and custodial receipts with respect thereto;
- Securities issued or guaranteed by one or more foreign governments or political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities;
- Repurchase agreements relating to the above instruments; and
- Municipal securities issued or guaranteed by state or local governmental bodies.

The Securities and Exchange Commission imposes strict requirements on the investment quality, maturity, and diversification of the Portfolio’s investments. Accordingly, the Portfolio’s investments must have a remaining maturity of no more than 397 days and must be high quality. The Investment Adviser may consider, among other things, credit, interest rate and prepayment risks as well as general market conditions when deciding whether to buy or sell investments for the Portfolio.

During extraordinary market conditions and interest rate environments, some portion of the Portfolio’s total net assets may be uninvested. In such cases, a portion of the Portfolio’s assets may be held in cash in the Portfolio’s custody account.

Cash assets are not income-generating and therefore would impact the Portfolio’s current yield. During this time, the Portfolio may not achieve its investment objective.

PRINCIPAL RISKS

STABLE NAV RISK is the risk that the Portfolio will not be able to maintain an NAV per share of \$1.00 at all times. A significant enough market disruption or drop in market prices of securities held by the Portfolio, especially at a time when the Portfolio needs to sell securities to meet shareholder redemption requests, could cause the value of the Portfolio's shares to decrease to a price less than \$1.00 per share.

INTEREST RATE RISK is the risk that during periods of rising interest rates, the Portfolio's yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be lower than prevailing market rates; in periods of falling interest rates, the Portfolio's yield (and the market value of its securities) will tend to be higher.

CREDIT (OR DEFAULT) RISK is the risk that the inability or unwillingness of an issuer or guarantor of a fixed-income security, or a counterparty to a repurchase or other transaction, to meet its payment or other financial obligations will adversely affect the value of the Portfolio's investments and its yield. Changes in the credit rating of a debt security held by the Portfolio could have a similar effect.

GUARANTOR (OR CREDIT ENHANCEMENT) RISK is the risk that changes in credit quality of a U.S. or foreign bank, insurance company or other financial institution or such entity's failure to fulfill its obligations could cause the Portfolio's investments to decline in value. Adverse developments in the banking or bond insurance industries also may negatively affect the Portfolio.

INCOME RISK is the risk that falling interest rates will cause the Portfolio's income to decline. Income risk is generally higher for short-term debt securities.

MANAGEMENT RISK is the risk that a strategy used by the investment management team may fail to produce the intended results.

PREPAYMENT (OR CALL) RISK is the risk that prepayment of the underlying mortgage or other collateral of some fixed-income securities may result in a decreased rate of return and a decline in value of those securities.

DEBT EXTENSION RISK is the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Portfolio (such as an asset-backed security) later than expected. This may happen during a period of rising interest rates. Under these circumstances, the value of the obligation will decrease and the Portfolio will suffer from the inability to invest in higher yielding securities.

FOREIGN SECURITIES RISK is the risk that a foreign security, even if it is a U.S. dollar-denominated foreign security, could lose value as a result of political, financial and economic events in foreign countries, less stringent foreign securities regulations and accounting and disclosure standards or other factors.

STRUCTURED SECURITIES RISK is the risk that loss may result from the Portfolio's investments in structured securities. Structured securities may be more volatile, less liquid and more difficult to price accurately than less complex securities due to their derivative nature. As a result, investments in structured securities may adversely affect the Portfolio's NAV. In some cases it is possible that the Portfolio may suffer a total loss on its investment in a structured security.

An investment in the Portfolio is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any other government agency, or The Northern Trust Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries or any other bank. Although the Portfolio seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in the Portfolio.

PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

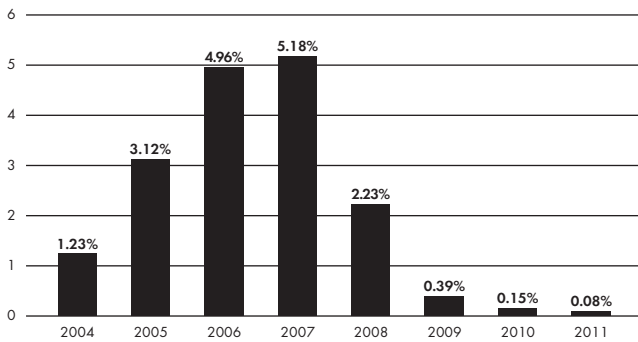
GFS Shares of the Portfolio have been offered for less than one calendar year and, therefore, no performance information for GFS Shares is presented. The bar chart and table that follow provide an indication of the risks of investing in the Portfolio by showing changes in the performance from year to year of Shares, another class of shares of the Portfolio that is offered in a separate prospectus.

The Portfolio's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Portfolio will perform in the future.

Updated performance information for the Portfolio is available and may be obtained on the Portfolio's Web site at www.northernfunds.com/institutional or by calling 800-637-1380.

PRIME OBLIGATIONS PORTFOLIO

CALENDAR YEAR TOTAL RETURN (SHARES) *



For the periods shown in the bar chart above, the highest quarterly return was 1.31% in the third quarter of 2007, and the lowest quarterly return was 0.01% in the fourth quarter of 2011.

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS *

(For the periods ended December 31, 2011)

	Inception Date	1-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Shares	8/21/03	0.08%	1.59%	2.10%

* The returns in the bar chart and table above are for Shares, another class of shares of the Portfolio that is offered in a separate prospectus. GFS Shares would have substantially similar annual returns because the GFS Shares are invested in the same portfolio of securities and the annual returns would differ only to the extent that the classes have different expenses.

The 7-day yield for Shares of the Portfolio as of December 31, 2011: 0.01%. For the current 7-day yield call 800-637-1380 or visit www.northernfunds.com/institutional.

MANAGEMENT

INVESTMENT ADVISER. Northern Trust Investments, Inc., an indirect subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the Investment Adviser of the Portfolio.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

GFS Shares of the Portfolio are offered exclusively to U.S. registered investment company clients of The Northern Trust Company's ("TNTC") Global Fund Services Division ("GFS"). You may purchase or sell (redeem) GFS Shares of the Portfolio only through the automatic "sweep" made available by TNTC to investors in GFS Shares. The automatic sweep moves uninvested cash balances in one or more of your custody accounts with TNTC into and out of GFS Shares of the Portfolio on a daily basis pursuant to the terms and conditions of your custody accounts with TNTC. The minimum initial investment in GFS Shares is \$50 million. There is no minimum for subsequent investments. Contact your GFS representative for more information on the automatic sweep arrangement, including information on opening an account and buying or selling GFS Shares of the Portfolio.

TAX INFORMATION

The Portfolio's distributions are generally taxable to you as ordinary income, capital gains, or a combination of the two, unless you are investing through a tax-exempt or tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Distributions may be taxable upon withdrawal from tax-deferred accounts.

INVESTMENT ADVISER

This Prospectus describes one money market portfolio (the “Portfolio”) currently offered by Northern Institutional Funds (the “Trust”).

Northern Trust Investments, Inc. (“NTI” or the “Investment Adviser”), an indirect subsidiary of Northern Trust Corporation, serves as the Investment Adviser of the Portfolio. NTI is located at 50 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60603.

NTI is an Illinois State Banking Corporation and an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. It primarily manages assets for institutional and individual separately managed accounts, investment companies and bank common and collective funds. Northern Trust

Corporation is regulated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System as a financial holding company under the U.S. Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended.

As of December 31, 2011, Northern Trust Corporation, through its affiliates, had assets under custody of \$4.3 trillion, and assets under investment management of \$662.9 billion.

Under the Advisory Agreement with the Trust, the Investment Adviser, subject to the general supervision of the Trust’s Board of Trustees, is responsible for making investment decisions for the Portfolio and for placing purchase and sale orders for portfolio securities.

ADVISORY FEES

As compensation for advisory services and the assumption of related expenses, the Investment Adviser is entitled to an advisory fee, computed daily and payable monthly, at the annual rate set forth in the table below (expressed as a percentage of the Portfolio's average daily net assets). The table also reflects the advisory fee (after fee waivers) paid by the Portfolio for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2011 (expressed as a percentage of the Portfolio's respective average daily net assets).

The difference, if any, between the contractual advisory fees and the actual advisory fees paid by the Portfolio reflects the fact that the Investment Adviser did not charge the full amount of the advisory fees to which it was entitled. The Investment Adviser contractually agreed to waive a portion of the advisory fees charged to the Portfolio and to reimburse certain expenses of the Portfolio.

The contractual waiver/reimbursement arrangements are expected to continue until at least April 1, 2013. After this date,

the Investment Adviser or the Portfolio may terminate the contractual arrangements. The Board of Trustees may terminate the contractual arrangements at any time if it determines that it is in the best interests of the Portfolio and its shareholders.

In order to avoid a negative yield, the Investment Adviser may reimburse additional expenses or waive additional advisory fees of the Portfolio. Any such additional expense reimbursement or waiver would be voluntary and could be implemented or discontinued at any time. There is no guarantee that the Portfolio will be able to avoid a negative yield.

A discussion regarding the Board of Trustees' basis for its most recent approval of the Portfolio's Advisory Agreement is available in the Portfolio's semiannual report to shareholders for the six-month period ended May 31, 2011.

Portfolio	Contractual Rate	Advisory Fee Paid for Fiscal Year Ended 11/30/2011
PRIME OBLIGATIONS PORTFOLIO	0.15%	0.10%

OTHER PORTFOLIO SERVICES

The Northern Trust Company (“TNTC,” together with NTI, referred to as “Northern Trust”) serves as Transfer Agent and Custodian for the Portfolio. The Transfer Agent performs various shareholder servicing functions, and any shareholder inquiries should be directed to it. In addition, NTI serves as Administrator for the Portfolio. TNTC also performs certain administrative services for the Portfolio pursuant to a sub-administration agreement with NTI. NTI pays TNTC for its sub-administration services out of its administration fees and TNTC’s fees do not represent additional expenses to the Portfolio.

NTI, as Administrator, is entitled to an administration fee from the Portfolio at the annual rate of 0.10% of the average daily net assets of the Portfolio. Under the Administration Agreement with the Trust, which may be amended by the Trust’s Board of Trustees without shareholder approval, NTI, as Administrator, has contractually agreed to reimburse expenses (including fees payable to NTI for its services as Administrator, but excluding management fees, transfer agency fees, service agent fees, taxes, interest, indemnification expenses, acquired fund fees and expenses, the Portfolio’s proportionate share of the increase in compensation paid to each Trustee who is not an officer, director or employee of Northern Trust Corporation or its

subsidiaries effective January 1, 2012, expenses related to third-party consultants engaged by the Board of Trustees, membership dues paid to the Investment Company Institute and Mutual Fund Directors Forum and other extraordinary expenses) (“Expenses”) that exceed on an annualized basis 0.10% of the Portfolio’s average daily net assets. In addition, NTI as Administrator has contractually agreed through at least April 1, 2013 to reimburse an additional portion of the Portfolio’s “Other Operating Expenses” shown in the table on page 3 of the Portfolio Summary so that the Portfolio’s Expenses do not exceed 0.05% of its average daily net assets.

TNTC, NTI and other Northern Trust affiliates may provide other services to the Portfolio and receive compensation for such services if consistent with the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (“1940 Act”) and the rules, exemptive orders and no-action letters issued by the SEC thereunder. Unless required, investors in the Portfolio may or may not receive specific notice of such additional services and fees.

Shares of the Trust are distributed by Northern Funds Distributors, LLC (“NFD”), Three Canal Plaza, Suite 100, Portland, Maine, 04101. NFD is not affiliated with TNTC, NTI or any other Northern Trust affiliate.

PURCHASING AND SELLING GFS SHARES

THE TRUST OFFERS THE PORTFOLIO TO INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.

The descriptions in the Portfolio Summary may help you determine whether the Portfolio fits your investment needs. Keep in mind, however, that no guarantee can be made that the Portfolio will meet its investment objective and the Portfolio should not be relied upon as a complete investment program. The Trust also offers other investment portfolios, including additional money market portfolios and fixed-income, equity and equity index portfolios, which are described in separate prospectuses.

INVESTORS

Clients of GFS that are investment companies registered under the 1940 Act may invest in GFS Shares of the Portfolio through the automatic sweep made available by TNTC to investors in GFS Shares by contacting their GFS account representative.

There is no sales charge imposed on investments.

SHARE CLASSES

The Portfolio is authorized to offer four classes of shares: Shares, Service Shares, Premier Shares and GFS Shares. Premier Shares are not currently offered to investors. Shares, Service Shares and Premier Shares are offered in a separate prospectus.

- GFS Shares bear their pro rata portion of all operating expenses paid by the Portfolio except for transfer agency fees.

Please note that the fee and expense information shown under “Fees and Expenses of the Portfolio” in the Portfolio Summary beginning on page 3 does not reflect any charges that may be imposed by TNTC, its affiliates, correspondent banks and other institutions on clients of GFS.

PURCHASE AND SALE OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

GFS Shares of the Portfolio are offered exclusively to U.S. registered investment company clients of Northern Trust’s Global Fund Services. You may purchase or sell (redeem) GFS Shares of the Portfolio only through the automatic “sweep” made available by TNTC to investors in GFS Shares. The automatic sweep moves uninvested cash balances in one or more of your custody accounts with TNTC into and out of GFS Shares of the Portfolio on a daily basis pursuant to the terms and conditions of your custody accounts with TNTC. Contact your GFS representative for more information on the automatic sweep arrangement, including information on opening an account and buying or selling GFS Shares of the Portfolio.

ACCOUNT POLICIES AND OTHER INFORMATION

PURCHASE AND REDEMPTION MINIMUMS. There is a minimum initial investment of \$50 million for GFS Shares of the Portfolio. There is no minimum for subsequent investments. The Trust reserves the right to waive purchase minimums and to determine the manner in which a minimum is satisfied.

CALCULATING SHARE PRICE. The Trust issues and redeems GFS Shares at NAV. The NAV for GFS Shares of the Portfolio is calculated by dividing the value of the Portfolio's net assets attributed to GFS Shares by the number of the Portfolio's outstanding GFS Shares. For GFS Shares of the Portfolio, the NAV is calculated on each Business Day as of 2:00 p.m. Central time. Portfolio shares may be priced on days when the New York Stock Exchange (the "Exchange") is closed if the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association ("SIFMA") recommends that the bond markets remain open for all or part of the day. The NAV used in determining the price of your shares is the one calculated after your purchase or redemption order is received and accepted by the Portfolio.

The Portfolio seeks to maintain an NAV of \$1.00 per share by valuing the obligations held by it at amortized cost in accordance with SEC regulations. Amortized cost will normally approximate fair value.

IN-KIND PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS. The Trust reserves the right to accept payment for GFS Shares in the form of securities that are permissible investments for the Portfolio. The Trust also reserves the right to pay redemptions by a distribution "in-kind" of securities (instead of cash) from the Portfolio. See the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") for further information about the terms of these purchases and redemptions.

MISCELLANEOUS PURCHASE INFORMATION.

- GFS Shares of the Portfolio are entitled to the dividends declared by the Portfolio beginning on the Business Day the shares are purchased.
- The Trust reserves the right, on 30 days' written notice, to redeem the shares held in any account if, at the time of redemption, the NAV of the shares in the account falls below \$50 million.
- If the Transfer Agent cannot locate an investor for a period of time specified by appropriate state law, the investor's account may be deemed legally abandoned and then escheated (transferred) to the appropriate state's unclaimed property administrator in accordance with statutory requirements.

MISCELLANEOUS REDEMPTION INFORMATION. Redemptions are subject to the following restrictions:

- The Trust reserves the right to defer crediting, sending or wiring redemption proceeds for up to 7 days (or such longer period permitted by the SEC) after receiving the redemption

order if, in its judgment, an earlier payment could adversely affect the Portfolio.

- Dividends on GFS Shares are earned through and including the day prior to the day on which they are redeemed.
- The Trust and the Transfer Agent reserve the right to redeem shares held by any shareholder who provides incorrect or incomplete account information or when such involuntary redemptions are necessary to avoid adverse consequences to the Trust and its shareholders or the Transfer Agent.
- The Trust may require any information from the shareholder reasonably necessary to ensure that a redemption request has been duly authorized.
- The Trust reserves the right to change or discontinue any of its redemption procedures.

EXCESSIVE TRADING IN PORTFOLIO SHARES. The Board of Trustees of the Trust has not adopted, on behalf of the Portfolio, policies and procedures with respect to frequent purchases and redemptions of Portfolio shares in light of the nature and high quality of the Portfolio's investments. The Portfolio reserves the right to refuse a purchase order if management of the Portfolio determines that the purchase may not be in the best interests of the Portfolio.

BUSINESS DAY. A "Business Day" is each Monday through Friday when the Transfer Agent or the Exchange is open for business. For any given calendar year, the Portfolio will be closed on the following holidays or as observed: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM. Federal law requires the Trust to obtain, verify and record identifying information, which may include the name, business street address, taxpayer identification number or other identifying information for each investor who opens or reopens an account with the Trust. Applications without this information, or without an indication that a taxpayer identification number has been applied for, may not be accepted. After acceptance, to the extent permitted by applicable law or the Trust's customer identification program, the Trust reserves the right to: (a) place limits on account transactions until an investor's identity is verified; (b) refuse an investment in the Trust; or (c) involuntarily redeem an investor's shares and close an account in the event that an investor's identity is not verified. The Trust and its agents will not be responsible for any loss in an investor's account resulting from an investor's delay in providing all required identifying information or from closing an account and redeeming an investor's shares when an investor's identity is not verified.

EARLY CLOSINGS. The Portfolio reserves the right to advance the time for accepting purchase or redemption orders for same Business Day credit when the Exchange and/or the bond market close early, trading on the Exchange is restricted, an emergency arises or as otherwise permitted by the SEC. In addition, on any Business Day when SIFMA recommends that the bond markets close early, the Portfolio reserves the right to close at or prior to the SIFMA recommended closing time. If the Portfolio does so, it will cease granting same Business Day credit for purchase and redemption orders received at the Portfolio's closing time and credit will be given on the next Business Day. The Board of Trustees of the Portfolio also may, for any Business Day, decide to change the time as of which the Portfolio's NAV is calculated in response to new developments such as altered trading hours, or as otherwise permitted by the SEC.

EMERGENCY OR UNUSUAL EVENTS. In the event the Exchange does not open for business because of an emergency or unusual event, the Trust may, but is not required to, open one or more portfolios for purchase and redemption transactions if the Federal Reserve wire payment system is open. To learn whether the Portfolio is open for business during an emergency situation or unusual event, please call 800-637-1380 or visit northernfunds.com/institutional.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS. The Portfolio, or its duly authorized service providers, may publicly disclose holdings of all Northern Institutional Funds in accordance with regulatory requirements, such as periodic portfolio disclosure in filings with the SEC.

A complete schedule of the Portfolio's holdings, current as of month-end will be available on the Trust's Web site at northernfunds.com/institutional no earlier than ten (10) calendar days after the end of the respective period. This information will remain available on the Web site at least until the Portfolio files with the SEC its semiannual/annual shareholder report or quarterly portfolio holdings report that includes such period. The Portfolio may terminate or modify this policy at any time without further notice to shareholders.

The Trust also publishes on its Web site, no later than the fifth business day of each month and for a period of not less than six months, certain information regarding portfolio holdings of the Portfolio as of the last business day of the prior month. Certain portfolio information concerning the Portfolio will be provided in monthly holdings reports to the SEC on Form N-MFP. Form N-MFP will be made available to the public by the SEC 60 days after the end of the month to which the information pertains, and a link to each of the most recent 12 months of filings on Form N-MFP will be provided on the Trust's Web site.

A further description of the Trust's Policy on Disclosure of Portfolio Holdings is available in the SAI.

SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS. Shareholders of record will be provided each year with a semiannual report showing portfolio investments and other information as of May 31 and with an annual report containing audited financial statements as of November 30. If you have consented to the delivery of a single copy of shareholder reports, prospectuses, proxy statements or information statements to all shareholders who share the same mailing address with your account, you may revoke your consent at any time by contacting the Northern Institutional Funds Center by telephone at 800-637-1380 or by mail at Northern Institutional Funds, P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, IL 60675-5986. You also may send an e-mail to northern-funds@ntrs.com. The Portfolio will begin sending individual copies to you within 30 days after receipt of your revocation.

The Trust may reproduce this Prospectus in electronic format that may be available on the Internet. If you have received this Prospectus in electronic format you, or your representative, may contact the Transfer Agent for a free paper copy of this Prospectus by writing to the Northern Institutional Funds Center at P.O. Box 75986, Chicago, IL 60675-5986, calling 800-637-1380 or by sending an e-mail to: northern-funds@ntrs.com.

DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAX CONSIDERATIONS

DISTRIBUTIONS

Dividends from net income are declared daily and paid monthly by the Portfolio to its shareholders. Net income includes the interest accrued on the Portfolio's assets less estimated expenses. The Portfolio's net realized short-term capital gains, if any, are distributed at least annually. The Portfolio does not expect to realize net long-term capital gains.

Dividends are paid as soon as practicable following the end of each month, except in the case of a total redemption of GFS Shares in an account that is not subject to a standing order for the purchase of additional shares of the same class. In that event, dividends will be paid promptly along with the redemption proceeds.

All distributions are reinvested automatically (without any sales charge) in additional GFS Shares of the Portfolio, unless you elect to receive distributions in cash by notifying the Transfer Agent in writing. You may make arrangements to credit these distributions to your account with Northern Trust, its affiliates or its correspondent banks.

There are no fees or sales charges on reinvestments.

TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain tax considerations that may be relevant to a shareholder in the Portfolio. The discussions of the federal tax consequences in this Prospectus and the SAI are based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and the regulations issued under it, and court decisions and administrative interpretations, as in effect on the date of this Prospectus. Future legislative or administrative changes or court decisions may significantly alter the statements included herein, and any such changes or decisions may be retroactive. Except where otherwise indicated, the discussion relates to shareholders who are individual U.S. citizens or residents and is based on current tax law. You should consult your tax advisor for further information regarding federal, state, local and/or foreign tax consequences relevant to your specific situation.

DISTRIBUTIONS. The Portfolio intends to qualify as a regulated investment company for federal tax purposes and to distribute to shareholders substantially all of its net investment income each year. Except as otherwise noted below, you will generally be subject to federal income tax at ordinary rates on the Portfolio's distributions to you, regardless of whether they are paid in cash or reinvested in GFS Shares. Beginning in 2013, U.S. individuals with "modified adjusted gross income" exceeding \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married and filing jointly) will be subject to the Medicare contribution tax on their "net investment income," which includes interest, dividends and capital gains at a rate of 3.8%.

The Portfolio generally will be invested in debt instruments and not in shares of stock on which dividend income will be received. As a result, the Portfolio does not expect to pay dividends that are eligible for the reduced tax rate on corporate dividends or that will qualify for the dividends-received deduction for corporations.

IRAS AND OTHER TAX-QUALIFIED PLANS. One major exception to the preceding tax principles is that distributions on shares held in an IRA (or other tax-qualified plan) will not be currently taxable unless shares are acquired with borrowed funds.

BACKUP WITHHOLDING. The Trust will be required in certain cases to withhold and remit to the U.S. Treasury 28% of the dividends and gross sales proceeds paid to any shareholder (i) who had provided either an incorrect tax identification number or no number at all, (ii) who is subject to backup withholding by the Internal Revenue Service for failure to report the receipt of taxable interest or dividend income properly, or (iii) who has failed to certify to the Trust, when required to do so, that he or she is not subject to backup withholding or that he or she is an "exempt recipient."

U.S. TAX TREATMENT OF FOREIGN SHAREHOLDERS. Portfolio distributions attributable to Portfolio income such as interest will generally be subject to a 30% withholding tax when paid to foreign shareholders. The withholding tax may, however be reduced (and in some cases eliminated) under an applicable tax treaty between the United States and a shareholder's country of residence or incorporation, provided that the shareholder furnishes the Portfolio with a properly completed Form W-8BEN to establish entitlement for these treaty benefits. For distributions attributable to the Portfolio's taxable years ending on or before November 30, 2012, nonresident aliens, foreign corporations and other foreign investors in the Portfolio will generally be exempt from U.S. federal income tax on Portfolio distributions attributable to and properly designated by the Portfolio as U.S.-source interest income and capital gains of the Portfolio. The exemption may not apply, however, if the recipient's investment in the Portfolio is connected to a trade or business of the recipient in the United States or if the recipient is present in the United States for 183 days or more in a year and certain other conditions are met. In addition, beginning January 1, 2014, the Portfolio will be required to withhold 30% tax on payments to foreign entities that do not meet specified information reporting requirements under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act.

All foreign investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding the tax consequences in their country of residence of an investment in the Portfolio.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES. You also may be subject to state and local taxes on income attributable to your ownership of Portfolio shares. State income taxes may not apply, however, to the portions of the Portfolio's distributions, if any, that are attributable to interest earned by the Portfolio on U.S. government securities. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the tax status of distributions in your state and locality.

CONSULT YOUR TAX PROFESSIONAL. Your investment in the Portfolio could have additional tax consequences. You should consult your tax professional for information regarding all tax consequences applicable to your investments in the Portfolio. More tax information relating to the Portfolio is also provided in the SAI. This short summary is not intended as a substitute for careful tax planning.

SECURITIES, TECHNIQUES AND RISKS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE, PRINCIPAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIES AND RELATED RISKS

All investments carry some degree of risk that will affect the value of the Portfolio, its yield and investment performance and the price of its shares. An investment in the Portfolio is not a deposit of any bank and is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC, any other government agency or Northern Trust. Although the Portfolio seeks to preserve the value of your investment at \$1.00 per share, it is possible to lose money by investing in the Portfolio. This section takes a closer look at some of the Portfolio's principal investment strategies and related risks.

The Portfolio seeks to maintain a stable NAV of \$1.00 per share. Consistent with this policy, the Portfolio:

- Limits its dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity to 60 days or less;
- Limits its dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity without regard to maturity shortening provisions applicable to variable and floating rate securities (also known as dollar-weighted average portfolio life) to 120 days or less;
- Buys securities with remaining maturities of 397 days or less (except for certain variable and floating rate instruments and securities collateralizing repurchase agreements); and
- Invests only in U.S. dollar-denominated securities that represent minimal credit risks.

SEC regulations require the Portfolio to limit its dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity to 60 days or less, and its dollar-weighted average portfolio life to 120 days or less. The Portfolio also is required to comply with SEC requirements with respect to the liquidity of the Portfolio's investments. Specifically, the Portfolio is required to hold at least 10% of its total assets in "daily liquid assets" and the Portfolio is required to hold 30% of its total assets in "weekly liquid assets." Daily liquid assets include cash, U.S. Treasury securities and securities that will mature or are subject to a demand feature that is exercisable and payable within one business day. Weekly liquid assets include cash, U.S. Treasury securities, agency discount notes with remaining maturities of 60 days or less and securities that will mature or are subject to a demand feature that is exercisable and payable within five business days.

In addition, the Portfolio limits its investments to "Eligible Securities" as defined by the SEC. Eligible Securities include, generally, securities that either (a) have short-term debt ratings at the time of purchase in the two highest rating categories by a

Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organization ("NRSRO") or (b) are issued or guaranteed by, or otherwise allow the Portfolio to demand payment from, an issuer with those ratings. Securities that are unrated (including securities of issuers that have long-term but not short-term ratings) may be deemed to be Eligible Securities if they are determined to be of comparable quality by the Investment Adviser under the direction of the Board of Trustees. After its purchase, a portfolio security may be assigned a lower rating or cease to be rated. If this occurs, the Portfolio may continue to hold the issue if the Investment Adviser believes it is in the best interest of the Portfolio and its shareholders. Securities that are in the highest short-term rating category (and comparable unrated securities) are called "First Tier Securities." Under normal circumstances, the Portfolio intends to limit purchases of securities to First Tier Securities. Securities in which the Portfolio may invest may not earn as high a level of income as long-term or lower quality securities, which generally have greater market risk and more fluctuation in market value.

In accordance with current SEC regulations, the Portfolio generally will not invest more than 5% of the value of its total assets at the time of purchase in the securities of any single issuer. The Portfolio may, however, invest up to 25% of its total assets in the securities of a single issuer for up to three Business Days. These limitations do not apply to cash, certain repurchase agreements, U.S. government securities or securities of other investment companies. In addition, securities subject to certain unconditional guarantees and securities that are not First Tier Securities as defined by the SEC are subject to different diversification requirements as described in the SAI.

Stable NAV risk is the risk that the Portfolio will not be able to maintain an NAV per share of \$1.00 at all times. A significant enough market disruption or drop in market prices of securities held by the Portfolio, especially at a time when the Portfolio needs to sell securities to meet shareholder redemption requests, could cause the value of the Portfolio's shares to decrease to a price less than \$1.00 per share. The U.S. government has taken numerous steps to alleviate these market concerns, including without limitation, acquiring ownership interests in distressed institutions. However, there is no assurance that such actions will be successful. Continuing market problems and government intervention in the economy may adversely affect the Portfolio.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE. The investment objective of the Portfolio may be changed by the Trust's Board of Trustees without shareholder approval. Shareholders will, however, be notified of any changes. Any such change may result in the Portfolio having an investment objective different from the objective that the shareholder considered appropriate at the time of investment in the Portfolio.

ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES. Asset-backed securities are sponsored by entities such as government agencies, banks, financial companies and commercial or industrial companies. Asset-backed securities represent participations in, or are secured by and payable from, pools of assets such as mortgages, motor vehicle installment sale contracts, installment loan contracts, leases of various types of real and personal property, receivables from revolving credit (credit card) agreements, municipal securities and other financial assets.

Such asset pools are securitized through the use of privately-formed trusts or special purpose corporations. Payments or distributions of principal and interest may be guaranteed up to certain amounts and for a certain time period by a letter of credit or a pooled insurance policy issued by a financial institution, or by other credit enhancements.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may purchase various types of asset-backed securities that are “Eligible Securities” as defined by the SEC.

SPECIAL RISKS. In addition to credit and market risk, asset-backed securities may involve prepayment risk because the underlying assets (loans) may be prepaid at any time. Prepayment (or call) risk is the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Portfolio (such as an asset-backed security) sooner than expected. This may happen during a period of falling interest rates. Accordingly, the Portfolio’s ability to maintain positions in such securities will be affected by reductions in the principal amount of such securities resulting from prepayments, and its ability to reinvest the returns of principal at comparable yields is subject to generally prevailing interest rates at that time. The value of these securities also may change because of actual or perceived changes in the creditworthiness of the originator, the service agent, the financial institution providing the credit support, or the counterparty. Credit supports generally apply only to a fraction of a security’s value. Like other fixed-income securities, when interest rates rise, the value of an asset-backed security generally will decline. However, when interest rates decline, the value of an asset-backed security with prepayment features may not increase as much as that of other fixed-income securities. In addition, non-mortgage asset-backed securities involve certain risks not presented by mortgage-backed securities. Primarily, these securities do not have the benefit of the same security interest in the underlying collateral. Credit card receivables generally are unsecured, and the debtors are entitled to the protection of a number of state and federal consumer credit laws. Automobile receivables are subject to the risk that the trustee for the holders of the automobile receivables may not have an effective security interest in all of the obligations backing the receivables. If the issuer of the security has no security interest in the related collateral, there is the risk that the Portfolio could lose money if the issuer

defaults. As a result of the economic recession that commenced in the United States in 2008, there is a heightened risk that the receivables and loans underlying the asset-backed securities purchased by the Portfolio may suffer greater levels of default than were historically experienced. In addition to prepayment risk, investments in mortgage-backed securities comprised of subprime mortgages and investments in other asset-backed securities of underperforming assets may be subject to a higher degree of credit risk, valuation risk, and liquidity risk.

CREDIT (OR DEFAULT) RISK is the risk that an issuer of fixed-income securities held by the Portfolio may default on its obligation to pay interest and repay principal. Generally, the lower the credit rating of a security, the greater the risk that the issuer of the security will default on its obligation. High quality securities are generally believed to have relatively low degrees of credit risk. The Portfolio intends to enter into financial transactions with counterparties that are creditworthy at the time of the transactions. There is always the risk that the Investment Adviser’s analysis of creditworthiness is incorrect or may change due to market conditions. To the extent that the Portfolio focuses its transactions with a limited number of counterparties, it will be more susceptible to the risks associated with one or more counterparties.

CUSTODIAL RECEIPTS FOR TREASURY SECURITIES. Custodial receipts are participations in trusts that hold U.S. Treasury securities and are sold under names such as TIGRs and CATS. Like other stripped obligations, they entitle the holder to future interest payments or principal payments on the U.S. Treasury securities.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Portfolio may invest a portion of its assets in custodial receipts.

SPECIAL RISKS. Like other stripped securities (which are described below), stripped custodial receipts may be subject to greater price volatility than ordinary debt obligations because of the way in which their principal and interest are returned to investors.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. The Portfolio may invest in U.S. dollar-denominated obligations issued or guaranteed by one or more foreign governments or any of their political subdivisions, agencies or instrumentalities, foreign commercial banks and foreign branches of U.S. banks. The Portfolio also may invest in U.S. dollar-denominated commercial paper and other obligations of foreign issuers. Foreign government obligations may include debt obligations of supranational entities, including international organizations (such as the European Coal and Steel Community and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (also known as the World Bank)) and international banking institutions and related government agencies.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. Investments by the Portfolio in foreign issuer obligations will not exceed 50% of the Portfolio's total assets measured at the time of purchase.

SPECIAL RISKS. Foreign securities involve special risks and costs, which are considered by the Investment Adviser in evaluating the creditworthiness of issuers and making investment decisions for the Portfolio. Foreign securities fluctuate in price because of political, financial, social and economic events in foreign countries. A foreign security could also lose value because of more or less stringent foreign securities regulations and less stringent accounting and disclosure standards. In addition, foreign markets may have greater volatility than domestic markets and foreign securities may be less liquid and harder to value than domestic securities.

Foreign securities, and in particular foreign debt securities, are sensitive to changes in interest rates. In addition, investment in the securities of foreign governments involves the risk that foreign governments may default on their obligations or may otherwise not respect the integrity of their debt.

Investment in foreign securities may involve higher costs than investment in U.S. securities, including higher transaction and custody costs as well as the imposition of additional taxes by foreign governments. Foreign investments also may involve risks associated with the level of currency exchange rates, less complete financial information about the issuers, less market liquidity, more market volatility and political instability. Future political and economic developments, the possible imposition of withholding taxes on dividend income, the possible seizure or nationalization of foreign holdings, the possible establishment of exchange controls or freezes on the convertibility of currency, or the adoption of other governmental restrictions might adversely affect an investment in foreign securities. Additionally, foreign banks and foreign branches of domestic banks may be subject to less stringent reserve requirements and to different accounting, auditing and recordkeeping requirements.

GUARANTOR (OR CREDIT ENHANCEMENT) RISK is the risk that changes in credit quality of a U.S. or foreign bank, insurance company or other financial institution or such entity's failure to fulfill its obligations could cause the Portfolio's investments in securities backed by guarantees, letters of credit, insurance or other credit enhancements issued by such bank or institution to decline in value. Guarantees, letters of credit, insurance or other credit enhancements do not protect the Portfolio or its shareholders from losses caused by declines in a security's market value. In addition, having multiple securities' credit enhanced by the same enhancement provider will increase the adverse effects on the Portfolio that are likely to result from a downgrading of, or a default by, such an enhancement provider. Adverse developments in the banking or bond insurance industries also may negatively affect the Portfolio.

INSURANCE FUNDING AGREEMENTS. An insurance funding agreement ("IFA") is an agreement that requires the Portfolio to make cash contributions to a deposit fund of an insurance company's general account. The insurance company then credits interest to the Portfolio for a set time period.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may invest in IFAs issued by insurance companies that meet quality and credit standards established by the Investment Adviser.

SPECIAL RISKS. IFAs are not insured by a government agency – they are backed only by the insurance company that issues them. As a result, they are subject to default risk of the non-governmental issuer. In addition, the transfer of IFAs may be restricted and an active secondary market in IFAs currently does not exist. This means that it may be difficult or impossible to sell an IFA at an appropriate price.

INTEREST RATES. The Portfolio's yield will vary with changes in interest rates. In a rising interest rate environment, the Portfolio's yield may not rise as quickly as the yields of certain other short-term investments. Investments held by the Portfolio with longer maturities will tend to be more sensitive to interest rate changes than investments with shorter maturities.

LIQUIDITY RISK is the risk that the Portfolio will not be able to pay redemption proceeds within the time periods described in this Prospectus because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests or other reasons. Certain portfolio securities may be less liquid than others, which may make them difficult or impossible to sell at the time and the price that the Portfolio would like. The Portfolio may have to lower the price, sell other securities instead or forgo an investment opportunity. Any of these events could have a negative effect on portfolio management or performance.

MUNICIPAL AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS. Municipal instruments include debt obligations issued by or on behalf of states, territories and possessions of the United States and their political subdivisions, agencies, authorities and instrumentalities.

Municipal instruments include both "general" and "revenue" bonds and may be issued to obtain funds for various public purposes. General obligations are secured by the issuer's pledge of its full faith, credit and taxing power. Revenue obligations are payable only from the revenues derived from a particular facility or class of facilities. In some cases, revenue bonds also are payable from the proceeds of a special excise or other specific revenue source such as lease payments from the user of a facility being financed. Some municipal instruments, known as private activity bonds, are issued to finance projects for private companies. Private activity bonds are usually revenue

obligations since they typically are payable by the private user of the facilities financed by the bonds.

Municipal instruments also include “moral obligation” bonds, municipal leases, certificates of participation and asset-backed securities such as custodial receipts. Moral obligation bonds are supported by a moral commitment but not a legal obligation of a state or municipality. Municipal leases and participation certificates present the risk that the state or municipality involved will not appropriate the monies to meet scheduled payments on an annual basis. Custodial receipts represent interests in municipal instruments held by a trustee or custodian.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may invest from time to time in municipal instruments or other securities issued by state and local governmental bodies. Generally, this will occur when the yield of municipal instruments, on a pre-tax basis, is comparable to that of other permitted short-term taxable investments. Dividends paid by the Portfolio on such investments will be taxable to shareholders.

SPECIAL RISKS. Municipal instruments may be backed by letters of credit, insurance or other forms of credit enhancement issued by foreign and domestic banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions. If the credit quality of these banks and financial institutions declines, the Portfolio could suffer a loss to the extent that the Portfolio is relying upon this credit support. Foreign institutions can present special risks relating to higher transaction and custody costs, the imposition of additional taxes by foreign governments, less complete financial information, less market liquidity, more market volatility and political instability. Foreign banks, insurance companies and financial institutions may be subject to less stringent reserve requirements, and to different accounting, auditing and recordkeeping requirements than U.S. banks.

In addition, a single enhancement provider may provide credit enhancement to more than one of the Portfolio’s investments. Having multiple securities credit enhanced by the same enhancement provider will increase the adverse effects on the Portfolio that are likely to result from a downgrading of, or a default by, such an enhancement provider. Adverse developments in the banking or bond insurance industries also may negatively affect the Portfolio. Bond insurers that provide credit enhancement for large segments of the fixed-income markets, particularly the municipal bond market, may be more susceptible to being downgraded or defaulting during recessions or similar periods of economic stress. Municipal bonds may be covered by insurance that guarantees timely interest payments and repayment of principal on maturity. If a bond’s insurer fails to fulfill its obligations or loses its credit rating, the value of the bond could drop. Insurance does not protect the Portfolio or its shareholders from losses caused by declines in a bond’s market value.

Also, an insurance company’s exposure to securities involving subprime mortgages may cause a municipal bond insurer’s rating to be downgraded or may cause the bond insurer to become insolvent, which may affect the prices and liquidity of municipal obligations insured by the insurance company.

REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS. Repurchase agreements involve the purchase of securities by the Portfolio subject to the seller’s agreement to repurchase them at a mutually agreed upon date and price.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Portfolio may enter into repurchase agreements with financial institutions such as banks and broker-dealers that are deemed to be creditworthy by the Investment Adviser. Although the securities subject to a repurchase agreement may have maturities exceeding one year, settlement of the agreement will never occur more than one year after the Portfolio acquires the securities.

SPECIAL RISKS. In the event of a default, the Portfolio will suffer a loss to the extent that the proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities and other collateral are less than the repurchase price and the Portfolio’s costs associated with delay and enforcement of the repurchase agreement. In addition, in the event of bankruptcy, the Portfolio could suffer additional losses if a court determines that the Portfolio’s interest in the collateral is unenforceable by the Portfolio.

The Portfolio intends to enter into transactions with counterparties that are creditworthy at the time of the transactions. There is always the risk that the Investment Adviser’s analysis of creditworthiness is incorrect or may change due to market conditions. To the extent that the Portfolio focuses its transactions with a limited number of counterparties, it will be more susceptible to the risks associated with one or more counterparties.

With respect to collateral received in repurchase transactions or other investments, the Portfolio may have significant exposure to the financial services and mortgage markets. Such exposure, depending on market conditions, could have a negative impact on the Portfolio, including minimizing the value of any collateral.

STRIPPED SECURITIES. These securities are issued by the U.S. government (or an agency, instrumentality or a sponsored enterprise), foreign governments, banks and other issuers. They entitle the holder to receive either interest payments or principal payments that have been “stripped” from a debt obligation. These obligations include stripped mortgage-backed securities, which are derivative multi-class mortgage securities.

The Treasury Department has facilitated transfers of ownership of zero coupon securities by accounting separately for the

beneficial ownership of particular interest coupon and principal payments on Treasury securities through the Federal Reserve book-entry record-keeping system. The Federal Reserve program as established by the Treasury Department is known as “Separate Trading of Registered Interest and Principal of Securities” or “STRIPS.” Under the STRIPS program, the Portfolio will be able to have its beneficial ownership of zero coupon securities recorded directly in the book-entry record-keeping system in lieu of having to hold certificates or other evidences of ownership of the underlying U.S. Treasury securities.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Portfolio may purchase stripped securities, including securities registered in the STRIPS program.

SPECIAL RISKS. Stripped securities are very sensitive to changes in interest rates and to the rate of principal prepayments. A rapid or unexpected change in either interest rates or principal prepayments could depress the price of stripped securities held by the Portfolio and adversely affect the Portfolio’s investment performance.

STRUCTURED SECURITIES. The value of such securities is determined by reference to changes in the value of specific currencies, interest rates, commodities, securities, indices or other financial indicators (the “Reference”) or the relative change in two or more References. The interest rate or the principal amount payable upon maturity or redemption may be increased or decreased depending upon changes in the applicable Reference. Examples of structured securities include, but are not limited to, asset-backed commercial paper, structured notes and other debt obligations where the principal repayment at maturity is determined by the value of a specified security or securities index.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may invest in structured securities as part of its principal investment strategies.

SPECIAL RISKS. Structured securities present additional risk that the interest paid to the Portfolio on a structured security will be less than expected. The terms of some structured securities may provide that in certain circumstances no principal is due at maturity and, therefore, the Portfolio could suffer a total loss of its investment. Structured securities may be positively or negatively indexed, so that appreciation of the Reference may produce an increase or decrease in the interest rate or value of the security at maturity. In addition, changes in the interest rates or the value of the security at maturity may be a multiple of changes in the value of the Reference. Consequently, structured securities may entail a greater degree of market risk than other types of securities. Structured securities also may be more volatile, less liquid and more difficult to accurately price than less complex securities due to their derivative nature.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS. These instruments include U.S. Treasury obligations, such as bills, notes and bonds, which generally differ only in terms of their interest rates, maturities and time of issuance. They also include obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises. Securities guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises are deemed to include (a) securities for which the payment of principal and interest is backed by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by the U.S. government or by an agency, instrumentality or sponsored enterprise thereof, (b) securities of private issuers guaranteed as to principal and interest by the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities pursuant to the FDIC Debt Guarantee Program, and (c) participations in loans made to foreign governments or their agencies that are so guaranteed.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Portfolio may invest in a variety of U.S. Treasury obligations and in obligations issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or by its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises.

SPECIAL RISKS. Not all U.S. government obligations carry the same credit support. Although many U.S. government securities in which the Portfolio may invest, such as those issued by the Federal National Mortgage Association (“Fannie Mae”), Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (“Freddie Mac”) and the Federal Home Loan Banks may be chartered or sponsored by Acts of Congress, their securities are neither issued nor guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury and, therefore, are not backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Some, such as those of the Government National Mortgage Association (“Ginnie Mae”), are supported by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Treasury. Other obligations, such as those of the Federal Home Loan Banks, are supported by the right of the issuer to borrow from the U.S. Treasury; and others are supported by the discretionary authority of the U.S. government to purchase the agency’s obligations. Still others are supported only by the credit of the instrumentality or sponsored enterprise. The maximum potential liability of the issuers of some U.S. government securities held by the Portfolio may greatly exceed their current resources, including their legal right to support from the U.S. Treasury. It is possible that these issuers will not have the funds to meet their payment obligations in the future. No assurance can be given that the U.S. government would provide financial support to its agencies, instrumentalities or sponsored enterprises if it is not obligated to do so by law. In addition, the secondary market for certain participations in loans made to foreign governments or their agencies may be limited.

An agency of the U.S. government has placed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac into conservatorship, a statutory process with the objective of returning the entities to normal business operations. It is unclear what effect this conservatorship will have on the securities issued or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. As a result, these securities are subject to more credit risk than U.S. government securities that are supported by the full faith and credit of the United States (e.g., U.S. Treasury bonds).

To the extent the Portfolio invests in debt instruments or securities of non-U.S. government entities that are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, pursuant to the FDIC Debt Guarantee Program or other similar programs, there is a possibility that the guarantee provided under the Debt Guarantee Program or other similar programs may be discontinued or modified at a later date.

VARIABLE AND FLOATING RATE INSTRUMENTS. Variable and floating rate instruments have interest rates that periodically are adjusted either at set intervals or that float at a margin tied to a specified index rate. These instruments include variable amount master demand notes and long-term variable and floating rate bonds (sometimes referred to as “Put Bonds”) where the Portfolio obtains at the time of purchase the right to put the bond back to the issuer or a third party at par at a specified date.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may invest in variable and floating rate instruments to the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies.

SPECIAL RISKS. Variable and floating rate instruments are subject to many of the same risks as fixed rate instruments, particularly credit risk. Because there is no active secondary market for certain variable and floating rate instruments, they may be more difficult to sell if the issuer defaults on its payment obligations or during periods when the Portfolio is not entitled to exercise its demand rights. As a result, the Portfolio could suffer a loss with respect to these instruments. In addition, variable and floating rate instruments are subject to changes in value based on changes in market interest rates or changes in the issuer’s or guarantor’s creditworthiness.

WHEN-ISSUED SECURITIES, DELAYED DELIVERY TRANSACTIONS AND FORWARD COMMITMENTS. A purchase of “when-issued” securities refers to a transaction made conditionally because the securities, although authorized, have not yet been issued. A delayed delivery or forward commitment transaction involves a contract to purchase or sell securities for a fixed price at a future date beyond the customary settlement period.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Portfolio may purchase or sell securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward

commitment basis. Although the Portfolio generally would purchase securities in these transactions with the intention of acquiring the securities, the Portfolio may dispose of such securities prior to settlement if the investment management team deems it appropriate to do so.

SPECIAL RISKS. Purchasing securities on a when-issued, delayed delivery or forward commitment basis involves the risk that the value of the securities may decrease by the time they actually are issued or delivered. Conversely, selling securities in these transactions involves the risk that the value of the securities may increase by the time they actually are issued or delivered. These transactions also involve the risk that the counterparty may fail to deliver the security or cash on the settlement date.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES AND COMMON INVESTMENT TECHNIQUES

This section explores various other investment securities and techniques that the Investment Adviser may use.

BORROWINGS AND REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS. The Portfolio may borrow money from banks and may enter into reverse repurchase agreements with banks and other financial institutions. Reverse repurchase agreements involve the sale of money market securities held by the Portfolio subject to the Portfolio’s agreement to repurchase them at a mutually agreed upon date and price (including interest).

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may borrow and enter into reverse repurchase agreements in amounts not exceeding one-fourth of its total assets (including the amount borrowed). The Portfolio may enter into reverse repurchase agreements when the Investment Adviser expects that the interest income to be earned from the investment of the transaction proceeds will be greater than the related interest expense.

SPECIAL RISKS. Borrowings and reverse repurchase agreements involve leveraging. If the securities held by the Portfolio decline in value while these transactions are outstanding, the NAV of the Portfolio’s outstanding shares will decline in value by proportionately more than the decline in value of the securities. In addition, reverse repurchase agreements involve the risks that (a) the interest income earned by the Portfolio (from the investment of the proceeds) will be less than the interest expense of the transaction; (b) the market value of the securities sold by the Portfolio will decline below the price the Portfolio is obligated to pay to repurchase the securities; and (c) the securities may not be returned to the Portfolio.

DERIVATIVES. The Portfolio may purchase certain “derivative” instruments. A derivative is a financial instrument whose value is derived from, or based upon, the performance of underlying assets, interest rates, or other indices and may be leveraged.

Derivatives include structured securities such as collateralized mortgage obligations and other types of asset-backed securities, “stripped” securities and various floating rate instruments.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may invest in derivatives when the Investment Adviser believes the potential risks and rewards are consistent with the Portfolio’s objective, strategies and overall risk profile.

SPECIAL RISKS. Engaging in derivative transactions involves special risks, including: (a) market risk that the Portfolio’s derivatives position will lose value; (b) credit risk that the counterparty to the transaction will default; (c) leveraging risk that the value of the derivative instrument will decline more than the value of the assets on which it is based; (d) illiquidity risk that the Portfolio will be unable to sell its position because of lack of market depth or disruption; (e) pricing risk that the value of a derivative instrument will be difficult to determine; and (f) operations risk that loss will occur as a result of inadequate systems or human error. Many types of derivatives have been developed recently and have not been tested over complete market cycles. For these reasons, the Portfolio may suffer a loss whether or not the analysis of the Investment Adviser is accurate.

ILLIQUID OR RESTRICTED SECURITIES. Illiquid securities include repurchase agreements and time deposits with notice/termination dates of more than seven days, certain variable amount master demand notes that cannot be called within seven days, certain insurance funding agreements (see “Insurance Funding Agreements” above), and other securities that are traded in the U.S. but are subject to trading restrictions because they are not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “1933 Act”), and both foreign and domestic securities that are not readily marketable.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. The Portfolio may invest up to 5% of its net assets in securities that are illiquid. A domestically traded security that is not registered under the 1933 Act will not be considered illiquid if the Investment Adviser determines that an adequate trading market exists for that security. If otherwise consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Portfolio may purchase commercial paper issued pursuant to Section 4(2) of the 1933 Act and securities that are not registered under the 1933 Act but can be sold to “qualified institutional buyers” in accordance with Rule 144A under the 1933 Act (“Rule 144A Securities”). These securities will not be considered illiquid so long as the Investment Adviser determines, under guidelines approved by the Trust’s Board of Trustees, that an adequate trading market exists.

SPECIAL RISKS. Because illiquid and restricted securities may be difficult to sell at an acceptable price, they may be subject to greater volatility and may result in a loss to the Portfolio. The

practice of investing in Rule 144A Securities and commercial paper available to qualified institutional buyers could increase the level of illiquidity during any period that qualified institutional buyers become uninterested in purchasing these securities. Securities purchased by the Portfolio that are liquid at the time of purchase may subsequently become illiquid due to events relating to the issuer of the securities, market events, economic conditions and/or investor perception.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES. To the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategies, the Portfolio may invest in securities issued by other affiliated and unaffiliated investment companies.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY. Investments by the Portfolio in other money market funds will be subject to the limitations of the 1940 Act and SEC orders. Although the Portfolio does not expect to do so in the foreseeable future, the Portfolio is authorized to invest substantially all of its assets in an open-end investment company or a series thereof that has substantially the same investment objective, strategies and fundamental restrictions as the Portfolio.

SPECIAL RISKS. As a shareholder of another investment company, the Portfolio would be subject to the same risks as any other investor in that company. It would also bear a proportionate share of any fees or expenses paid by that company. These expenses would be in addition to the advisory fees and other expenses the Portfolio bears directly in connection with its own operations.

TEMPORARY INVESTMENTS. For capital preservation and liquidity, the Portfolio may have a greater concentration in short-term securities, including investing up to all of its assets in overnight securities, which may result in a reduction of the Portfolio’s yield.

Additionally, the Portfolio may purchase other types of securities or instruments similar to those described in these sections if otherwise consistent with the Portfolio’s investment objective and strategies. You should carefully consider the risks discussed in these sections before investing in the Portfolio.

The Portfolio may invest in other securities and is subject to further restrictions and risks that are described in the SAI. Additional information about the Portfolio, its investments and related risks can also be found in “Investment Objective and Strategies” in the SAI.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

THE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS TABLE IS INTENDED TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE PORTFOLIO'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS (OR, IF SHORTER, THE PERIOD OF THE PORTFOLIO'S OPERATIONS).

Certain information reflects the financial results for a single share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in the Portfolio for a share held for the entire period (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). This information has been derived from financial statements that have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the Portfolio's financial statements, is included in the Portfolio's annual report, which is available upon request and without charge.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE FISCAL YEARS OR PERIOD ENDED NOVEMBER 30

PRIME OBLIGATIONS PORTFOLIO	GFS
Selected per share data	2011 ⁽¹⁾
Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period	\$1.00
INCOME FROM INVESTMENT OPERATIONS:	
Net investment income	—
Net realized gains	—
Total from Investment Operations	—
LESS DISTRIBUTIONS PAID:	
From net investment income	—
From net realized gains	—
Total Distributions Paid	—
Net Asset Value, End of Period	\$1.00
Total Return⁽²⁾	0.03%
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA AND RATIOS:	
Net assets, in thousands, end of period	\$78,329
Ratio to average net assets of: ⁽³⁾	
Expenses, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.15%
Expenses, before waivers and reimbursements	0.27%
Net investment income, net of waivers and reimbursements	0.04%
Net investment loss, before waivers and reimbursements	(0.08)%

(1) For the period May 10, 2011 (commencement of operations) through November 30, 2011. Per share amounts from net investment income, net realized gains and distributions from net investment income were less than \$0.01 per share.

(2) Assumes investment at net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, and a complete redemption of the investment at net asset value at the end of the period. Total return is not annualized for period less than one year.

(3) Annualized for period less than one year.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION**ANNUAL/SEMIANNUAL REPORTS AND STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ("SAI")**

Additional information about the Portfolio's investments is available in the Portfolio's annual and semiannual reports to shareholders. In the Portfolio's annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Portfolio's performance during the last fiscal year.

Additional information about the Portfolio and its policies also is available in the Portfolio's SAI. The SAI is incorporated by reference into this Prospectus (and is legally considered part of this Prospectus).

The Portfolio's annual and semiannual reports and the SAI are available free upon request by calling the Northern Institutional Funds Center at 800-637-1380 or by sending an e-mail request to: northern-funds@ntrs.com.

TO OBTAIN OTHER INFORMATION AND FOR SHAREHOLDER INQUIRIES:**BY TELEPHONE**

Call 800-637-1380

BY MAIL

Northern Institutional Funds
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Chicago, IL 60675-5986

ON THE INTERNET

The Portfolio's documents are available online and may be downloaded from:

- The EDGAR database on the SEC's Web site at sec.gov (text-only)
- Northern Institutional Funds' Web site at northernfunds.com/institutional

You may review and obtain copies of Northern Institutional Funds' documents by visiting the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. You also may obtain copies of Northern Institutional Funds' documents by sending your request and a duplicating fee to the SEC's Public Reference Section, Washington, D.C. 20549-1520 or by electronic request to: publicinfo@sec.gov. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 202-551-8090.