

Summary Prospectus – April 28, 2014

Curian/Van Eck International Gold Fund

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund’s 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 most recent reports to shareholders, online at <http://hosted.rightprospectus.com/Jackson/CurianVariableSeriesTrust>. You can also get this information at no cost by calling 1-800-873-5654 (Annuity and Life Service Center), 1-800-599-5651 (NY Annuity and Life Service Center), 1-800-777-7779 (for contracts purchased through a bank or financial institution) or 1-888-464-7779 (for NY contracts purchased through a bank or financial institution), or by sending an email request to ProspectusRequest@jackson.com. The current Prospectus and SAI, both dated April 28, 2014, are incorporated by reference into (which means they legally are a part of) this Summary Prospectus.

Investment Objectives. The investment objective of the Curian/Van Eck International Gold Fund (the “Fund”) is to seek long-term capital appreciation. The Fund may take current income into consideration when choosing investments.

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

The expenses do not reflect the expenses of the variable insurance contracts or the separate account, whichever may be applicable, and the total expenses would be higher if they were included.

1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
\$132	\$412	\$713	\$1,568

Portfolio Turnover (% of average value of portfolio). 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 annual fund operating expenses or in the expense example, affect the Fund’s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund’s portfolio turnover rate was 33% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategies. Under normal conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in securities of companies principally engaged in gold-related activities, instruments that derive their value from gold, gold coins and bullion. A company principally engaged in gold-related activities is one that derives at least 50% of its revenues from gold-related activities, including the exploration, mining or processing of or dealing in gold. The Fund concentrates its investments in the gold-mining industry and therefore invests 25% or more of its total assets in such industry.

The Fund invests in securities of companies with economic ties to countries throughout the world, including the U.S. Under ordinary circumstances, the Fund will invest in securities of issuers from a number of different countries. The Fund may invest in securities of companies of any capitalization range. The Fund primarily invests in companies that the portfolio manager believes represent value opportunities and/or that have growth potential within their market niche, through their ability to increase production capacity at reasonable cost or make gold discoveries around the world. The portfolio manager utilizes both a macro-economic examination of gold market themes and a fundamental analysis of prospective companies in the search for value and growth opportunities.

The Fund may invest up to 25% of its net assets, as of the date of the investment, in gold and silver coins, gold, silver, platinum and palladium bullion and exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) that invest primarily in such coins and bullion and derivatives on the foregoing, and physical metals. The Fund’s investments in coins and bullion will not earn income, and the sole source of return to the Fund from these investments will be from gains or losses realized on the sale of such investments.

Annual Fund Operating Expenses (Expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)	
Management Fees	0.80%
Distribution and/or Service (12b-1) Fees	0.25%
Other Expenses ¹	0.24%
Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses ²	0.01%
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses	1.30%

¹ “Other Expenses” include an Administrative Fee of 0.20% which is payable to Curian Capital, LLC (“Curian Capital” or the “Adviser”).

² Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses are the indirect expenses of investing in other investment companies. The Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses disclosed above do not correlate to the Ratio of Total Expenses to Average Net Assets of the Fund stated in the Financial Highlights because the Ratio of Total Expenses to Average Net Assets does not include Acquired Fund Fees and Expenses.

Expense Example. This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. Also, this example does not reflect the expenses of the variable insurance contracts or the separate account, whichever may be applicable, and the total expenses would be higher if they were included. The table below shows the expenses you would pay on a \$10,000 investment, assuming (1) a 5% annual return and (2) redemption at the end of each time period. The example also assumes that the Fund’s operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

The Fund may use derivative instruments, such as structured notes, futures, options and swap agreements, to gain or hedge exposure. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in securities issued by other investment companies, including ETFs. The Fund may also invest in money market funds, but these investments are not subject to this limitation. The Fund may invest in ETFs to participate in, or gain rapid exposure to, certain market sectors, or when direct investments in certain countries are not economically feasible.

The Fund is “non-diversified” under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), and may invest more of its assets in fewer issuers than “diversified” mutual funds.

The Fund will seek to gain exposure to commodity futures, gold bullion and other metals primarily by investing in Curian/Van Eck International Gold Fund Ltd. (“Subsidiary”), which invests primarily in gold bullion, gold futures and other instruments that provide direct or indirect exposure to gold, including ETFs, and also may invest in silver, platinum and palladium bullion and futures.

The Fund may invest up to 25% of the value of its total assets in its Subsidiary. The Subsidiary is a wholly owned and controlled subsidiary of the Fund, organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands as an exempted company. The Fund may invest in the Subsidiary in order to gain exposure to the commodities markets within the limitations of the federal tax law, rules and regulations that apply to regulated investment companies (“RICs”). The Subsidiary is subject to the same general investment policies and restrictions as the Fund, except that, unlike the Fund, the Subsidiary is able to invest without limitation in precious metals as described above and commodity-related investments subject to the same 1940 Act asset coverage requirements that are applicable to the Fund. Unlike the Fund, the Subsidiary will not seek to qualify as a RIC under Subchapter M of Chapter 1 of Subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“Subchapter M”). The Fund is the sole shareholder of the Subsidiary and does not expect shares of the Subsidiary to be offered or sold to other investors. The Subsidiary is advised by the Adviser and Van Eck Associates Corporation, the Fund’s sub-adviser, and has the same money managers as the Fund. The Fund’s Chief Financial Officer and Chief Legal Officer serve as directors of the Subsidiary. The Subsidiary has entered into a separate investment advisory agreement with the Adviser for the management of the Subsidiary portfolio pursuant to which the Adviser has agreed to receive an advisory fee for services to the Subsidiary calculated in the same manner as the advisory fee the Fund pays. See section entitled “*Advisory Fee*” in the Prospectus.

Principal Risks of Investing in the Fund. An investment in the Fund is not guaranteed. As with any mutual fund, the value of the Fund’s shares will change, and you could lose money by investing in the Fund. (In the descriptions below of risks related to investments in commodities -- except that describing federal income tax risks -- references to the “Fund” include the Subsidiary as well.)

- *Commodities regulatory and tax risk* – Commodity-related companies are subject to significant federal, state and local government regulation in virtually every aspect of their operations, including how facilities are constructed, maintained and operated, environmental and safety controls, and the prices they may charge for the products and services they provide. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of a market emergency, including, for example, an increase in margin requirements, the establishment of daily limits and the suspension of trading. The effect of any future regulatory change on the Fund is impossible to predict, but could be substantial and adverse to the Fund. Also, future regulatory developments may impact the Fund’s ability to invest in commodity-linked derivatives.

The tax treatment of derivative instruments, including commodity-linked derivative instruments, may be affected by changes in legislation, regulations or other legally binding authority that could affect the character, timing and amount of the Fund’s taxable income or gains and distributions.

- *Commodity-linked derivatives risk* – The value of a commodity-linked derivative investment typically is based upon the price movements of a commodity, a commodity futures contract or commodity index, or some other readily measurable economic variable. The value of commodity-linked derivative instruments may be affected by changes in overall market movements, volatility of the underlying benchmark, changes in interest rates, or factors affecting a particular industry or commodity, such as drought, floods, weather, livestock disease, embargoes, tariffs and international economic, political and regulatory developments. The value of commodity-linked derivatives will rise or fall in response to changes in the underlying commodity or related index. Investments in commodity-linked derivatives may be subject to greater volatility than non-derivative based investments. A highly liquid secondary market may not exist for certain commodity-linked derivatives, and there can be no assurance that one will develop.

Commodity-linked derivatives also may be subject to credit and interest rate risks that in general affect the values of fixed income securities. Therefore, at maturity, the Fund may receive more or less principal than it originally invested. The Fund might receive interest payments that are more or less than the stated coupon interest payments.

In connection with the Fund’s investments in commodity-linked derivatives, the Fund will attempt to manage its counterparty exposure so as to limit its exposure to any one counterparty. However, due to the limited number of entities that may serve as counterparties (and which the Fund believes are creditworthy), at any one time the Fund may enter into swap agreements with a limited number of counterparties and may invest in commodity-linked notes issued by a

limited number of issuers that will act as counterparties, which may increase the Fund's exposure to counterparty credit risk. There can be no assurance that the Fund will be able to limit exposure to any one counterparty at all times.

- *Commodity risk* – Commodity prices can be extremely volatile and the value of a Fund with exposure to the commodities markets may decline and fluctuate in a rapid and unpredictable manner.
- *Concentration in gold-mining industry risk* – The Fund may be subject to greater risks and market fluctuations than a fund whose portfolio has exposure to a broader range of industries. The Fund may be susceptible to financial, economic, political or market events, as well as government regulation, impacting the gold industry. Fluctuations in the price of gold often dramatically affect the profitability of companies in the gold industry.
- *Currency risk* – The Fund's net asset value ("NAV") could decline as a result of changes in the exchange rates between foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. Certain foreign countries may impose restrictions on the ability of issuers of foreign securities to make payment of principal and interest to investors located outside the country, due to blockage of foreign currency exchanges or otherwise.
- *Derivatives risk* – Investing in derivative instruments, such as swaps (including interest rate swaps and credit default swaps), options, futures contracts, forward currency contracts, reverse repurchase agreements, other over-the-counter contracts, and certain exchange-traded funds, involves risks, including liquidity, market, counterparty, credit, and currency risks, mispricing or improper valuation. Changes in the value of the derivative may not move as expected relative to the value of the assets, rates, or indices the derivative is designed to track, and the Fund could lose more than the principal amount invested.
- *Direct investments risk* – Direct investments may involve a high degree of business and financial risk that can result in substantial losses. Because of the absence of any public trading market for many of these investments, a Fund may take longer to liquidate these positions than would be the case for publicly traded securities. Direct investments are generally considered illiquid and will be aggregated with other illiquid investments for purposes of the limitation on illiquid investments.
- *Emerging markets risk* – Investments in emerging markets involve greater risk from economic and political systems that typically are less developed, and likely to be less stable, than those of more advanced countries. Loss may also result from the imposition of exchange controls, confiscations and other government restrictions or from problems in security registration or settlement and custody. The Fund will also be subject to the risk of negative foreign currency rate fluctuations.
- *Foreign regulatory risk* – The Adviser is an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Prudential plc, a publicly traded company incorporated in the United Kingdom and is not affiliated in any manner with Prudential Financial Inc., a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America. Through its ownership structure, the Adviser has a number of global financial

industry affiliated entities. As a result of this structure, and the asset management and financial industry business activities of the Adviser and its affiliates, the Adviser and the Fund may be prohibited or limited in effecting transactions in certain securities. The Adviser and the Fund may encounter trading limitations or restrictions because of aggregation issues or other foreign regulatory requirements. Foreign regulators or foreign laws may impose position limits on securities held by the Fund, and the Fund may be limited as to which securities it may purchase or sell, as well as the timing of such purchases or sales. These foreign regulatory limits may increase the Fund's expenses and may limit the Fund's performance.

- *Foreign securities risk* – Investments in foreign securities involve risks not typically associated with U.S. investments. These risks include, among others, adverse fluctuations in foreign currency values as well as adverse political, social and economic developments and possible imposition of foreign withholding taxes on income payable on the securities. In addition, there may be less publicly available information and more volatile or less liquid markets and foreign issuers may not be subject to the same accounting, auditing and financial recordkeeping standards and requirements as domestic issuers.
- *Industry concentration risk* – Greater emphasis or programmed concentration on investments in a particular industry may result in significant share value fluctuation in response to events affecting that industry.
- *Investment in other investment companies risk* – As with other investments, investments in other investment companies are subject to market and selection risk. In addition, if the Fund acquires shares of investment companies, including ones affiliated with the Fund, shareholders bear both their proportionate share of expenses in the Fund (including management and advisory fees) and, indirectly, the expenses of the investment companies. To the extent the Fund is held by an affiliated fund, the ability of the Fund itself to hold other investment companies may be limited.
- *Managed portfolio risk* – As an actively managed portfolio, the value of the Fund's investments could decline because the financial condition of an issuer may change (due to such factors as management performance, reduced demand or overall market changes), financial markets may fluctuate or overall prices may decline, or the manager's investment techniques could fail to achieve the Fund's investment objective or negatively affect the Fund's investment performance.
- *Market risk* – All forms of securities may decline in value due to factors affecting securities markets generally, such as real or perceived adverse economic, political, or regulatory conditions, inflation, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment. Adverse market conditions may be prolonged and may not have the same impact on all types of securities. The values of securities may fall due to factors affecting a particular issuer, industry or the securities market as a whole.
- *Mid-capitalization investing risk* – The prices of securities of mid-capitalization companies tend to fluctuate more widely and erratically than those of larger, more established companies. Mid-capitalization companies

may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources or may depend on the expertise of a few people and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than securities of larger, more established companies or the market averages in general. Securities of such issuers may lack sufficient market liquidity to effect sales at an advantageous time or without a substantial drop in price.

- *Non-diversification risk* – The Fund is considered non-diversified. As such, the Fund may invest in a limited number of issuers. With a smaller number of different issuers, there is more risk than holding a larger number of issuers, since changes in the financial condition or market status of a single issuer may cause greater fluctuation of total return and share price of a non-diversified portfolio.
- *Regulation of derivatives risk* – The U.S. government has enacted legislation that provides for new regulation of the derivatives market, including clearing, margin, reporting, and registration requirements. It is possible that government regulation of various types of derivative instrument could potentially limit or completely restrict the ability of a Fund to use these instruments as a part of its investment strategy, increase the costs of using these instruments or make them less effective. Limits or restrictions applicable to the counterparties with which a Fund engages in derivative transactions could also prevent a Fund from using these instruments or affect the pricing or other factors relating to these instruments, or may change availability of certain investments.
- *Small-capitalization investing risk* – Investing in smaller, newer companies generally involves greater risks than investing in larger, more established ones. Small cap companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources or may depend on the expertise of a few people and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than securities of larger, more established companies or the market averages in general.
- *Subsidiary risk* – By investing in the Subsidiary, the Fund is indirectly exposed to the risks associated with the Subsidiary’s investments. The commodities and commodity-related instruments held by the Subsidiary are generally similar to those that are permitted to be held by the Fund and are subject to the same risks that apply to similar investments held directly by the Fund (see

“Commodity-linked derivatives risk,” “Commodities regulatory and tax risk [except the part thereof relating to federal income tax risks],” and “Commodity risk” above). There can be no assurance that the investment objective of the Subsidiary will be achieved. The Subsidiary is not registered under the 1940 Act, and, unless otherwise noted in this Prospectus, is not subject to all the investor protections of the 1940 Act. However, the Fund wholly owns and controls the Subsidiary, and the Fund and the Subsidiary are both managed by the Fund’s Adviser and Sub-Adviser, making it unlikely that the Subsidiary will take action contrary to the interests of the Fund and its shareholders. Changes in the laws of the United States and/or the Cayman Islands could result in the inability of the Fund and/or the Subsidiary to operate as described in this Prospectus and the SAI and could affect the Fund.

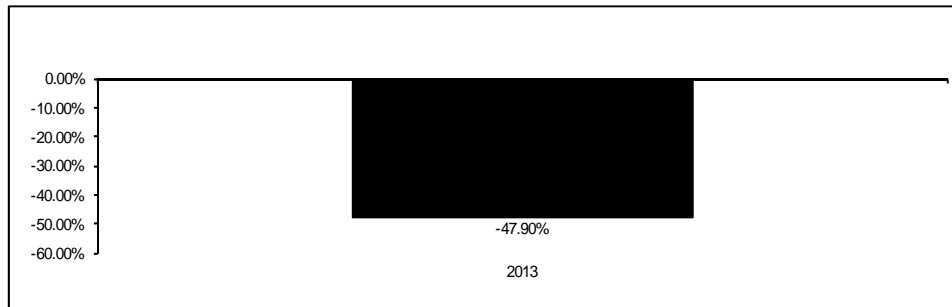
- *Tax risk* – In order for the Fund to qualify as a RIC under Subchapter M, it must derive at least 90% of its gross income each taxable year from qualifying income, which is described in more detail in the SAI. Income from commodities and certain commodity-linked derivative instruments in which the Fund may invest is not considered qualifying income. The Fund will therefore annually restrict its income from commodities and commodity-linked derivative instruments, such as commodity-linked swaps, and other non-qualifying income to a maximum of 10% of its gross income. The Fund’s investment in the Subsidiary is expected to provide the Fund with exposure to the commodities markets within the limitations of the federal tax requirements of Subchapter M. The annual net income, if any, realized by the Subsidiary and imputed for income tax purposes to the Fund should constitute “qualifying income” for purposes of the Fund’s remaining qualified as a RIC. The tax treatment of commodity-linked notes, other commodity-linked derivatives and the Fund’s investments in the Subsidiary may be adversely affected by future legislation, Treasury regulations and/or guidance issued by the IRS that could, among other things, affect the character, timing and/or amount of the Fund’s taxable income or gains and of distributions made by the Fund.

Performance. The performance information shown provides some indication of the risks of investing in the Fund by showing changes in the Fund’s performance from year to year and by showing how the Fund’s average annual returns compared with those of a broad measure of market performance. The Fund’s past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the Fund will perform in the future.

The returns shown in the bar chart and table do not include charges that will be imposed by variable insurance products. If these amounts were reflected, returns would be less than those shown.

Effective April 28, 2014, the Fund’s primary benchmark will be changed from FTSE Gold Mines Index to the NYSE ARCA Gold Miners Index because the NYSE ARCA Gold Miners Index better reflects the Fund’s investment strategy, portfolio exposures, and risk profile.

Annual Total Returns as of December 31



Best Quarter (ended 9/30/2013): 11.35%; Worst Quarter (ended 6/30/2013): -32.25%

Average Annual Total Returns as of December 31, 2013

	1 year	Life of Fund (September 10, 2012)
Curian/Van Eck International Gold Fund	-47.90%	-43.89%
NYSE ARCA Gold Miners Index	-54.42%	-47.62%
FTSE Gold Mines Index	-52.25%	-46.70%

Portfolio Management.

Investment Adviser:

Curian Capital, LLC

Sub-Adviser:

Van Eck Associates Corporation (“Van Eck”)

Portfolio Managers:

Name:	Joined Fund Management Team In:	Title:
Joseph M. Foster	September 2012	Portfolio Manager, Van Eck
Imaru Casanova	September 2012	Deputy Portfolio Manager, Van Eck

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

Only separate accounts, registered investment companies, and qualified and non-qualified plans of Jackson National Life Insurance Company (“Jackson”) or Jackson National Life Insurance Company of New York (“Jackson NY”) may purchase shares of the Fund. You may invest indirectly in the Fund through your purchase of a variable annuity contract issued by a separate account of Jackson or Jackson NY, or through a Jackson or Jackson NY fund that invests in this Fund and directly through a qualified or non-qualified plan. Any minimum initial or subsequent investment requirements and redemption procedures are governed by the applicable separate account, registered investment company or plan through which you invest indirectly.

This Fund serves as an underlying investment by insurance companies, affiliated investment companies, and retirement plans for funding variable insurance contracts and retirement plans.

Tax Information

Because the Fund’s shareholders are the separate accounts, registered investment companies, and qualified and non-qualified plans of Jackson or Jackson NY, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of Jackson or Jackson NY, the investment companies, and the qualified and non-qualified plans. Accordingly, no discussion is included about the Federal personal income tax consequences to you, the contract owner or plan participant. For this information, you should consult the prospectus of the appropriate separate account or description of the plan and read the discussion of the Federal income tax consequences to variable insurance contract owners and plan participants.

Payments to Financial Intermediaries

If you invest in the Fund under a variable insurance contract or a plan through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the Fund and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary’s website for more information.