

# MFS<sup>®</sup> Blended Research<sup>®</sup> Small Cap Equity Portfolio

MFS<sup>®</sup> Variable Insurance Trust III

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The report is prepared for the general information of shareholders. It is authorized for distribution to prospective investors only when preceded or accompanied by a current prospectus.

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO



Dear Shareholders:

Signs of peaking inflation, hopes that monetary policy tightening cycles may be nearing an end and a rapid reopening of China's economy in late-2022 and early-2023 have combined to bolster investor sentiment in recent months. Markets have largely adjusted to the challenges posed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, thanks in part to mild European winter weather which has alleviated concerns over potential shortages of natural gas. Resilient labor markets in much of the developed world have further contributed to a brighter-than-expected economic backdrop. However, many investors are mindful that the lagged effects of ongoing policy tightening have yet to work their way through the global economy.

Tighter global financial conditions have been a particular headwind for richly valued growth equities and interest rate-sensitive parts of the economy, such as housing. Over the near term, companies may face a challenging earnings backdrop as they are forced to absorb higher input and labor costs at a time of dwindling pricing power. For fixed income, the rise in interest rates has made bonds more attractive than they have been in years, which may provide balance to an overall portfolio.

During times of market transition, it is important to have a deep understanding of company fundamentals, and we have built our unique global research platform to do just that.

At MFS<sup>®</sup>, we put our clients' assets to work responsibly by carefully navigating increasingly complex global capital markets. Our investment team is guided by a commitment to long-term fundamental investing. Our global investment platform — combining collective expertise, long-term discipline, and thoughtful risk management — seeks to uncover what we believe are the best, most durable investment ideas in markets around the world, enabling us to potentially create value for investors.

Respectfully,

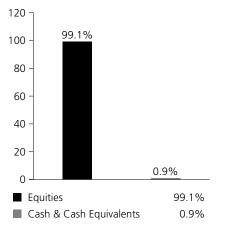
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Michael W. Roberge Chair and Chief Executive Officer MFS Investment Management

February 15, 2023

# **PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION**

### Portfolio structure



### GICS equity sectors (g)

Health Care	17.2%
Financials	16.6%
Industrials	16.0%
Information Technology	13.0%
Consumer Discretionary	11.8%
Real Estate	7.5%
Energy	6.3%
Materials	3.9%
Communication Services	2.4%
Utilities	2.3%
Consumer Staples	2.1%

#### Top ten holdings

- I	
Prestige Consumer Healthcare, Inc.	1.9%
Portland General Electric Co.	1.8%
Reinsurance Group of America, Inc.	1.7%
Box, Inc., "A"	1.6%
Grand Canyon Education, Inc.	1.5%
Cathay General Bancorp, Inc.	1.5%
SLM Corp.	1.5%
Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp., "A"	1.5%
Silicon Laboratories, Inc.	1.4%
Umpqua Holdings Corp.	1.4%

(g) The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS<sup>®</sup>) was developed by and/or is the exclusive property of MSCI, Inc. and S&P Global Market Intelligence Inc. ("S&P Global Market Intelligence"). GICS is a service mark of MSCI and S&P Global Market Intelligence and has been licensed for use by MFS. MFS has applied its own internal sector/industry classification methodology for equity securities and non-equity securities that are unclassified by GICS.

Cash & Cash Equivalents includes any cash, investments in money market funds, short-term securities, and other assets less liabilities. Please see the Statement of Assets and Liabilities for additional information related to the fund's cash position and other assets and liabilities.

Percentages are based on net assets as of December 31, 2022.

The portfolio is actively managed and current holdings may be different.

# MANAGEMENT REVIEW

### **Summary of Results**

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2022, Initial Class shares of the MFS Blended Research Small Cap Equity Portfolio (fund) provided a total return of -18.37%, while Service Class shares of the fund provided a total return of -18.56%. These compare with a return of -20.44% over the same period for the fund's benchmark, the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index.

# **Market Environment**

During the reporting period, markets continued to grapple with the strongest global inflationary pressures in decades along with signs of slowing economic growth. Intermittent coronavirus flareups, particularly in China, where home-grown vaccines have proved less effective than elsewhere, kept supply chains stretched for a considerable period. At the same time, the reopening of the economy in the parts of the world where the virus has been better contained has led to a shift in consumption patterns in favor of services, straining already tight labor markets in most developed economies, while reducing demand for manufactured goods, primarily from Asia. As a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, geopolitical considerations, such as sanctions and trade bans, have resulted in additional supply chain disruptions and volatile global energy prices. Taken together, these factors have contributed to market volatility.

The ripple effects from the Russian invasion further complicated the mission central banks must undertake to rein in surging inflation. Energy shocks have historically resulted in global growth slowdowns, if not pullbacks, so policymakers will find themselves in the difficult position of trying to restrain inflation without tipping economies into recession. Despite the challenging macroeconomic and geopolitical environment, policymakers remained focused on controlling inflation, although investors appeared to have expected varying degrees of action from the central banks. The Fed has been among the most aggressive developed market central banks, tightening policy at the fastest rate in decades, although it slowed its hiking pace at the end of the period, as did the European Central Bank. After remaining on the monetary sidelines for much of the period, the Bank of Japan widened its Yield Curve Control band, capping the yield on its 10-year bond at 0.5%, up from 0.25%, an action investors interpreted as a first step toward monetary policy normalization.

Against an environment of still-tight labor markets, tighter global financial conditions and volatile materials prices, investor anxiety appeared to have increased over the potential that corporate profit margins may be past peak for this cycle. That said, tentative signs that supply chain bottlenecks (particularly semiconductors) may be moderating, the easing of COVID restrictions in China, low levels of unemployment across developed markets and hopes that inflation levels may be near a peak were supportive factors for the macroeconomic backdrop.

# **Contributors to Performance**

Security selection within both the consumer discretionary and information technology sectors contributed to the fund's performance relative to the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index. Within the consumer discretionary sector, the fund's holdings of strong-performing educational services provider Grand Canyon Education(b) aided relative returns. The stock price of Grand Canyon Education rose as the company reported higher-than-expected revenue and increased its traditional campus student enrollment. Within the information technology sector, the fund's overweight position in enterprise content platform Box also bolstered relative returns. The stock price of Box advanced as the company posted strong operating results and expanded its line of comprehensive suite products.

Stock selection in the financials sector further helped relative performance, driven by the fund's holdings of reinsurer Reinsurance Group of America(b).

Elsewhere, the fund's overweight positions in coal mining company Peabody Energy(h), oil and gas exploration company Magnolia Oil & Gas, sweet goods producer Hostess Brands, oil and gas technology solutions and equipment provider ChampionX and coal mining company CONSOL Energy aided relative returns. The stock price of ChampionX rose as the company delivered above-consensus earnings, driven by higher-than-expected revenues in its production chemical technologies segment. The company also announced an increase in its share buyback program, which further supported the share price. Additionally, the fund's holdings of strong-performing chemical company Chemours(b) and industrial and specialty chemicals distributor Univar(b) also helped relative results.

# **Detractors from Performance**

Security selection within both the health care and real estate sectors detracted from the fund's relative performance. Within the health care sector, the fund's holdings of life sciences company Maravai Lifesciences Holdings(b) and clinical development company Syneos Health(b) hindered relative returns. The stock price of Syneos Health fell as the company reported lower-than-expected revenue and depressed margins. The fund's overweight positions in immune medicine developer Adaptive Biotechnologies, direct-to-consumer healthcare apparel seller FIGS, regenerative medical company Organogenesis Holdings and medical technology

#### Management Review - continued

company Bioventus further weighed on relative results. Within the real estate sector, the fund's overweight positions in industrial property manager Innovative Industrial Properties(h) and self-storage property manager National Storage Affiliates Trust detracted from relative performance. Although Innovative Industrial Properties released financial results that beat estimates, the stock price declined after the company announced a dividend cut.

Elsewhere, the fund's overweight position in event management services provider Eventbrite, and holdings of poor-performing digital outsourcing services provider TaskUs(b), hindered relative returns. The stock price of TaskUs fell as the company reduced its forward guidance and shed clients due to a softening of the cryptocurrency market.

Respectfully,

Portfolio Manager(s)

Jim Fallon, Matt Krummell, Jonathan Sage, and Jed Stocks

- (b) Security is not a benchmark constituent.
- (h) Security was not held in the portfolio at period end.

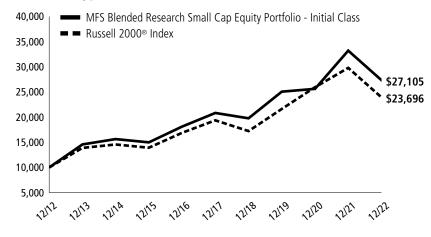
The views expressed in this report are those of the portfolio manager(s) only through the end of the period of the report as stated on the cover and do not necessarily reflect the views of MFS or any other person in the MFS organization. These views are subject to change at any time based on market or other conditions, and MFS disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied upon as investment advice or an indication of trading intent on behalf of any MFS portfolio. References to specific securities are not recommendations of such securities, and may not be representative of any MFS portfolio's current or future investments.

# **PERFORMANCE SUMMARY THROUGH 12/31/22**

The following chart illustrates the historical performance of the fund in comparison to its benchmark(s). Benchmarks are unmanaged and may not be invested in directly. Benchmark returns do not reflect any fees or expenses. The performance of other share classes will be greater than or less than that of the class depicted below. (See Notes to Performance Summary.)

Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Investment return and principal value fluctuate so your shares, when sold, may be worth more or less than the original cost; current performance may be lower or higher than quoted. The performance shown does not reflect the deduction of taxes, if any, that a shareholder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of fund shares. The returns for the fund shown also do not reflect the deduction of expenses associated with variable products, such as mortality and expense risk charges, separate account charges, and sales charges imposed by the insurance company separate accounts. Such expenses would reduce the overall returns shown.

#### Growth of a Hypothetical \$10,000 Investment



### Total Returns through 12/31/22

#### Average annual total returns

Share Class	Class Inception Date	1-yr	5-yr	10-yr
Initial Class	7/17/00	(18.37)%	5.41%	10.49%
Service Class	5/01/06	(18.56)%	5.14%	10.21%
Comparative benchmark(s)				
Russell 2000 <sup>®</sup> Index (f)		(20.44)%	4.13%	9.01%

(f) Source: FactSet Research Systems Inc.

# Benchmark Definition(s)

Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index<sup>(h)</sup> - constructed to provide a comprehensive barometer for securities in the small-cap segment of the U.S. equity universe. The index includes 2,000 of the smallest U.S. companies based on total market capitalization, representing approximately 10% of the investable U.S. equity market.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

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#### **Notes to Performance Summary**

Average annual total return represents the average annual change in value for each share class for the periods presented.

Performance results reflect any applicable expense subsidies and waivers in effect during the periods shown. Without such subsidies and waivers the fund's performance results would be less favorable. Please see the prospectus and financial statements for complete details. All results are historical and assume the reinvestment of any dividends and capital gains distributions.

### Performance Summary – continued

Performance results do not include adjustments made for financial reporting purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and may differ from amounts reported in the financial highlights.

From time to time the fund may receive proceeds from litigation settlements, without which performance would be lower.

# **EXPENSE TABLE**

#### Fund expenses borne by the shareholders during the period, July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

As a shareholder of the fund, you incur ongoing costs, including management fees; distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees; and other fund expenses. This example is intended to help you understand your ongoing costs (in dollars) of investing in the fund and to compare these costs with the ongoing costs of investing in other mutual funds.

The example is based on an investment of \$1,000 invested at the beginning of the period and held for the entire period July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

### **Actual Expenses**

The first line for each share class in the following table provides information about actual account values and actual expenses. You may use the information in this line, together with the amount you invested, to estimate the expenses that you paid over the period. Simply divide your account value by \$1,000 (for example, an \$8,600 account value divided by \$1,000 = 8.6), then multiply the result by the number in the first line under the heading entitled "Expenses Paid During Period" to estimate the expenses you paid on your account during this period.

### Hypothetical Example for Comparison Purposes

The second line for each share class in the following table provides information about hypothetical account values and hypothetical expenses based on the fund's actual expense ratio and an assumed rate of return of 5% per year before expenses, which is not the fund's actual return. The hypothetical account values and expenses may not be used to estimate the actual ending account balance or expenses you paid for the period. You may use this information to compare the ongoing costs of investing in the fund and other funds. To do so, compare this 5% hypothetical example with the 5% hypothetical examples that appear in the shareholder reports of the other funds.

Please note that the expenses shown in the table are meant to highlight the fund's ongoing costs only and do not take into account the fees and expenses imposed under the variable contracts through which your investment in the fund is made. Therefore, the second line for each share class in the table is useful in comparing ongoing costs associated with an investment in vehicles (such as the fund) which fund benefits under variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts and to qualified pension and retirement plans only, and will not help you determine the relative total costs of investing in the fund through variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts. If the fees and expenses imposed under the variable contracts were included, your costs would have been higher.

Share Class		Annualized Expense Ratio	Beginning Account Value 7/01/22	Ending Account Value 12/31/22	Expenses Paid During Period (p) 7/01/22-12/31/22
Initial Class	Actual	0.54%	\$1,000.00	\$1,023.61	\$2.75
	Hypothetical (h)	0.54%	\$1,000.00	\$1,022.48	\$2.75
Samiaa Class	Actual	0.80%	\$1,000.00	\$1,022.33	\$4.08
Service Class	Hypothetical (h)	0.80%	\$1,000.00	\$1,021.17	\$4.08

(h) 5% class return per year before expenses.

(p) "Expenses Paid During Period" are equal to each class's annualized expense ratio, as shown above, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by 184/365 (to reflect the one-half year period).

# **PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS – 12/31/22**

The Portfolio of Investments is a complete list of all securities owned by your fund. It is categorized by broad-based asset classes.

lssuer	Shares/Par		Value (\$)
Common Stocks – 99.1%			
Aerospace & Defense – 0.9%			
CACI International, Inc., "A" (a)	2,495	\$	749,972
Apparel Manufacturers – 1.6%			
FIGS, Inc. (a)	34,465	\$	231,949
Skechers USA, Inc., "A" (a)	25,061	_	1,051,309
		\$	1,283,258
Automotive – 2.2%			
REV Group, Inc.	41,561	\$	524,500
Titan International, Inc. (a) Visteon Corp. (a)	31,406 5,931		481,140 775,953
	5,551	\$	1,781,593
Biotechnology – 3.9%		-	1,701,555
Adaptive Biotechnologies Corp. (a)	52,275	\$	399,381
Alector, Inc. (a)	16,007		147,745
AlloVir, Inc. (a)	29,321		150,417
BioAtla, Inc. (a) Dynavax Technologies Corp. (a)	25,322		208,906
Exelixis, Inc. (a)	4,169 11,626		44,358 186,481
iTeos Therapeutics, Inc. (a)	25,550		498,991
Lyell Immunopharma, Inc. (a)	46,444		161,161
Novavax, Inc. (a)(l)	3,845		39,527
Sana Biotechnology, Inc. (a)	47,831		188,932
Sangamo Therapeutics, Inc. (a) Varex Imaging Corp. (a)	44,699		140,355 400,620
Vir Biotechnology, Inc. (a)	19,735 22,286		400,820 564,059
	22,200	\$	3,130,933
Broadcasting – 0.5%			
Entravision Communications Corp., "A"	81,072	\$	389,146
Business Services – 4.5%			
BlueLinx Holdings, Inc. (a)	6,418	\$	456,384
Boise Cascade Corp.	8,152		559,798
Forrester Research, Inc. (a)	20,573		735,690
HireRight Holdings Corp. (a) Paya, Inc. (a)	20,909 18,787		247,981 147,853
StoneCo Ltd., "A" (a)	8,745		82,553
TaskUs, Inc., "A" (a)	47,661		805,471
Yext, Inc. (a)	92,794	_	605,945
		\$	3,641,675
Cable TV – 0.1%			
Cable One, Inc.	100	\$	71,186
Chemicals – 1.7%			
Avient Corp.	9,995	\$	337,431
Element Solutions, Inc.	55,643	_	1,012,146
		\$	1,349,577

Portfolio of Investments – continued

Issuer	Shares/Par		Value (\$)
Common Stocks – continued			
Computer Software – 4.0%			
Clear Secure, Inc., "A"	12,855	\$	352,613
Domo, Inc., "B" (a) Elastic N.V. (a)	1,705 5,602		24,279
Eventbrite, Inc. (a)	5,602 109,686		288,503 642,760
Everbridge, Inc. (a)	14,747		436,216
Paycor HCM, Inc. (a)	25,357		620,486
Paylocity Holding Corp. (a)	4,398	_	854,355
Computer Software - Systems – 2.7%		\$	3,219,212
Box, Inc., "A" (a)	40,784	¢	1,269,606
Rapid7, Inc. (a)	7,620	ę	258,928
Rimini Street, Inc. (a)	68,314		260,276
Verint Systems, Inc. (a)	10,365		376,042
		\$	2,164,852
Construction – 1.5%			
AZEK Co., Inc. (a)	20,378	\$	414,081
GMS, Inc. (a)	15,232	_	758,554
Consumer Products – 2.3%		\$	1,172,635
Herbalife Ltd. (a)	13,552	\$	201,654
Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc., "A"	4,202	ų	177,156
Prestige Consumer Healthcare, Inc. (a)	24,231		1,516,861
		\$	1,895,671
Consumer Services – 2.0%			
Grand Canyon Education, Inc. (a)	11,696	\$	1,235,799
TravelCenters of America LLC (a)	8,755	_	392,049
Flacturing Francisco and COV		\$	1,627,848
Electrical Equipment – 0.6% Vertiv Holdings Co.	34,071	\$	465,410
	54,071	<b>ب</b>	403,410
Electronics – 5.0%		_	0.40.040
Advanced Energy Industries, Inc. Alpha and Omega Semiconductor Ltd. (a)	11,061 12,823	\$	948,813 366,353
Photronics, Inc. (a)	19,805		333,318
Plexus Corp. (a)	10,552		1,086,117
Sanmina Corp. (a)	2,992		171,412
Silicon Laboratories, Inc. (a)	8,505	_	1,153,873
 Energy - Independent – 2.9%		\$	4,059,886
Alpha Metallurgical Resources	845	\$	123,699
CONSOL Energy, Inc.	845 1,938	\$	123,699
CVR Energy, Inc.	14,890		466,653
Magnolia Oil & Gas Corp., "A"	50,408		1,182,068
Par Pacific Holdings, Inc. (a)	19,294	_	448,585
		\$	2,346,975
Energy - Integrated – 0.5%			
National Gas Fuel Co.	6,418	\$	406,259

# Portfolio of Investments – continued

lssuer	Shares/Par		Value (\$)
Common Stocks – continued			
Engineering - Construction – 2.0%			
APi Group, Inc. (a)	29,301	\$	551,152
Dycom Industries, Inc. (a)	11,526		1,078,834
		\$	1,629,986
Food & Beverages – 1.3%			
Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.	1,337	\$	72,800
Hostess Brands, Inc. (a)	44,746	_	1,004,100
		\$	1,076,900
Food & Drug Stores – 0.2%			
United Natural Foods, Inc. (a)	4,977	\$	192,660
Gaming & Lodging – 1.9%			
International Game Technology PLC	46,977	\$	1,065,438
Target Hospitality Corp. (a)	31,140	_	471,460
		\$	1,536,898
General Merchandise – 0.6%			
Dillards, Inc., "A" (I)	1,484	\$	479,629
Insurance – 4.9%			
Brighthouse Financial, Inc. (a)	9,891	\$	507,112
Hanover Insurance Group, Inc.	4,738		640,246
Jackson Financial, Inc.	13,937		484,868
Radian Group, Inc.	2,041		38,922
Reinsurance Group of America, Inc. Voya Financial, Inc.	9,535 14,463		1,354,828 889,330
voya mancial, inc.	14,405	¢	3,915,306
Internet – 0.6%			5,515,500
ZipRecruiter, Inc., "A" (a)	30,177	\$	495,506
	56,111		
Leisure & Toys – 3.0%			
Brunswick Corp.	12,139	\$	874,979
Funko, Inc., "A" (a) Malibu Boats, Inc., "A" (a)	44,823		489,019
Manbu Boats, Inc., A (a) MasterCraft Boat Holdings, Inc. (a)	8,706 3,322		464,030 85,940
Polaris, Inc.	5,282		533,482
		\$	2,447,450
Machinery & Tools – 3.3%			
Flowserve Corp.	10,346	\$	317,415
ITT, Inc.	1,103		89,453
Regal Rexnord Corp.	7,493		899,010
Timken Co.	14,048		992,772
Titan Machinery, Inc. (a)	9,743	_	387,090
Main Daula - 0.0%		\$	2,685,740
Major Banks – 0.6%		*	445 606
First Financial Corp.	9,672	\$	445,686
Medical & Health Technology & Services – 2.4%			
Cross Country Healthcare, Inc. (a)	9,018	\$	239,608
Health Catalyst, Inc. (a) HealthEquity, Inc. (a)	20,772 10,238		220,806 631,070
ncaranequity, inc. (a)	10,238		01070

#### Portfolio of Investments – continued

Issuer	Shares/Par		Value (\$)
Common Stocks – continued			
Medical & Health Technology & Services – continued			
Medpace Holdings, Inc. (a)		\$	409,102
ModivCare, Inc. (a)	413		37,059
Syneos Health, Inc. (a)	11,609	¢	425,818
Medical Equipment – 5.6%		Þ	1,905,405
AngioDynamics, Inc. (a)	13,126	\$	180,745
Avanos Medical, Inc. (a)	14,834		401,408
Bioventus, Inc., "A" (a)(l)	30,938		80,748
CareDx, Inc. (a)	4,146		47,306
Envista Holdings Corp. (a) Inogen, Inc. (a)	29,532 9,376		994,343 184,801
Integer Holdings Corp. (a)	5,669		388,100
Maravai Lifesciences Holdings, Inc., "A" (a)	57,469		822,381
Organogenesis Holdings, Inc. (a)	60,730		163,364
Quidel Corp. (a)	12,584		1,078,071
Zynex, Inc.	14,664		203,976
		\$	4,545,243
Metals & Mining – 0.9%			
Ryerson Holding Corp.	22,663	\$	685,782
United States Steel Corp.	2,154		53,958
		\$	739,740
Natural Gas - Pipeline – 0.9%	442.040	*	762.257
Equitrans Midstream Corp.	113,919	\$	763,257
Oil Services – 2.0%			
Cactus, Inc., "A"	11,277	\$	566,782
ChampionX Corp.	35,303		1,023,434
Other Banks & Diversified Financials – 11.2%		¢	1,590,216
Amalgamated Financial Corp.	17,000	\$	391,680
Atlanticus Holdings Corp. (a)	1,668		43,702
Bank OZK	3,798		152,148
Cathay General Bancorp, Inc.	30,280		1,235,121
Enova International, Inc. (a)	1,891 23,754		72,558 302,151
First BanCorp. First Hawaiian, Inc.	32,490		846,040
Navient Corp.	17,504		287,941
OFG Bancorp	17,007		468,713
Preferred Bank	5,363		400,187
Silvergate Capital Corp., "A" (a)	3,747		65,198
SLM Corp.	71,417		1,185,522
UMB Financial Corp. Umpqua Holdings Corp.	12,401 63,002		1,035,731 1,124,586
United Community Bank, Inc.	10,288		347,734
Wintrust Financial Corp.	12,522		1,058,359
		\$	9,017,371
Pharmaceuticals – 3.1%			
Alkermes PLC (a)	5,078	\$	132,688
Coherus BioSciences, Inc. (a)	22,813		180,679
Eagle Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	4,007		117,125

Portfolio of Investments - continued

lssuer	Shares/Par		Value (\$)
Common Stocks – continued			
Pharmaceuticals – continued			
Emergent BioSolutions, Inc. (a)	5,831	\$	68,864
Intercept Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	32,882		406,750
Macrogenics, Inc. (a)	20,330		136,414
Phibro Animal Health Corp., "A"	10,960		146,974
REGENXBIO, Inc. (a) United Therapeutics Corp. (a)	9,188 2,988		208,384 830,933
Vanda Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (a)	31,771		234,788
vanau mamaceuteais, me. (a)	5,,,,,	\$	2,463,599
Railroad & Shipping – 0.9%		-	2,403,333
Scorpio Tankers, Inc.	4,833	\$	259,870
Teekay Tankers LTD., "A" (a)	15,585		480,174
		\$	740,044
Real Estate – 7.5%			
DiamondRock Hospitality Co., REIT	31,656	\$	259,263
Empire State Realty Trust, REIT, "A"	81,404		548,663
EPR Properties, REIT	20,366		768,206
Equity Commonwealth, REIT	10,289		256,916
National Storage Affiliates Trust, REIT Phillips Edison & Co., REIT	23,832 31,848		860,812 1,014,040
Piedmont Office Realty Trust, Inc., REIT	62,488		573,015
Spirit Realty Capital, Inc., REIT	25,554		1,020,371
STAG Industrial, Inc., REIT	14,611		472,081
Uniti Group, Inc., REIT	45,217		250,050
		\$	6,023,417
Restaurants – 0.8%			
Texas Roadhouse, Inc.	7,139	\$	649,292
Specialty Chemicals – 2.5%			
Chemours Co.	31,433	\$	962,478
Univar Solutions, Inc. (a)	33,287		1,058,527
		\$	2,021,005
Specialty Stores – 2.3%			
Builders FirstSource, Inc. (a)	13,457	\$	873,090
Urban Outfitters, Inc. (a)	31,976		762,628
Zumiez, Inc. (a)	10,150		220,661
Telephone Services – 0.5%		\$	1,856,379
EchoStar Corp., "A" (a)	22,948	\$	382,773
Tobacco – 0.1%	22,540	-	502,775
Vector Group Ltd.	3,605	\$	42,755
Trucking – 1.3%	5,505	<u> </u>	,, 55
Landstar System, Inc.	2,371	\$	386,236
Saia, Inc. (a)	3,007	ų	630,508
	5,007	_	
		\$	1,016,744

#### Portfolio of Investments - continued

Issuer	Shares/Par		Value (\$)
Common Stocks – continued			
Utilities - Electric Power – 1.8%			
IDACORP, Inc. Portland General Electric Co.	392 29,188	\$	42,277 1,430,212
		\$	1,472,489
Total Common Stocks (Identified Cost, \$77,223,405)		\$79	9,949,636
Investment Companies (h) – 0.9%			
Money Market Funds – 0.9%			
MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio, 4.02% (v) (Identified Cost, \$705,159)	705,022	\$	705,234
Collateral for Securities Loaned – 0.3%			
State Street Navigator Securities Lending Government Money Market Portfolio, 4.33% (j) (Identified Cost, \$240,957)	240,957	\$	240,957
Other Assets, Less Liabilities – (0.3)%			(269,083)
Net Assets – 100.0%		\$8	0,626,744

(a) Non-income producing security.

(h) An affiliated issuer, which may be considered one in which the fund owns 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities, or a company which is under common control. At period end, the aggregate values of the fund's investments in affiliated issuers and in unaffiliated issuers were \$705,234 and \$80,190,593, respectively.

- (j) The rate quoted is the annualized seven-day yield of the fund at period end.
- (I) A portion of this security is on loan. See Note 2 for additional information.

(v) Affiliated issuer that is available only to investment companies managed by MFS. The rate quoted for the MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio is the annualized seven-day yield of the fund at period end.

The following abbreviations are used in this report and are defined:

REIT Real Estate Investment Trust

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

This statement represents your fund's balance sheet, which details the assets and liabilities comprising the total value of the fund.

#### At 12/31/22

Assets		
Investments in unaffiliated issuers, at value, including \$298,366 of securities on loan (identified cost, \$77,464,362)		\$80,190,593
Investments in affiliated issuers, at value (identified cost, \$705,159)		705,234
Receivables for		
Fund shares sold		6,790
Interest and dividends		105,262
Other assets		744
Total assets		\$81,008,623
Liabilities		
Payables for		
Fund shares reacquired		\$71,501
Collateral for securities loaned, at value (c)		240,957
Payable to affiliates		
Investment adviser		2,549
Administrative services fee		178
Shareholder servicing costs		42
Distribution and/or service fees		1,038
Payable for independent Trustees' compensation		104
Accrued expenses and other liabilities		65,510
Total liabilities		\$381,879
Net assets		\$80,626,744
Net assets consist of		
Paid-in capital		\$75,279,329
Total distributable earnings (loss)		5,347,415
Net assets		\$80,626,744
Shares of beneficial interest outstanding		9,491,716
	Shares	Net asset value

	Net assets	outstanding	per share
Initial Class	\$29,826,034	3,398,802	\$8.78
Service Class	50,800,710	6,092,914	8.34

(c) Non-cash collateral is not included.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

This statement describes how much your fund earned in investment income and accrued in expenses. It also describes any gains and/or losses generated by fund operations.

#### Year ended 12/31/22

#### Net investment income (loss)

Income	
Dividends	\$1,099,117
Other	12,827
Dividends from affiliated issuers	9,462
Income on securities loaned	1,868
Foreign taxes withheld Total investment income	(2,682) \$1,120,592
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Expenses	¢252.240
Management fee Distribution and/or service fees	\$352,348 138,117
Shareholder servicing costs	10,307
Administrative services fee	23,330
Independent Trustees' compensation	3,595
Custodian fee	5,579
Shareholder communications	5,626
Audit and tax fees	59,827
Legal fees	418
Miscellaneous	25,255
Total expenses	\$624,402
Reduction of expenses by investment adviser	(12,242)
Net expenses	\$612,160
Net investment income (loss)	\$508,432
Realized and unrealized gain (loss)	
Realized gain (loss) (identified cost basis)	
Unaffiliated issuers	\$2,701,522
Affiliated issuers	(3)
Net realized gain (loss)	\$2,701,519
Change in unrealized appreciation or depreciation	
Unaffiliated issuers	\$(21,966,245)
Affiliated issuers	75
Net unrealized gain (loss)	\$(21,966,170)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	\$(19,264,651)
Change in net assets from operations	\$(18,756,219)
See Notes to Einancial Statements	

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

These statements describe the increases and/or decreases in net assets resulting from operations, any distributions, and any shareholder transactions.

	Year	ended
	12/31/22	12/31/21
Change in net assets		
From operations		
Net investment income (loss)	\$508,432	\$521,826
Net realized gain (loss)	2,701,519	23,809,565
Net unrealized gain (loss)	(21,966,170)	1,832,471
Change in net assets from operations	\$(18,756,219)	\$26,163,862
Total distributions to shareholders	\$(20,920,094)	\$(770,014
Change in net assets from fund share transactions	\$15,936,179	\$(14,248,191
Total change in net assets	\$(23,740,134)	\$11,145,657
Net assets		
At beginning of period	104,366,878	93,221,221
At end of period	\$80,626,744	\$104,366,878
See Notes to Financial Statements		

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the fund's financial performance for the past 5 years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single fund share. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the fund share class (assuming reinvestment of all distributions) held for the entire period.

Initial Class	Year ended				
Net asset value, beginning of period	<b>12/31/22</b> \$14.02	<b>12/31/21</b> \$10.91	<b>12/31/20</b> \$11.66	<b>12/31/19</b> \$11.25	<b>12/31/18</b> \$13.47
Income (loss) from investment operations					
Net investment income (loss) (d)	\$0.08	\$0.09	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.09
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(2.48)	3.14	0.01(g)	2.56	(0.40)
Total from investment operations	\$(2.40)	\$3.23	\$0.11	\$2.66	\$(0.31)
Less distributions declared to shareholders					
From net investment income	\$(0.09)	\$(0.12)	\$(0.09)	\$(0.10)	\$(0.13)
From net realized gain	(2.75)		(0.77)	(2.15)	(1.78)
Total distributions declared to shareholders	\$(2.84)	\$(0.12)	\$(0.86)	\$(2.25)	\$(1.91)
Net asset value, end of period (x)	\$8.78	\$14.02	\$10.91	\$11.66	\$11.25
Total return (%) (k)(r)(s)(x)	(18.37)	29.64	2.23	26.78	(5.11)
Ratios (%) (to average net assets) and Supplemental data:					
Expenses before expense reductions	0.55	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.54
Expenses after expense reductions	0.54	0.52	0.54	0.53	0.53
Net investment income (loss)	0.73	0.67	1.05	0.81	0.69
Portfolio turnover Net assets at end of period (000 omitted)	55 \$29,826	78 \$39,073	84 \$33,850	59 \$35,441	72 \$29,936
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Service Class	42/24/22	42/24/24	Year ended	42/24/40	42/24/42
Net asset value, beginning of period	<b>12/31/22</b> \$13.47	<b>12/31/21</b> \$10.50	<b>12/31/20</b> \$11.24	<b>12/31/19</b> \$10.92	<b>12/31/18</b> \$13.12
Income (loss) from investment operations					
Net investment income (loss) (d)	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.07	\$0.07	\$0.06
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	(2.37)	3.01	0.02(g)	2.46	(0.39)
Total from investment operations	\$(2.32)	\$3.06	\$0.09	\$2.53	\$(0.33)
Less distributions declared to shareholders					
From net investment income	\$(0.06)	\$(0.09)	\$(0.06)	\$(0.06)	\$(0.09)
From net realized gain	(2.75)		(0.77)	(2.15)	(1.78)
Total distributions declared to shareholders	\$(2.81)	\$(0.09)	\$(0.83)	\$(2.21)	\$(1.87)
Net asset value, end of period (x)	\$8.34	\$13.47	\$10.50	\$11.24	\$10.92
Total return (%) (k)(r)(s)(x)	(18.56)	29.17	2.14	26.36	(5.35)
Ratios (%) (to average net assets) and Supplemental data:					
Expenses before expense reductions	0.80	0.79	0.80	0.79	0.79
Expenses after expense reductions	0.79	0.77	0.79	0.78	0.78
Net investment income (loss) Portfolio turnover	0.49 55	0.42 78	0.80 84	0.56 59	0.43 72
		/ ~	ŏ4	22	12
Net assets at end of period (000 omitted)	\$50,801	\$65,294	\$59,371	\$61,099	\$55,648

#### Financial Highlights - continued

- (d) Per share data is based on average shares outstanding.
- (g) The per share amount varies from the net realized and unrealized gain/loss for the period because of the timing of sales of fund shares and the per share amount of realized and unrealized gains and losses at such time.
- (k) The total return does not reflect expenses that apply to separate accounts. Inclusion of these charges would reduce the total return figures for all periods shown.
- (r) Certain expenses have been reduced without which performance would have been lower.
- (s) From time to time the fund may receive proceeds from litigation settlements, without which performance would be lower.
- (x) The net asset values and total returns have been calculated on net assets which include adjustments made in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles required at period end for financial reporting purposes.

# NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### (1) Business and Organization

MFS Blended Research Small Cap Equity Portfolio (the fund) is a diversified series of MFS Variable Insurance Trust III (the trust). The trust is organized as a Delaware statutory trust and is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as an open-end management investment company. The shareholders of each series of the trust are separate accounts of insurance companies, which offer variable annuity and/or life insurance products, and qualified retirement and pension plans.

The fund is an investment company and accordingly follows the investment company accounting and reporting guidance of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification Topic 946 Financial Services - Investment Companies.

### (2) Significant Accounting Policies

**General** — The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. In the preparation of these financial statements, management has evaluated subsequent events occurring after the date of the fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities through the date that the financial statements were issued. The fund will generally focus on securities of small size companies which may be more volatile than those of larger companies.

**Balance Sheet Offsetting** — The fund's accounting policy with respect to balance sheet offsetting is that, absent an event of default by the counterparty or a termination of the agreement, the International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreement, or similar agreement, does not result in an offset of reported amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities across transactions between the fund and the applicable counterparty. The fund's right to setoff may be restricted or prohibited by the bankruptcy or insolvency laws of the particular jurisdiction to which a specific master netting agreement counterparty is subject. Balance sheet offsetting disclosures, to the extent applicable to the fund, have been included in the fund's Significant Accounting Policies note under the captions for each of the fund's in-scope financial instruments and transactions.

**Investment Valuations** — Subject to its oversight, the fund's Board of Trustees has delegated primary responsibility for determining or causing to be determined the value of the fund's investments to MFS as the fund's adviser, pursuant to the fund's valuation policy and procedures which have been adopted by the adviser and approved by the Board. Effective September 8, 2022, and in accordance with Rule 2a-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Board of Trustees designated the adviser as the "valuation designee" of the fund. If the adviser, as valuation designee, determines that reliable market quotations are not readily available for an investment, the investment is valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the adviser in accordance with the adviser's fair valuation policy and procedures.

Under the fund's valuation policy and procedures, equity securities, including restricted equity securities, are generally valued at the last sale or official closing price on their primary market or exchange as provided by a third-party pricing service. Equity securities, for which there were no sales reported that day, are generally valued at the last quoted daily bid quotation on their primary market or exchange as provided by a third-party pricing service. Short-term instruments with a maturity at issuance of 60 days or less may be valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. Open-end investment companies are generally valued at net asset value per share. The values of foreign securities and other assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies are converted to U.S. dollars using the mean of bid and asked prices for rates provided by a third-party pricing service.

Under the fund's valuation policy and procedures, market quotations are not considered to be readily available for debt instruments, floating rate loans, and many types of derivatives. These investments are generally valued at fair value based on information from third-party pricing services or otherwise determined by the adviser in accordance with the adviser's fair valuation policy and procedures. Securities and other assets generally valued on the basis of information from a third-party pricing service may also be valued at a broker/dealer bid quotation. In determining values, third-party pricing services can utilize both transaction data and market information such as yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics, spreads and other market data. An investment may also be valued at fair value if the adviser determines that the investment's value has been materially affected by events occurring after the close of the exchange or market on which the investment is principally traded (such as foreign exchange or market) and prior to the determination of the fund's net asset value, or after the halt of trading of a specific security where trading does not resume prior to the close of the exchange or market on which the security is principally traded. Events that occur after foreign markets close (such as developments in foreign markets and significant movements in the U.S. markets) and prior to the determination of the fund's net asset value as material effect on the value of securities traded in foreign markets. Accordingly, the fund's foreign equity securities may often be valued at fair value. The adviser generally relies on third-party pricing services or other information (such as the correlation with price movements of similar securities in the same or other markets;

#### Notes to Financial Statements - continued

the type, cost and investment characteristics of the security; the business and financial condition of the issuer; and trading and other market data) to assist in determining whether to fair value and at what value to fair value an investment. The value of an investment for purposes of calculating the fund's net asset value can differ depending on the source and method used to determine value. When fair valuation is used, the value of an investment used to determine the fund's net asset value may differ from quoted or published prices for the same investment. There can be no assurance that the fund could obtain the fair value assigned to an investment if it were to sell the investment at the same time at which the fund determines its net asset value per share.

Various inputs are used in determining the value of the fund's assets or liabilities. These inputs are categorized into three broad levels. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, an investment's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The fund's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and considers factors specific to the investment. Level 1 includes unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 includes other significant observable market-based inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speed, and credit risk). Level 3 includes significant unobservable inputs, which may include the adviser's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. The following is a summary of the levels used as of December 31, 2022 in valuing the fund's assets and liabilities:

Financial Instruments	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Equity Securities	\$79,949,636	\$—	\$—	\$79,949,636
Mutual Funds	946,191	—	_	946,191
Total	\$80,895,827	\$—	\$—	\$80,895,827

For further information regarding security characteristics, see the Portfolio of Investments.

Security Loans — Under its Securities Lending Agency Agreement with the fund, State Street Bank and Trust Company, as lending agent, loans the securities of the fund to certain qualified institutions (the "Borrowers") approved by the fund. Security loans can be terminated at the discretion of either the lending agent or the fund and the related securities must be returned within the earlier of the standard trade settlement period for such securities or within three business days. The loans are collateralized by cash and/or U.S. Treasury and federal agency obligations in an amount typically at least equal to the market value of the securities loaned. On loans collateralized by cash, the cash collateral is invested in a money market fund. The market value of the loaned securities is determined at the close of business of the fund and any additional required collateral is delivered to the fund on the next business day. The lending agent provides the fund with indemnification against Borrower default. In the event of Borrower default, the lending agent will, for the benefit of the fund, either purchase securities identical to those loaned or, when such purchase is commercially impracticable, pay the fund the market value of the loaned securities. In return, the lending agent assumes the fund's rights to the related collateral. If the collateral value is less than the cost to purchase identical securities, the lending agent is responsible for the shortfall, but only to the extent that such shortfall is not due to a decline in collateral value resulting from collateral reinvestment for which the fund bears the risk of loss. At period end, the fund had investment securities on loan, all of which were classified as equity securities in the fund's Portfolio of Investments, with a fair value of \$298,366. The fair value of the fund's investment securities on loan and a related liability of \$240,957 for cash collateral received on securities loaned are both presented gross in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Additionally, these loans were collateralized by U.S. Treasury Obligations of \$60,185 held by the lending agent. The collateral on securities loaned exceeded the value of securities on loan at period end. The liability for cash collateral for securities loaned is carried at fair value, which is categorized as level 2 within the fair value hierarchy. A portion of the income generated upon investment of the collateral is remitted to the Borrowers, and the remainder is allocated between the fund and the lending agent. On loans collateralized by U.S. Treasury and/or federal agency obligations, a fee is received from the Borrower, and is allocated between the fund and the lending agent. Income from securities lending is separately reported in the Statement of Operations. The dividend and interest income earned on the securities loaned is accounted for in the same manner as other dividend and interest income.

**Indemnifications** — Under the fund's organizational documents, its officers and Trustees may be indemnified against certain liabilities and expenses arising out of the performance of their duties to the fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the fund enters into agreements with service providers that may contain indemnification clauses. The fund's maximum exposure under these agreements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the fund that have not yet occurred.

**Investment Transactions and Income** — Investment transactions are recorded on the trade date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends received in cash are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Certain dividends from foreign securities will be recorded when the fund is informed of the dividend if such information is obtained subsequent to the ex-dividend date. Dividend payments received in additional securities are recorded on the ex-dividend date in an amount equal to the value of the security on such date. In determining the net gain or loss on securities sold, the cost of securities is determined on the identified cost basis.

#### Notes to Financial Statements - continued

The fund may receive proceeds from litigation settlements. Any proceeds received from litigation involving portfolio holdings are reflected in the Statement of Operations in realized gain/loss if the security has been disposed of by the fund or in unrealized gain/loss if the security is still held by the fund. Any other proceeds from litigation not related to portfolio holdings are reflected as other income in the Statement of Operations.

**Tax Matters and Distributions** — The fund intends to qualify as a regulated investment company, as defined under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code, and to distribute all of its taxable income, including realized capital gains. As a result, no provision for federal income tax is required. The fund's federal tax returns, when filed, will remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service for a three year period. Management has analyzed the fund's tax positions taken on federal and state tax returns for all open tax years and does not believe that there are any uncertain tax positions that require recognition of a tax liability. Foreign taxes, if any, have been accrued by the fund in the accompanying financial statements in accordance with the applicable foreign tax law. Foreign income taxes may be withheld by certain countries in which the fund invests. Additionally, capital gains realized by the fund on securities issued in or by certain foreign countries may be subject to capital gains tax imposed by those countries.

Distributions to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Income and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Certain capital accounts in the financial statements are periodically adjusted for permanent differences in order to reflect their tax character. These adjustments have no impact on net assets or net asset value per share. Temporary differences which arise from recognizing certain items of income, expense, gain or loss in different periods for financial statement and tax purposes will reverse at some time in the future.

Book/tax differences primarily relate to wash sale loss deferrals.

The tax character of distributions declared to shareholders for the last two fiscal years is as follows:

	Year ended 12/31/22	Year ended 12/31/21
Ordinary income (including any short-term capital gains)	\$7,210,050	\$770,014
Long-term capital gains	13,710,044	—
Total distributions	\$20,920,094	\$770,014

The federal tax cost and the tax basis components of distributable earnings were as follows:

As of 12/31/22	
Cost of investments	\$78,865,287
Gross appreciation	13,843,650
Gross depreciation	(11,813,110)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	\$2,030,540
Undistributed ordinary income	504,273
Undistributed long-term capital gain	2,812,602
Total distributable earnings (loss)	\$5,347,415

**Multiple Classes of Shares of Beneficial Interest** — The fund offers multiple classes of shares, which differ in their respective distribution and/or service fees. The fund's income, realized and unrealized gain (loss), and common expenses are allocated to shareholders based on the daily net assets of each class. Dividends are declared separately for each class. Differences in per share dividend rates are generally due to differences in separate class expenses. The fund's distributions declared to shareholders as reported in the Statements of Changes in Net Assets are presented by class as follows:

	Year ended 12/31/22	Year ended 12/31/21
Initial Class	\$7,622,659	\$338,509
Service Class	13,297,435	431,505
Total	\$20,920,094	\$770,014

### (3) Transactions with Affiliates

**Investment Adviser** — The fund has an investment advisory agreement with MFS to provide overall investment management and related administrative services and facilities to the fund. The management fee is computed daily and paid monthly at an annual rate of 0.40% of the fund's average daily net assets. MFS has agreed in writing to reduce its management fee by a specified amount if

#### Notes to Financial Statements - continued

certain MFS mutual fund assets exceed thresholds agreed to by MFS and the fund's Board of Trustees. Effective March 1, 2022, MFS has also agreed in writing to waive at least 0.01% of its management fee as part of this agreement. The agreement to waive at least 0.01% of the management fee will continue until modified by the fund's Board of Trustees, but such agreement will continue at least until April 30, 2024. For the year ended December 31, 2022, this management fee reduction amounted to \$12,242, which is included in the reduction of total expenses in the Statement of Operations. The management fee incurred for the year ended December 31, 2022 was equivalent to an annual effective rate of 0.39% of the fund's average daily net assets.

The investment adviser has agreed in writing to pay a portion of the fund's total annual operating expenses, excluding interest, taxes, extraordinary expenses, brokerage and transaction costs, certain tax reclaim recovery expenses (including contingency fees and closing agreement expenses), and investment-related expenses, such that total annual operating expenses do not exceed 0.60% of average daily net assets for the Initial Class shares and 0.85% of average daily net assets for the Service Class shares. This written agreement will continue until modified by the fund's Board of Trustees, but such agreement will continue at least until April 30, 2024. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the fund's actual operating expenses did not exceed the limit and therefore, the investment adviser did not pay any portion of the fund's expenses related to this agreement.

**Distributor** — MFS Fund Distributors, Inc. (MFD), a wholly-owned subsidiary of MFS, is the distributor of shares of the fund. The Trustees have adopted a distribution plan for the Service Class shares pursuant to Rule 12b-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

The fund's distribution plan provides that the fund will pay MFD distribution and/or service fees equal to 0.25% per annum of its average daily net assets attributable to Service Class shares as partial consideration for services performed and expenses incurred by MFD and financial intermediaries (including participating insurance companies that invest in the fund to fund variable annuity and variable life insurance contracts, sponsors of qualified retirement and pension plans that invest in the fund, and affiliates of these participating insurance companies and plan sponsors) in connection with the sale and distribution of the Service Class shares. MFD may subsequently pay all, or a portion, of the distribution and/or service fees to financial intermediaries.

**Shareholder Servicing Agent** — MFS Service Center, Inc. (MFSC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of MFS, receives a fee from the fund for its services as shareholder servicing agent. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the fee was \$9,553, which equated to 0.0109% annually of the fund's average daily net assets. MFSC also receives reimbursement from the fund for out-of-pocket expenses paid by MFSC on behalf of the fund. For the year ended December 31, 2022, these costs amounted to \$754.

**Administrator** — MFS provides certain financial, legal, shareholder communications, compliance, and other administrative services to the fund. Under an administrative services agreement, the fund reimburses MFS the costs incurred to provide these services. The fund is charged an annual fixed amount of \$17,500 plus a fee based on average daily net assets. The administrative services fee incurred for the year ended December 31, 2022 was equivalent to an annual effective rate of 0.0265% of the fund's average daily net assets.

**Trustees' and Officers' Compensation** — The fund pays compensation to independent Trustees in the form of a retainer, attendance fees, and additional compensation to Board and Committee chairpersons. The fund does not pay compensation directly to Trustees or officers of the fund who are also officers of the investment adviser, all of whom receive remuneration from MFS for their services to the fund. Certain officers and Trustees of the fund are officers or directors of MFS, MFD, and MFSC.

**Other** — The fund invests in the MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio which is managed by MFS and seeks current income consistent with preservation of capital and liquidity. This money market fund does not pay a management fee to MFS but does incur investment and operating costs.

The adviser has voluntarily undertaken to reimburse the fund from its own resources on a quarterly basis for the cost of investment research embedded in the cost of the fund's securities trades. This agreement may be rescinded at any time. For the year ended December 31, 2022, this reimbursement amounted to \$12,805, which is included in "Other" income in the Statement of Operations.

The fund is permitted to engage in purchase and sale transactions with funds and accounts for which MFS serves as investment adviser or sub-adviser ("cross-trades") pursuant to a policy adopted by the Board of Trustees. This policy has been designed to ensure that cross-trades conducted by the fund comply with Rule 17a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940. During the year ended December 31, 2022, the fund engaged in purchase transactions pursuant to this policy, which amounted to \$578,068.

### (4) Portfolio Securities

For the year ended December 31, 2022, purchases and sales of investments, other than short-term obligations, aggregated \$48,780,082 and \$52,827,554, respectively.

#### (5) Shares of Beneficial Interest

The fund's Declaration of Trust permits the Trustees to issue an unlimited number of full and fractional shares of beneficial interest. Transactions in fund shares were as follows:

		Year ended 12/31/22		ended 31/21
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold				
Initial Class	244,552	\$2,627,998	263,239	\$3,473,991
Service Class	628,724	6,501,877	607,326	7,714,638
	873,276	\$9,129,875	870,565	\$11,188,629
Shares issued to shareholders in reinvestment of distributions				
Initial Class	813,518	\$7,622,659	25,357	\$338,509
Service Class	1,492,417	13,297,435	33,580	431,505
	2,305,935	\$20,920,094	58,937	\$770,014
Shares reacquired				
Initial Class	(447,049)	\$(4,929,664)	(602,378)	\$(7,913,165)
Service Class	(874,850)	(9,184,126)	(1,450,359)	(18,293,669)
	(1,321,899)	\$(14,113,790)	(2,052,737)	\$(26,206,834)
Net change				
Initial Class	611,021	\$5,320,993	(313,782)	\$(4,100,665)
Service Class	1,246,291	10,615,186	(809,453)	(10,147,526)
	1,857,312	\$15,936,179	(1,123,235)	\$(14,248,191)

#### (6) Line of Credit

The fund and certain other funds managed by MFS participate in a \$1.45 billion unsecured committed line of credit of which \$1.2 billion is reserved for use by the fund and certain other MFS U.S. funds. The line of credit is provided by a syndicate of banks under a credit agreement. Borrowings may be made for temporary financing needs. Interest is charged to each fund, based on its borrowings, generally at a rate equal to the highest of 1) Daily Simple SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate) plus 0.10%, 2) the Federal Funds Effective Rate, or 3) the Overnight Bank Funding Rate, each plus an agreed upon spread. A commitment fee, based on the average daily unused portion of the committed line of credit, is allocated among the participating funds. The line of credit expires on March 16, 2023 unless extended or renewed. In addition, the fund and other funds managed by MFS have established unsecured uncommitted borrowing arrangements with certain banks for temporary financing needs. Interest is charged to each fund, based on its borrowings, at rates equal to customary reference rates plus an agreed upon spread. For the year ended December 31, 2022, the fund's commitment fee and interest expense were \$441 and \$0, respectively, and are included in "Miscellaneous" expense in the Statement of Operations.

#### (7) Investments in Affiliated Issuers

An affiliated issuer may be considered one in which the fund owns 5% or more of the outstanding voting securities, or a company which is under common control. For the purposes of this report, the following were affiliated issuers:

Affiliated Issuers	Beginning Value	Purchases	Sales Proceeds	Realized Gain (Loss)	Change in Unrealized Appreciation or Depreciation	Ending Value
MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio	\$1,035,352	\$12,553,930	\$12,884,120	\$(3)	\$75	\$705,234
Affiliated Issuers					Dividend Income	Capital Gain Distributions
MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio					\$9,462	\$—

Notes to Financial Statements - continued

#### (8) LIBOR Transition

Certain of the fund's investments, including investments in certain debt instruments and derivatives (if any), as well as borrowings by the fund and certain other contractual arrangements of the fund, may be based on the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR"). In 2017, the regulatory authority that oversees financial services firms in the United Kingdom announced plans to transition away from LIBOR by the end of 2021. In March 2021, the administrator of LIBOR announced the extension of the publication of the more commonly used U.S. dollar LIBOR settings to the end of June 2023. Although the full impacts of the transition away from LIBOR are not fully known, the transition may result in, among other things, an increase in volatility or illiquidity of the markets for instruments that currently rely on LIBOR to determine interest rates and this could have an adverse impact on the fund's performance. With respect to the fund and any other contractual arrangements of the fund that undergo reference rate-related modifications as a result of the transition, management will rely upon the relief provided by FASB Codification Topic 848 – Reference Rate Reform (Topic 848). The guidance in Topic 848 permits the fund to account for those modified contracts as a continuation of the existing contracts. Management is still evaluating the impact to the fund of the June 30, 2023 planned discontinuation of the more commonly used U.S. dollar LIBOR settings.

#### (9) Russia and Ukraine Conflict

The market disruptions, which began in late February 2022, associated with geopolitical events related to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine may adversely affect the value of the fund's assets and thus the fund's performance. Management continues to monitor these events and to evaluate the related impacts, if any, to the fund.

# **REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Board of Trustees of MFS Variable Insurance Trust III and the Shareholders of MFS Blended Research Small Cap Equity Portfolio:

### **Opinion on the Financial Statements and Financial Highlights**

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of MFS Blended Research Small Cap Equity Portfolio (the "Fund"), including the portfolio of investments, as of December 31, 2022, the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, and the related notes. In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Two years in the period then ended, and the related notes for each of the two years in the period then ended, the financial highlights for each of the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Basis for Opinion**

These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Fund's financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Fund in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and financial highlights, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements and financial highlights. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2022, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Boston, Massachusetts February 15, 2023

We have served as the auditor of one or more of the MFS investment companies since 1924.

# **TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS** — **IDENTIFICATION AND BACKGROUND**

The Trustees and Officers of the Trust, as of February 1, 2023, are listed below, together with their principal occupations during the past five years. (Their titles may have varied during that period.) The address of each Trustee and Officer is 111 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02199-7618.

Name, Age	Position(s) Held with Fund	Trustee/Officer Since <sup>(h)</sup>	Number of MFS Funds overseen by the Trustee	Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years	Other Directorships During the Past Five Years <sup>(j)</sup>
INTERESTED TRUSTEE Michael W. Roberge <sup>(k)</sup>					
(age 56)	Trustee	January 2021	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Chairman (since January 2021); Chief Executive Officer (since January 2017); Director; Chairman of the Board (since January 2022); President (until December 2018); Chief Investment Officer (until December 2018)	N/A
INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES					
John P. Kavanaugh (age 68)	Trustee and Chair of Trustees	January 2009	136	Private investor	N/A
Steven E. Buller (age 71)	Trustee	February 2014	136	Private investor	N/A
John A. Caroselli (age 68)	Trustee	March 2017	136	Private investor; JC Global Advisors, LLC (management consulting), President (since 2015)	N/A
Maureen R. Goldfarb (age 67)	Trustee	January 2009	136	Private investor	N/A
Peter D. Jones (age 67)	Trustee	January 2019	136	Private investor	N/A
James W. Kilman, Jr. (age 61)	Trustee	January 2019	136	Burford Capital Limited (finance and investment management), Senior Advisor (since May 3, 2021), Chief Financial Officer (2019 - May 2, 2021); KielStrand Capital LLC (family office), Chief Executive Officer (since 2016)	Alpha-En Corporation, Director (2016-2019)
Clarence Otis, Jr. (age 66)	Trustee	March 2017	136	Private investor	VF Corporation, Director; Verizon Communications, Inc., Director; The Travelers Companies, Director
Maryanne L. Roepke (age 66)	Trustee	May 2014	136	Private investor	N/A
Laurie J. Thomsen (age 65)	Trustee	March 2005	136	Private investor	The Travelers Companies, Director; Dycom Industries, Inc., Director

#### Trustees and Officers - continued

Name, Age	Position(s) Held with Fund	Trustee/Officer Since <sup>(h)</sup>	Number of MFS Funds for which the Person is an Officer	Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years
OFFICERS				
Christopher R. Bohane <sup>(k)</sup> (age 49)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	July 2005	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Senior Vice President and Senior Managing Counsel
Kino Clark <sup>(k)</sup> (age 54)	Assistant Treasurer	January 2012	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President
John W. Clark, Jr. <sup>(k)</sup> (age 55)	Assistant Treasurer	April 2017	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President
David L. DiLorenzo <sup>(k)</sup> (age 54)	President	July 2005	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Senior Vice President
Heidi W. Hardin <sup>(k)</sup> (age 55)	Secretary and Clerk	April 2017	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Brian E. Langenfeld <sup>(k)</sup> (age 49)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	June 2006	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Managing Counsel
Rosa E. Licea-Mailloux <sup>(k)</sup> (age 46)	Chief Compliance Officer	March 2022	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President (since 2018); Director of Corporate Compliance (2018-2021), Senior Director Compliance (2021-2022), Senior Managing Director of North American Compliance & Chief Compliance Officer (since March 2022); Natixis Investment Managers (investment management), Funds Chief Compliance Officer, Deputy General Counsel & Senior Vice President (until 2018)
Amanda S. Mooradian <sup>(k)</sup> (age 43)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	September 2018	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Assistant Vice President and Senior Counsel
Susan A. Pereira <sup>(k)</sup> (age 52)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	July 2005	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Managing Counsel
Kasey L. Phillips <sup>(k)</sup> (age 52)	Assistant Treasurer	September 2012	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President
Matthew A. Stowe <sup>(k)</sup> (age 48)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	October 2014	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Senior Managing Counsel
William B. Wilson <sup>(k)</sup> (age 40)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	October 2022	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Assistant Vice President and Counsel
James O. Yost <sup>(k)</sup> (age 62)	Treasurer	September 1990	136	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Senior Vice President

(h) Date first appointed to serve as Trustee/Officer of an MFS Fund. Each Trustee has served continuously since appointment unless indicated otherwise. From January 2012 through December 2016, Messrs. DiLorenzo and Yost served as Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of the Funds, respectively.

(j) Directorships or trusteeships of companies required to report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (i.e., "public companies").

(k) "Interested person" of the Trust within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (referred to as the 1940 Act), which is the principal federal law governing investment companies like the fund, as a result of a position with MFS. The address of MFS is 111 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02199-7618.

Each Trustee (other than Messrs. Jones, Kilman and Roberge) has been elected by shareholders and each Trustee and Officer holds office until his or her successor is chosen and qualified or until his or her earlier death, resignation, retirement or removal. Mr. Roberge became a Trustee of the Funds on January 1, 2021 and Messrs. Jones and Kilman became Trustees of the Funds on January 1, 2019. The Trust does not hold annual meetings for the purpose of electing Trustees, and Trustees are not elected for fixed terms. Under the terms of the Board's retirement policy, an Independent Trustee shall retire at the end of the calendar year in which he or she reaches the earlier of 75 years of age or 15 years of service on the Board (or, in the case of any Independent Trustee who joined the Board prior to 2015, 20 years of service on the Board).

Trustees and Officers - continued

Messrs. Buller, Kilman and Otis and Ms. Roepke are members of the Trust's Audit Committee.

Each of the Interested Trustees and certain Officers hold comparable officer positions with certain affiliates of MFS.

The Statement of Additional Information for a Fund includes further information about the Trustees and is available without charge upon request by calling 1-800-225-2606.

#### **Investment Adviser**

Massachusetts Financial Services Company 111 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02199-7618

#### Distributor

MFS Fund Distributors, Inc. 111 Huntington Avenue Boston, MA 02199-7618

#### Portfolio Manager(s)

Jim Fallon Matt Krummell Jonathan Sage Jed Stocks

#### Custodian

State Street Bank and Trust Company 1 Lincoln Street Boston, MA 02111-2900

#### Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Deloitte & Touche LLP 200 Berkeley Street Boston, MA 02116

# **BOARD REVIEW OF INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT**

### MFS Blended Research Small Cap Equity Portfolio

The Investment Company Act of 1940 requires that both the full Board of Trustees and a majority of the non-interested ("independent") Trustees, voting separately, annually approve the continuation of the Fund's investment advisory agreement with MFS. The Trustees consider matters bearing on the Fund and its advisory arrangements at their meetings throughout the year, including a review of performance data at each regular meeting. In addition, the independent Trustees met several times over the course of three months beginning in May and ending in July, 2022 ("contract review meetings") for the specific purpose of considering whether to approve the continuation of the investment advisory agreement for the Fund and the other investment companies that the Board oversees (the "MFS Funds"). The independent Trustees were assisted in their evaluation of the Fund's investment advisory agreement by independent legal counsel, from whom they received separate legal advice and with whom they met separately from MFS during various contract review meetings. The independent Trustees were also assisted in this process by an independent consultant who was retained by and reported to the independent Trustees.

In connection with their deliberations regarding the continuation of the investment advisory agreement, the Trustees, including the independent Trustees, considered such information and factors as they believed, in light of the legal advice furnished to them and their own business judgment, to be relevant. The investment advisory agreement for the Fund was considered separately, although the Trustees also took into account the common interests of all MFS Funds in their review. As described below, the Trustees considered the nature, quality, and extent of the various investment advisory, administrative, and shareholder services performed by MFS under the existing investment advisory agreements with the Fund.

In connection with their contract review meetings, the Trustees received and relied upon materials that included, among other items: (i) information provided by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. ("Broadridge"), an independent third party, on the investment performance of the Fund for various time periods ended December 31, 2021 and the investment performance of a group of funds with substantially similar investment classifications/objectives (the "Broadridge performance universe"), (ii) information provided by Broadridge on the Fund's advisory fees and other expenses and the advisory fees and other expenses of comparable funds identified by Broadridge as well as all other funds in the same investment classification/category (the "Broadridge expense group and universe"), (iii) information provided by MFS on the advisory fees of portfolios of other clients of MFS, including institutional separate accounts and other clients, (iv) information as to whether and to what extent applicable expense waivers, reimbursements or fee "breakpoints" are observed for the Fund, (v) information regarding MFS' financial results and financial condition, including MFS' and certain of its affiliates' estimated profitability from services performed for the Fund and the MFS Funds as a whole, and compared to MFS' institutional business, (vi) MFS' views regarding the outlook for the mutual fund industry and the strategic business plans of MFS, (vii) descriptions of various functions performed by MFS for the Funds, such as compliance monitoring and portfolio trading practices, and (viii) information regarding the overall organization of MFS, including information about MFS' senior management and other personnel providing investment advisory, administrative and other services to the Fund and the other MFS Funds. The comparative performance, fee and expense information prepared and provided by Broadridge was not independently verified and the independent Trustees did not independently verify any information provided to them by MFS.

The Trustees' conclusion as to the continuation of the investment advisory agreement was based on a comprehensive consideration of all information provided to the Trustees and not the result of any single factor. Some of the factors that figured particularly in the Trustees' deliberations are described below, although individual Trustees may have evaluated the information presented differently from one another, giving different weights to various factors. It is also important to recognize that the fee arrangements for the Fund and other MFS Funds are the result of years of review and discussion between the independent Trustees and MFS, that certain aspects of such arrangements may receive greater scrutiny in some years than in others, and that the Trustees' conclusions may be based, in part, on their consideration of these same arrangements during the course of the year and in prior years.

Based on information provided by Broadridge and MFS, the Trustees reviewed the Fund's total return investment performance as well as the Broadridge performance universe over various time periods. The Trustees placed particular emphasis on the total return performance of the Fund's Initial Class shares in comparison to the performance of funds in its Broadridge performance universe over the five-year period ended December 31, 2021, which the Trustees believed was a long enough period to reflect differing market conditions. The total return performance of the Fund's Initial Class shares of the Fund's Initial Class shares was in the 1st quintile relative to the other funds in the universe for this five-year period (the 1st quintile being the best performers and the 5th quintile being the worst performers). The total return performance of the Fund's Initial Class shares was in the 1st quintile for the one-year period and the 5th quintile for the three-year period ended December 31, 2021 relative to the Broadridge performance universe. Because of the passage of time, these performance results may differ from the performance results for more recent periods, including those shown elsewhere in this report.

In the course of their deliberations, the Trustees took into account information provided by MFS in connection with the contract review meetings, as well as during investment review meetings conducted with portfolio management personnel during the course of the year regarding the Fund's performance. After reviewing these and related factors, the Trustees concluded, within the context of their overall conclusions regarding the investment advisory agreement, that they were satisfied with MFS' responses and efforts relating to investment performance.

#### Board Review of Investment Advisory Agreement - continued

In assessing the reasonableness of the Fund's advisory fee, the Trustees considered, among other information, the Fund's advisory fee and the total expense ratio of the Fund's Initial Class shares as a percentage of average daily net assets and the advisory fee and total expense ratios of the Broadridge expense group based on information provided by Broadridge. The Trustees considered that MFS currently observes an expense limitation for the Fund, which may not be changed without the Trustees' approval. The Trustees also considered that, according to the data provided by Broadridge (which takes into account any fee reductions or expense limitations that were in effect during the Fund's last fiscal year), the Fund's effective advisory fee rate and total expense ratio were each lower than the Broadridge expense group median.

The Trustees also considered the advisory fees charged by MFS to any institutional separate accounts advised by MFS ("separate accounts") and unaffiliated investment companies for which MFS serves as subadviser ("subadvised funds") that have comparable investment strategies to the Fund, if any. In comparing these fees, the Trustees considered information provided by MFS as to the generally broader scope of services provided by MFS to the Fund, as well as the more extensive regulatory burdens imposed on MFS in managing the Fund, in comparison to separate accounts and subadvised funds. The Trustees also considered the higher demands placed on MFS' investment personnel and trading infrastructure as a result of the daily cash in-flows and out-flows of the Fund in comparison to separate accounts.

The Trustees also considered whether the Fund may benefit from any economies of scale in the management of the Fund in the event of growth in assets of the Fund and/or growth in assets of the MFS Funds as a whole. They noted that the Fund's advisory fee rate schedule is not subject to any breakpoints. Taking into account the expense limitation noted above, the Trustees determined not to recommend any advisory fee breakpoints for the Fund at this time. The Trustees also noted that MFS has agreed in writing to waive a portion of the management fees of certain MFS Funds, including the Fund, if the total combined assets of certain funds within the MFS Funds' complex increase above agreed upon thresholds (the "group fee waiver"), enabling the Fund's shareholders to share in the benefits from any economies of scale at the complex level. The group fee waiver is reviewed and renewed annually between the Board and MFS. The Trustees concluded that the group fee waiver was sufficient to allow the Fund to benefit from economies of scale as its assets and overall complex assets grow.

The Trustees also considered information prepared by MFS relating to MFS' costs and profits with respect to the Fund, the MFS Funds considered as a group, and other investment companies and accounts advised by MFS, as well as MFS' methodologies used to determine and allocate its costs to the MFS Funds, the Fund and other accounts and products for purposes of estimating profitability.

After reviewing these and other factors described herein, the Trustees concluded, within the context of their overall conclusions regarding the investment advisory agreement, that the advisory fees charged to the Fund represent reasonable compensation in light of the services being provided by MFS to the Fund.

In addition, the Trustees considered MFS' resources and related efforts to continue to retain, attract and motivate capable personnel to serve the Fund. The Trustees also considered current and developing conditions in the financial services industry, including the presence of large and well-capitalized companies which are spending, and appear to be prepared to continue to spend, substantial sums to engage personnel and to provide services to competing investment companies. In this regard, the Trustees also considered the financial resources of MFS and its ultimate parent, Sun Life Financial Inc. The Trustees also considered the advantages and possible disadvantages to the Fund of having an adviser that also serves other investment companies as well as other accounts.

The Trustees also considered the nature, quality, cost, and extent of administrative, transfer agency, and distribution services provided to the Fund by MFS and its affiliates under agreements and plans other than the investment advisory agreement, including any 12b-1 fees the Fund pays to MFS Fund Distributors, Inc., an affiliate of MFS. The Trustees also considered the nature, extent and quality of certain other services MFS performs or arranges for on the Fund's behalf, which may include securities lending programs, directed expense payment programs, class action recovery programs, and MFS' interaction with third-party service providers, principally custodians and sub-custodians. The Trustees concluded that the various non-advisory services provided by MFS and its affiliates on behalf of the Fund were satisfactory.

The Trustees considered so-called "fall-out benefits" to MFS such as reputational value derived from serving as investment manager to the MFS Funds. The Trustees also considered that MFS discontinued its historic practice of obtaining investment research from portfolio brokerage commissions paid by certain MFS Funds effective January 2018, and directly pays or voluntarily reimburses a Fund, if applicable, for the costs of external research acquired through the use of the Fund's portfolio brokerage commissions.

Based on their evaluation of factors that they deemed to be material, including those factors described above, the Board of Trustees, including the independent Trustees, concluded that the Fund's investment advisory agreement with MFS should be continued for an additional one-year period, commencing August 1, 2022.

# PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND INFORMATION

MFS votes proxies on behalf of the fund pursuant to proxy voting policies and procedures that are available without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-225-2606, by visiting *mfs.com/proxyvoting*, or by visiting the SEC's Web site at *http://www.sec.gov.* 

Information regarding how the fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30 is available by August 31 of each year without charge by visiting *mfs.com/proxyvoting*, or by visiting the SEC's Web site at *http://www.sec.gov*.

# QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO DISCLOSURE

The fund files a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year as an exhibit to its reports on Form N-PORT. The fund's Form N-PORT reports are available on the SEC's Web site at *http://www.sec.gov*. A shareholder can obtain the portfolio holdings report for the first and third quarters of the fund's fiscal year at *mfs.com/vit3* by choosing the fund's name and then scrolling to the "Resources" section and clicking on the "Prospectus and Reports" tab.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

From time to time, MFS may post important information about the fund or the MFS Funds on the MFS Web site (*mfs.com*). This information is available at *https://www.mfs.com/announcements* or at *mfs.com/vit3* by choosing the fund's name and then scrolling to the "Resources" section and clicking on the "Announcements" tab, if any.

# INFORMATION ABOUT FUND CONTRACTS AND LEGAL CLAIMS

The fund has entered into contractual arrangements with an investment adviser, administrator, distributor, shareholder servicing agent, and custodian who each provide services to the fund. Unless expressly stated otherwise, shareholders are not parties to, or intended beneficiaries of these contractual arrangements, and these contractual arrangements are not intended to create any shareholder right to enforce them against the service providers or to seek any remedy under them against the service providers, either directly or on behalf of the fund.

Under the Trust's By-Laws and Declaration of Trust, any claims asserted against or on behalf of the MFS Funds, including claims against Trustees and Officers, must be brought in state and federal courts located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

# FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION (unaudited)

The following information is provided pursuant to provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

The fund designates \$15,082,000 as capital gain dividends paid during the fiscal year.

For corporate shareholders, 12.72% of the ordinary income dividends paid during the fiscal year qualify for the corporate dividends received deduction.

# FACTS WHAT DOES MFS DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?



Why?	Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.
What?	The types of personal information we collect and share depend on the product or service you have with us. This information can include:
	<ul> <li>Social Security number and account balances</li> <li>Account transactions and transaction history</li> <li>Checking account information and wire transfer instructions</li> </ul>
	When you are <i>no longer</i> our customer, we continue to share your information as described in this notice.
How?	All financial companies need to share customers' personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their customers' personal information; the reasons MFS chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.

Reasons we can share your personal information	Does MFS share?	Can you limit this sharing?
For our everyday business purposes – such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus	Yes	No
For our marketing purposes – to offer our products and services to you	No	We don't share
For joint marketing with other financial companies	No	We don't share
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes – information about your transactions and experiences	No	We don't share
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes – information about your creditworthiness	No	We don't share
For nonaffiliates to market to you	No	We don't share

**Questions?** 

Call 800-225-2606 or go to mfs.com.

Who we are	
Who is providing this notice?	MFS Funds, MFS Investment Management, MFS Institutional Advisors, Inc., and MFS Heritage Trust Company.
What we do	
How does MFS protect my personal information?	To protect your personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law. These measures include procedural, electronic, and physical safeguards for the protection of the personal information we collect about you.
How does MFS collect my personal information?	<ul> <li>We collect your personal information, for example, when you</li> <li>open an account or provide account information</li> <li>direct us to buy securities or direct us to sell your securities</li> <li>make a wire transfer</li> <li>We also collect your personal information from others, such as credit bureaus, affiliates, or other companies.</li> </ul>
Why can't I limit all sharing?	<ul> <li>Federal law gives you the right to limit only</li> <li>sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes – information about your creditworthiness</li> <li>affiliates from using your information to market to you</li> <li>sharing for nonaffiliates to market to you</li> <li>State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing.</li> </ul>

Definitions		
Affiliates	Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.	
	<ul> <li>MFS does not share personal information with affiliates, except for everyday business purposes as described on page one of this notice.</li> </ul>	
Nonaffiliates	Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.	
	• MFS does not share with nonaffiliates so they can market to you.	
Joint marketing	A formal agreement between nonaffiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you.	
	• MFS doesn't jointly market.	

# Other important information

If you own an MFS product or receive an MFS service in the name of a third party such as a bank or broker-dealer, their privacy policy may apply to you instead of ours.

