

Automatic Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan

The Virtus Total Return Fund (the “Fund”) allows you to conveniently reinvest distributions quarterly in additional Fund shares thereby enabling you to compound your returns from the Fund. By choosing to reinvest, you’ll be able to invest money regularly and automatically.

It is important to note that an automatic reinvestment plan does not ensure a profit, nor does it protect you against loss in a declining market.

Enrollment in the Reinvestment Plan

It is the policy of the Fund to automatically reinvest distributions payable to shareholders. A “registered” shareholder automatically becomes a participant in the Fund’s Automatic Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan. (the “Plan”). The Plan authorizes the Fund to credit all shares of common stock to participants upon a distribution regardless of whether the shares are trading at a discount or premium to the net asset value. Registered shareholders may terminate their participation and receive distributions in cash by contacting Computershare Trust Company, N.A. (the “Plan Administrator”). The termination will become effective with the next distribution if the Plan Administrator is notified at least 7 business days prior to the distribution payment date. Registered shareholders that wish to change their distribution option from cash payment to reinvest may do so by contacting the Plan Administrator at 1-866-270-7788.

In the case of banks, brokers, or other nominees which hold your shares for you as the beneficial owner, the Plan Administrator will administer the Plan based on the information provided by the bank, broker or nominee. To the extent that you wish to participate in the Plan, you should contact the broker, bank or nominee holding your shares to ensure that your account is properly represented. If necessary, you may have your shares taken out of the name of the broker, bank or nominee and register them in your own name.

How shares are purchased through the Reinvestment Plan

When a distribution is declared, nonparticipants in the plan will receive cash. Participants in the plan will receive shares of the Fund valued as described below:

If on the payable date of the distribution, the market price of the Fund’s common stock is less than the net asset value, the Plan Administrator will buy Fund shares on behalf of the Participant in the open market, on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) or elsewhere. The price per share will be equal to the weighted average price of all shares purchased, including commissions. Commission rates are currently \$0.02 per share, although the rate is subject to change and may vary. If, following the commencement of purchases and before the Plan Administrator has completed its purchases, the trading price equals or exceeds the most recent net asset value of the common shares, the Plan Administrator may cease purchasing shares on the open market and the Fund may issue the remaining shares at a price equal to the greater of (a) the net asset value on the last day the Plan Administrator purchased shares or (b) 95% of the market price on such day. In the case where the Plan Administrator has terminated open market purchases and the Fund has issued the remaining shares, the number of shares received by the Participant in respect of the cash distribution will be based on the weighted average of prices paid for shares purchased in the open market and the price at which the Fund issued the remaining shares. Under certain circumstances, the rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission may require limitation or temporary suspension of market purchases of shares under the Plan. The Plan Administrator will not be accountable for its inability to make a purchase during such a period.

If on the payable date of the distribution, the market price is equal to or exceeds the net asset value, Participants will be issued new shares by the Fund at the greater of the (a) the net asset value on the payable date or (b) 95% of the market price on such date.

The automatic reinvestment of distributions will not relieve Participants of any income tax which may be payable on such distributions. A Participant in the Plan will be treated for federal income tax purposes, as having received on a payment date, a distribution in an amount equal to the cash the participant could have received instead of shares. If

you participate in the Plan, you will receive a Form 1099-DIV concerning the Federal tax status of distributions paid during the year.

Voluntary Cash Purchase Plan

Participants in the Plan have the option of making additional cash payments for investment in shares of the Fund. Such payments can be made in any amount from \$100 per payment to \$3,000 per month. The Plan Administrator will use the funds received to purchase Fund shares in the open market on the 15th of each month or the next business day if the 15th falls on a weekend or holiday (the "Investment Date"). The purchase price per share will be equal to the weighted average price of all shares purchased on the Investment Date, including commissions. There is no charge to shareholders for Cash Purchases. The plan administrator's fee will be paid by the Fund. However, each participating shareholder will pay pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred (currently \$0.02 per share, but may vary and is subject to change) with respect to the Plan Administrator's open market purchases in connection with all cash investments. Voluntary cash payments should be sent to Computershare Trust Company, N.A., PO Box 43078, Providence, RI 02940-3078.

Participants have an unconditional right to obtain the return of any cash payment if the Plan Administrator receives written notice at least 5 business days before such payment is to be invested.

Automatic Monthly Investment

Participants in the Plan may purchase additional shares by means of an Automatic Monthly Investment of not less than \$100 nor more than \$3,000 per month by electronic funds transfer from a predesignated U.S bank account. If a Participant has already established a Plan account and wishes to initiate Automatic Monthly Investments, the Participant must complete and sign an automatic monthly investment form and return it to the Plan Administrator together with a voided check or deposit slip for the account from which funds are to be withdrawn. Automatic monthly investment forms may be obtained from the Plan Administrator by calling 1-866-270-7788.

Termination of Shares

Shareholders wishing to liquidate shares held with the Plan Administrator must do so in writing or by calling 1-866-270-7788.

The Plan Administrator does not charge a fee for liquidating your shares; however, a brokerage commission of \$0.02 will be charged. This charge may vary and is subject to change.

Once terminated, you may re-enroll in the Plan (provided you still have shares registered in your name) by contacting the Plan Administrator at 1-866-270-7788.

Additional Information

For more information regarding the Automatic Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan, please contact the Plan Administrator at 1-866-270-7788 or visit our website at Virtus.com.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any voluntary cash payments made and any distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to the members of the Plan at least 90 days before the record date for such distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by the Plan Administrator with at least 90 days written notice to participants in the Plan.