

# Morgan Stanley

## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Morgan Stanley Variable Insurance Fund, Inc.

# Core Plus Fixed Income Portfolio

## Summary Prospectus | April 30, 2020

Share Class and Ticker Symbols
Class II
MJIX

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund's statutory prospectus ("Prospectus"), which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund's Prospectus and other information about the Fund, including the Statement of Additional Information ("SAI") and the most recent Annual and Semi-Annual Reports to Shareholders ("Shareholder Reports"), online at [www.morganstanley.com/im/MSVIFCorePlusFixedIncomeII](http://www.morganstanley.com/im/MSVIFCorePlusFixedIncomeII). You can also get this information at no cost by calling toll-free 1-866-414-6349 or by sending an e-mail request to [orders@mysummaryprospectus.com](mailto:orders@mysummaryprospectus.com). The Fund's Prospectus and SAI, both dated April 30, 2020 (as may be supplemented from time to time), are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus.

### Investment Objective

The Fund seeks above-average total return over a market cycle of three to five years by investing primarily in a diversified portfolio of fixed-income securities.

### Fees and Expenses of the Fund (Class II)

The table below describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold Class II shares of the Fund. The Fund does not charge any sales loads or other fees when you purchase or redeem shares. The table and the example below do not reflect the impact of any charges by your insurance company. If they did, Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses would be higher.

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

Advisory Fee	0.38%
Distribution (12b-1) Fee	0.25%
Other Expenses	0.39%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses*	1.02%
Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement*	0.07%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses After Fee Waiver and/or Expense Reimbursement*	0.95%

### Example

The example below is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund, your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund's operating expenses remain the same (except that the example incorporates the fee waiver and/or expense reimbursement arrangement for only the first year). Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Core Plus Fixed Income Portfolio	\$97	\$318	\$556	\$1,241

\* The Fund's "Adviser," Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc., has agreed to reduce its advisory fee and/or reimburse the Fund so that Total



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Annual Fund Operating Expenses, excluding certain investment related expenses, taxes, interest and other extraordinary expenses (including litigation), will not exceed 0.95%. The fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements will continue for at least one year or until such time as the Company's Board of Directors acts to discontinue all or a portion of such waivers and/or reimbursements when it deems such action is appropriate.

### Portfolio Turnover

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These costs, which are not reflected in Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses or in the Example, affect the Fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund's portfolio turnover rate was 231% of the average value of its portfolio.

### Principal Investment Strategies

Under normal circumstances, at least 80% of the Fund's assets will be invested in fixed-income securities. This policy may be changed without shareholder approval; however, you would be notified in writing of any changes. The Adviser invests primarily in a diversified mix of U.S. dollar-denominated investment grade fixed-income securities, particularly U.S. government, corporate, municipal, mortgage- and asset-backed securities. The Fund will ordinarily seek to maintain an average weighted maturity between five and ten years.

The Adviser employs a value approach toward fixed-income investing and evaluates the relative attractiveness among corporate, mortgage and U.S. government securities, and also may invest in non-dollar-denominated issues. The Adviser relies upon value measures to guide its decisions regarding sector, security and country selection, such as the relative attractiveness of the extra yield offered by securities other than those issued by the U.S. Treasury. The Adviser also measures various types of risk by monitoring interest rates, inflation, the shape of the yield curve, credit risk, prepayment risk, country risk and currency valuations. The Fund may engage in frequent trading to achieve its investment objective.

The Fund's investment process incorporates information about environmental, social and governance issues (also referred to as ESG) via an integrated approach within the investment team's fundamental investment analysis framework. The Adviser may engage with management of certain issuers regarding corporate governance practices as well as what the Adviser deems to be materially important environmental and/or social issues facing a company.

The Fund may invest opportunistically in fixed-income securities that are rated below "investment grade" or are not rated, but are of equivalent quality. These fixed-income securities are often referred to as "high yield securities" or "junk bonds." High yield securities are fixed-income securities rated below Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), below BBB- by S&P Global Ratings Group, a division of S&P Global Inc. ("S&P"), below BBB- by Fitch Ratings, Inc. ("Fitch") or, if unrated, considered by the Adviser to be of equivalent quality. The Fund may also invest in loan-related investments, such as public bank loans made by banks or other financial institutions and loan participations and assignments, which may be rated investment grade or below investment grade. In addition, the Fund may invest in convertible securities.

The Fund's mortgage securities may include collateralized mortgage obligations ("CMOs"), commercial mortgage-backed securities ("CMBS"), stripped mortgage-backed securities ("SMBS") and inverse floating rate obligations ("inverse floaters"). In addition, the Fund may invest in to-be-announced pass-through mortgage securities, which settle on a delayed delivery basis ("TBAs"). The Fund may also invest in securities of foreign issuers, including issuers located in emerging market or developing countries. The securities in which the Fund may invest may be denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars. The Fund may also invest in restricted and illiquid securities.

The Fund may, but it is not required to, use derivative instruments for a variety of purposes, including hedging, risk management, portfolio management or to earn income. The Fund's use of derivatives may involve the purchase and sale of derivative instruments such as futures, options, swaps and other related instruments and techniques. The Fund may utilize foreign currency forward exchange contracts, which are also derivatives, in connection with its investments in foreign securities. Derivative instruments used by the Fund will be counted toward the Fund's 80% policy discussed above to the extent they have economic characteristics similar to the securities included within that policy.

### Principal Risks

There is no assurance that the Fund will achieve its investment objective, and you can lose money investing in this Fund. The principal risks of investing in the Fund include:

- **Fixed-Income Securities.** Fixed-income securities are subject to the risk of the issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on its obligations (i.e., credit risk) and are subject to price volatility resulting from, among other things, interest rate sensitivity (i.e., interest rate risk), market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity (i.e., market risk). The Fund may face a heightened level of interest rate risk in times of monetary policy change and uncertainty, such as when the Federal Reserve Board adjusts a quantitative easing program and/or changes rates. A changing interest rate environment increases certain risks, including the potential for periods of volatility, increased redemptions, shortened durations (i.e.,

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prepayment risk) and extended durations (i.e., extension risk). The Fund is not limited as to the maturities of the securities in which it may invest. Securities with longer durations are likely to be more sensitive to changes in interest rates, generally making them more volatile than securities with shorter durations. Lower rated fixed-income securities have greater volatility because there is less certainty that principal and interest payments will be made as scheduled. To the extent that the Fund invests in convertible securities, and the convertible security's investment value is greater than its conversion value, its price will be likely to increase when interest rates fall and decrease when interest rates rise. If the conversion value exceeds the investment value, the price of the convertible security will tend to fluctuate directly with the price of the underlying security. The Fund may be subject to certain liquidity risks that may result from the lack of an active market and the reduced number and capacity of traditional market participants to make a market in fixed-income securities.

- Credit and Interest Rate Risk.** Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer or guarantor of a security will be unable to make interest payments and/or repay the principal on its debt. Interest rate risk refers to fluctuations in the value of a fixed-income security resulting from changes in the general level of interest rates. When the general level of interest rates goes up, the prices of most fixed-income securities go down. When the general level of interest rates goes down, the prices of most fixed-income securities go up. The Fund may face a heightened level of interest rate risk in times of monetary policy change and uncertainty, such as when the Federal Reserve Board adjusts a quantitative easing program and/or changes rates. A changing interest rate environment increases certain risks, including the potential for periods of volatility, increased redemptions, shortened durations (i.e., prepayment risk) and extended durations (i.e., extension risk).
- Municipal Securities.** Municipal securities include both general obligation and revenue bonds. General obligation bonds are secured by the issuer's full faith and credit as well as its taxing power for payment of principal or interest. Revenue bonds are payable solely from revenues derived from a specified revenue source, and therefore are subject to the risk that the revenues so derived will not be sufficient to meet interest and/or principal payment obligations. The value of municipal securities may be affected by political changes as well as uncertainties related to legislative developments, the rights of municipal security holders and taxation. Municipal securities and their issuers may be more susceptible to downgrade, default and bankruptcy as a result of recent periods of economic stress. Municipal securities also involve the risk that an issuer may call the securities for redemption, which could force the Fund to reinvest the proceeds at a lower rate of interest.
- High Yield Securities ("Junk Bonds").** The Fund's investments in high yield securities expose it to a substantial degree of credit risk. High yield securities may be issued by companies that are restructuring, are smaller and less creditworthy or are more highly indebted than other companies, and therefore they may have more difficulty making scheduled payments of principal and interest. High yield securities are subject to greater risk of loss of income and principal than higher rated securities and may be considered speculative. High yield securities may experience reduced liquidity, and sudden and substantial decreases in price. An economic downturn affecting an issuer of high yield securities may result in an increased incidence of default. In the event of a default, the Fund may incur additional expenses to seek recovery.
- Loan-Related Investments.** In addition to risks generally associated with debt investments, loan-related investments such as public bank loans and loan participations and assignments are subject to other risks. Such investments may be subject to additional risks including subordination to other creditors, no collateral or limited rights in collateral, lack of a regular trading market, extended settlement periods, liquidity risks, prepayment risks, potentially less protection under the federal securities laws and lack of publicly available information. Bank loans are subject to the risk of default in the payment of interest or principal on a loan, which will result in a reduction of income to the Fund, and a potential decrease in the Fund's net asset value per share ("NAV"). The risk of default will increase in the event of an economic downturn or a substantial increase in interest rates. Because public bank loans usually rank lower in priority of payment to senior loans, they present a greater degree of investment risk. These bank loans may exhibit greater price volatility as well.
- Mortgage-Backed Securities.** Mortgage-backed securities entail prepayment risk, which generally increases during a period of falling interest rates. Rising interest rates tend to discourage refinancings, with the result that the average life and volatility of mortgage-backed securities will increase and market price will decrease. Rates of prepayment, faster or slower than expected by the Adviser, could reduce the Fund's yield, increase the volatility of the Fund and/or cause a decline in NAV. Mortgage-backed securities are also subject to extension risk, which is the risk that rising interest rates could cause mortgages or other obligations underlying the securities to be prepaid more slowly than expected, thereby lengthening the duration of such securities, increasing their sensitivity to interest rate changes and causing their prices to decline. Certain mortgage-backed securities may be more volatile and less liquid than other traditional types of debt securities. In addition, mortgage-backed securities are subject to credit risk. An unexpectedly high rate of defaults on the mortgages held by a mortgage pool may adversely affect the value of a mortgage-backed security and could result in losses to the Fund. The risk of such defaults is generally higher in the case of mortgage pools that include subprime mortgages. Furthermore, mortgage-backed securities may be subject to risks associated with the assets underlying those securities, such as a decline in value. Investments in mortgage-backed securities may give rise to a form of leverage (indebtedness) and may cause the Fund's portfolio turnover rate to appear higher. Leverage may cause the Fund to be more volatile than if the Fund had not been leveraged.

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- **Asset-Backed Securities.** Asset-backed securities involve the risk that various federal and state consumer laws and other legal and economic factors may result in the collateral backing the securities being insufficient to support payment on the securities. Some asset-backed securities also entail prepayment risk and extension risk, which may vary depending on the type of asset.
- **Foreign and Emerging Market Securities.** Investments in foreign markets entail special risks such as currency, political, economic and market risks. There also may be greater market volatility, less reliable financial information, higher transaction and custody costs, decreased market liquidity and less government and exchange regulation associated with investments in foreign markets. In addition, investments in certain foreign markets that have historically been considered stable may become more volatile and subject to increased risk due to ongoing developments and changing conditions in such markets. Moreover, the growing interconnectivity of global economies and financial markets has increased the probability that adverse developments and conditions in one country or region will affect the stability of economies and financial markets in other countries or regions. Certain foreign markets may rely heavily on particular industries or foreign capital and are more vulnerable to diplomatic developments, the imposition of economic sanctions against a particular country or countries, organizations, entities and/or individuals, changes in international trading patterns, trade barriers and other protectionist or retaliatory measures. Economic sanctions could, among other things, effectively restrict or eliminate the Fund's ability to purchase or sell securities or groups of securities for a substantial period of time, and may make the Fund's investments in such securities harder to value. The risks of investing in emerging market countries are greater than the risks associated with investments in foreign developed countries. In addition, the Fund's investments in foreign issuers may be denominated in foreign currencies and therefore, to the extent unhedged, the value of those investments will fluctuate with U.S. dollar exchange rates. To the extent hedged by the use of foreign currency forward exchange contracts, the precise matching of the foreign currency forward exchange contract amounts and the value of the securities involved will not generally be possible because the future value of such securities in foreign currencies will change as a consequence of market movements in the value of those securities between the date on which the contract is entered into and the date it matures. There is additional risk that such transactions may reduce or preclude the opportunity for gain if the value of the currency should move in the direction opposite to the position taken and that foreign currency forward exchange contracts create exposure to currencies in which the Fund's securities are not denominated. The use of foreign currency forward exchange contracts involves the risk of loss from the insolvency or bankruptcy of the counterparty to the contract or the failure of the counterparty to make payments or otherwise comply with the terms of the contract.
- **Liquidity.** The Fund may make investments that are illiquid or restricted or that may become less liquid in response to overall economic conditions or adverse investor perceptions, and which may entail greater risk than investments in other types of securities. These investments may be more difficult to value or sell, particularly in times of market turmoil, and there may be little trading in the secondary market available for particular securities. Liquidity risk may be magnified in a changing interest rate environment or in other circumstances where investor redemptions from fixed-income mutual funds may be higher than normal. If the Fund is forced to sell an illiquid or restricted security to fund redemptions or for other cash needs, it may be forced to sell the security at a loss or for less than its fair value.
- **Derivatives.** A derivative instrument often has risks similar to its underlying asset and may have additional risks, including imperfect correlation between the value of the derivative and the underlying asset, risks of default by the counterparty to certain transactions, magnification of losses incurred due to changes in the market value of the securities, instruments, indices or interest rates to which the derivative instrument relates and risks that the transactions may not be liquid. Certain derivative transactions may give rise to a form of leverage. Leverage magnifies the potential for gain and the risk of loss.
- **Portfolio Turnover.** Consistent with its investment policies, the Fund will purchase and sell securities without regard to the effect on portfolio turnover. Higher portfolio turnover will cause the Fund to incur additional transaction costs.
- **Market and Geopolitical.** The value of your investment in the Fund is based on the market prices and values of the Fund's investments, which change daily due to economic and other events that affect markets generally, as well as those that affect particular regions, countries, industries, companies or governments. These events may be sudden and unexpected, and could adversely affect the liquidity of the Fund's investments, which may in turn impact valuation, the Fund's ability to sell securities and/or its ability to meet redemptions. The risks associated with these developments may be magnified if certain social, political, economic and other conditions and events (such as natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, terrorism, conflicts and social unrest) adversely interrupt the global economy and financial markets. It is difficult to predict when events affecting the U.S. or global financial markets may occur, the effects that such events may have and the duration of those effects (which may last for extended periods).

Shares of the Fund are not bank deposits and are not guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency.

### Performance Information

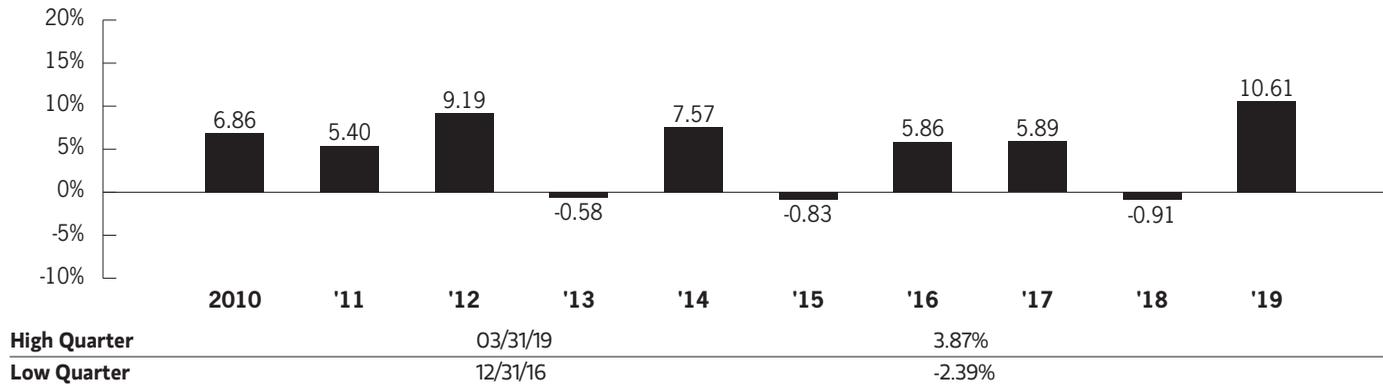
The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund's Class II shares' performance from year-to-year and by showing how the Fund's Class II shares' average annual returns for the past one, five and 10 year periods compare with those of a broad measure of market performance over time. This performance

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information does not include the impact of any charges deducted by your insurance company. If it did, returns would be lower. The Fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

### Annual Total Returns—Calendar Years (Class II)

Commenced operations on May 1, 2003



### Average Annual Total Returns (Class II)<sup>1</sup>

(for the calendar periods ended December 31, 2019)

Class II	Past One Year	Past Five Years	Past Ten Years
Return before Taxes	10.61%	4.03%	4.83%
Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes) <sup>2</sup>	8.72%	3.05%	3.75%

<sup>(1)</sup> During 2016 and 2019, the Fund received proceeds related to certain non-recurring litigation settlements. Had these settlements not occurred, the one, five and 10 year returns for such periods would have been lower. Please refer to the Financial Highlights for further information.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index tracks the performance of U.S. government agency and Treasury securities, investment grade corporate debt securities, agency mortgage-backed securities, asset-backed securities and commercial mortgage-backed securities. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

### Fund Management

**Adviser.** Morgan Stanley Investment Management Inc.

**Portfolio Managers.** The Fund is managed by members of the Taxable Fixed Income team. Information about the members jointly and primarily responsible for the day-to-day management of the Fund is shown below:

Name	Title with Adviser	Date Began Managing Fund
Neil Stone	Managing Director	January 2011
Joseph Mehlman	Managing Director	April 2013
Matthew Dunning	Executive Director	October 2014
Jim Caron	Managing Director	May 2015
Gregory Finck	Managing Director	May 2015

### Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

The Prospectus offers Class II shares of the Fund. The Company also offers Class I shares of the Fund through a separate prospectus. Class I shares are subject to lower expenses, but may not be available through your insurance company, qualified pension plan or retirement plan. For eligibility information, contact your insurance company or qualified pension or retirement plan.

The Fund offers its shares only to insurance companies (either directly or indirectly through other variable insurance funds) for separate accounts that they establish to fund variable life insurance and variable annuity contracts, and to other entities under qualified pension and retirement plans. An insurance company purchases or redeems shares of the Fund based on, among other things, the amount of net contract premiums or purchase payments allocated to a separate account investment division, transfers to or from a separate account investment division, contract loans and repayments, contract withdrawals and surrenders, and benefit

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payments. The contract prospectus describes how contract owners may allocate, transfer and withdraw amounts to, and from, separate accounts.

For more information, please refer to the section of the Prospectus entitled “Shareholder Information—Purchasing and Selling Fund Shares.”

### **Tax Information**

Special tax rules apply to life insurance companies, variable annuity contracts and variable life insurance contracts. For information on federal income taxation of a life insurance company with respect to its receipt of distributions from the Fund and federal income taxation of owners of variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts, refer to the contract prospectus.

For more information, please refer to the section of the Prospectus entitled “Shareholder Information—Taxes.”

### **Payments to Insurance Companies and Other Financial Intermediaries**

The Adviser and/or the Fund’s “Distributor,” Morgan Stanley Distribution, Inc., may pay insurance companies or their affiliates in connection with Fund-related administrative services that the insurance companies provide in connection with the issuance of their variable annuity contracts. These payments, which may be significant in amount, may create a conflict of interest by influencing the insurance company to recommend one variable annuity or variable life insurance contract over another or be a factor in an insurance company’s decision to include the Fund as an underlying investment option in its variable annuity or variable life insurance contracts. Shareholders should ask their salesperson or visit their insurance company’s web site for more information.

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