



MFS<sup>®</sup> Research Series

MFS<sup>®</sup> Variable Insurance Trust  
Annual report

12/31/09  
VFR-ANN

## MFS® RESEARCH SERIES

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

NOT FDIC INSURED • MAY LOSE VALUE • NO BANK GUARANTEE • NOT A DEPOSIT • NOT INSURED BY ANY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR NCUA/NCUSIF

## LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Contract Owners:

There remains some question as to when the global economy will achieve a sustainable recovery. While some economists and market watchers are optimistic that the worst is behind us, a number also agree with U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke who said in September that “even though from a technical perspective the recession is very likely over at this point, it’s still going to feel like a very weak economy for some time.”



Have we in fact turned the corner? We have seen tremendous rallies in the markets over the past six months. The Fed has cut interest rates aggressively toward zero to support credit markets, global deleveraging has helped diminish inflationary concerns, and stimulus measures have put more money in the hands of the government and individuals to keep the economy moving. Still, unemployment remains high, consumer confidence and spending continue to waiver, and the housing market, while improving, has a long way to go to recover.

Regardless of lingering market uncertainties, MFS® is confident that the fundamental principles of long-term investing will always apply. We encourage investors to speak with their advisors to identify and research long-term investment opportunities thoroughly. Global research continues to be one of the hallmarks of MFS, along with a unique collaboration between our portfolio managers and sector analysts, who regularly discuss potential investments before making both buy and sell decisions.

As we continue to dig out from the worst financial crisis in decades, keep in mind that while the road back to sustainable recovery will be slow, gradual, and even bumpy at times, conditions are significantly better than they were six months ago.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Manning". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert J. Manning  
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer  
MFS Investment Management®

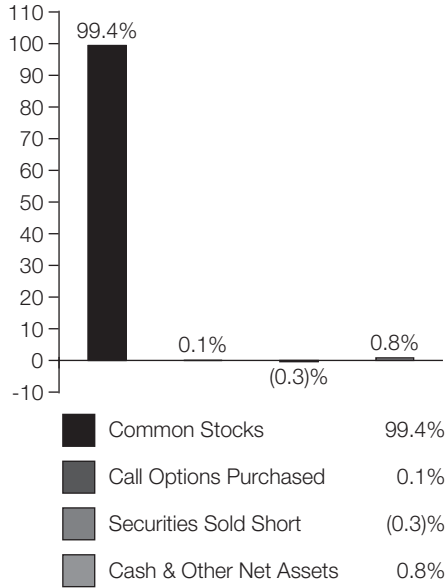
February 16, 2010

The opinions expressed in this letter are subject to change, may not be relied upon for investment advice, and no forecasts can be guaranteed.

# MFS Research Series

## PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

### Portfolio structure



### Global equity sectors

Technology (s)	19.0%
Energy	15.4%
Capital Goods	14.3%
Financial Services	13.7%
Health Care	13.1%
Consumer Cyclical	10.7%
Consumer Staples	8.9%
Telecom/Cable Television	4.0%

### Top ten holdings

Apple, Inc.	2.7%
Chevron Corp.	2.6%
Google, Inc., "A"	2.5%
Danaher Corp.	2.5%
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2.4%
Exxon Mobil Corp.	2.3%
Bank of America Corp.	2.1%
Cisco Systems, Inc.	2.0%
AT&T, Inc.	2.0%
Johnson & Johnson	2.0%

(s) Global equity sector includes both common stocks and securities sold short.  
 Percentages are based on net assets as of 12/31/09.  
 The portfolio is actively managed and current holdings may be different.

## MANAGEMENT REVIEW

### Summary of Results

For the twelve months ended December 31, 2009, Initial Class shares of the MFS Research Series (the “fund”) provided a total return of 30.54%, while Service Class shares of the fund provided a total return of 30.20%. These compare with a return of 26.46% for the fund’s benchmark, the Standard & Poor’s 500 Stock Index (S&P 500 Index).

### Market Environment

After having suffered through one of the largest and most concentrated downturns since the 1930s, most asset markets staged a remarkable rebound during 2009. During the early stages of the period, the fallout from a series of tumultuous financial events pushed global equity and credit markets to their lowest points during the crisis. Not only did Europe and Japan fall into very deep recessions, but an increasingly powerful engine of global growth – emerging markets – also contracted almost across the board. The subsequent recovery in global activity has been similarly synchronized, led importantly by emerging Asian economies, but broadening to include most of the global economy to varying degrees. Primary drivers of the recovery included an unwinding of the inventory destocking that took place earlier, as well as massive fiscal and monetary stimulus.

During the first half of the reporting period, with the policy rate having been cut almost to 0%, the Fed continued to use its new lending facilities to alleviate ever-tightening credit markets. On the fiscal front, the U.S. Treasury designed and began implementing a massive fiscal stimulus package. As inflationary concerns diminished in the face of global deleveraging and equity and credit markets deteriorated more sharply, central banks around the world also cut interest rates dramatically. By the middle of the period, several central banks had approached their lower bound on policy rates and were examining the implementation and ramifications of quantitative easing as a means to further loosen monetary policy to offset the continuing fall in global economic activity.

However, by the end of the period, there were ever-broadening signs that the global macroeconomic deterioration had passed, which caused the subsequent rise in asset valuations. As most asset prices rebounded in the second half of the period and the demand for liquidity waned, the debate concerning the existence of asset bubbles and the need for monetary exit strategies had begun, creating added uncertainty regarding the forward path of policy rates.

### Contributors to Performance

Strong stock selection in the *consumer cyclicals* sector contributed to the fund’s performance relative to the S&P 500 Index. Holdings of strong-performing luxury retailer Nordstrom<sup>(h)</sup> were among the fund’s top relative contributors. Shares of Nordstrom performed well as the company reported earnings that met analyst expectations due, in part, to the company’s tight inventory management and the lowering of its prices in an effort to offset slumping sales during the reporting period.

Favorable security selection in the *technology* sector also boosted relative returns over the reporting period. Standout performers within this sector that benefited relative results included computer and personal electronics maker Apple, Singapore-based electronics manufacturer Flextronics International<sup>(b)(h)</sup>, Canadian wireless solutions provider Research In Motion<sup>(b)(h)</sup>, and business intelligence software company MicroStrategy<sup>(b)</sup>. Stock of Flextronics International moved higher after the company reported better than expected sales and earnings during the reporting period. In addition, the company generated strong cash flow which it used to pay down debt.

Security selection in the *health care*, *capital goods*, and *energy* sectors was another positive area of relative performance. No individual securities within the *health care* sector were among the fund’s top relative contributors. Within the *capital goods* sector, Canadian mining company Teck Resources<sup>(b)</sup> and industrial automation products maker Rockwell Automation had a positive impact on relative returns. Shares of Rockwell increased on the company’s higher-than-expected earnings. Largely avoiding weak-performing diversified industrial conglomerate General Electric<sup>(h)</sup> also helped. Within the *energy* sector, our underweighted positions in integrated oil and gas company Exxon Mobil aided relative performance.

Elsewhere, the timing of our ownership in shares of household products maker Procter & Gamble contributed to relative results over the reporting period.

### Detractors from Performance

Stock selection in the *financial services* sector detracted from the fund’s relative performance. The fund’s overweighted position in financial services firms, State Street Corporation and Bank of New York Mellon, and insurance company MetLife held back relative results as these stocks significantly underperformed the benchmark during the reporting period. Shares of Bank of New York Mellon lagged peers due to sluggish net interest income and a larger-than-expected bond write-off. The timing of our ownership in shares of bank operators, Bank of America and Wells Fargo<sup>(h)</sup>, also held back relative returns.

## MFS Research Series

*Management Review – continued*

Elsewhere, our overweighted position in global biotech company Genzyme had a negative effect on relative results. Shares of Genzyme suffered as the company announced that it had failed a government inspection in its Massachusetts manufacturing facility and had to temporarily shut down due to a viral infection in one of its bioreactors. In addition, the timing of our ownership in shares of solar electric power modules manufacturer First Solar, and not owning strong-performing software giant Microsoft, computer company International Business Machines (IBM), and precious metals maker Freeport-McMoRan, also hurt relative performance.

Respectfully,

Joseph MacDougall      Katrina Mead  
Portfolio Manager      Portfolio Manager

(b) Security is not a benchmark constituent.

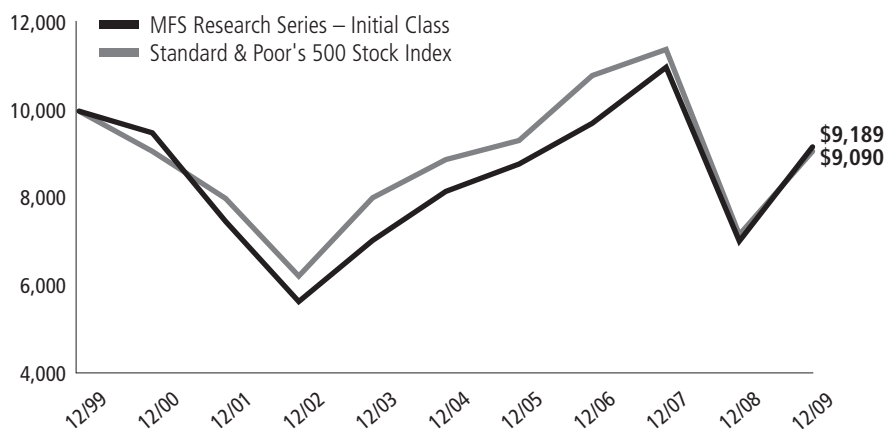
(h) Security was not held in the portfolio at period end.

The views expressed in this report are those of the portfolio managers 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 12/31/09

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 units, 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 contract holder would pay on fund distributions or the redemption of contract units. 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 12/31/09****Average annual total returns**

Share class	Class inception date	1-yr	5-yr	10-yr	Life (t)
Initial Class	7/26/95	30.54%	2.38%	(0.84)%	N/A
Service Class	5/01/00	30.20%	2.13%	N/A	(1.57)%

**Comparative benchmark**

Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index (f)	26.46%	0.42%	(0.95)%	N/A
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(f) Source: FactSet Research Systems Inc.

(t) For the period from the class inception date through the stated period end (for those share classes with less than 10 years of performance history). No comparative benchmark information is provided for "life" periods. (See Notes to Performance Summary.)

**Benchmark Definition**

Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index – a market capitalization-weighted index of 500 widely held equity securities, designed to measure broad U.S. equity performance.

It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

**Notes to Performance Summary**

Average annual total return represents the average annual change in value for each share class for the periods presented. Life returns are presented where the share class has less than 10 years of performance history and represent the average annual total return from the class inception date to the stated period end date. As the fund's share classes may have different inception dates, the life returns may represent different time periods and may not be comparable. As a result, no comparative benchmark performance information is provided for life periods.

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.

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

## MFS Research Series

### EXPENSE TABLE

#### Fund Expenses Borne by the Contract Holders During the Period, July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

As a contract holder 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, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

#### 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 7/01/09	Ending Account Value 12/31/09	Expenses Paid During Period (p) 7/01/09-12/31/09
Initial Class	Actual	0.88%	\$1,000.00	\$1,229.23	\$4.94
	Hypothetical (h)	0.88%	\$1,000.00	\$1,020.77	\$4.48
Service Class	Actual	1.13%	\$1,000.00	\$1,228.02	\$6.35
	Hypothetical (h)	1.13%	\$1,000.00	\$1,019.51	\$5.75

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

(p) Expenses paid is equal to each class' annualized expense ratio, as shown above, multiplied by the average account value over the period, multiplied by the number of days in the period, divided by the number of days in the year.

## PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS – 12/31/09

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

Issuer	Shares/Par	Value (\$)	Issuer	Shares/Par	Value (\$)
<b>COMMON STOCKS – 99.4%</b>			<b>COMMON STOCKS – continued</b>		
<b>Aerospace – 1.7%</b>			<b>Consumer Products – 2.6%</b>		
Goodrich Corp.	28,610	\$ 1,838,193	Church & Dwight Co., Inc.	6,000	\$ 362,700
Lockheed Martin Corp.	21,200	1,597,420	Kimberly-Clark Corp.	16,260	1,035,925
		<u>\$ 3,435,613</u>	Procter & Gamble Co.	62,420	3,784,525
					<u>\$ 5,183,150</u>
<b>Apparel Manufacturers – 0.8%</b>			<b>Consumer Services – 0.5%</b>		
NIKE, Inc., "B"	24,720	\$ 1,633,250	Strayer Education, Inc.	4,360	\$ 926,456
<b>Biotechnology – 1.6%</b>			<b>Electrical Equipment – 3.8%</b>		
Amgen, Inc. (a)	25,620	\$ 1,449,323	Danaher Corp.	65,490	\$ 4,924,848
Genzyme Corp. (a)	35,100	1,720,251	Rockwell Automation, Inc.	21,310	1,001,144
		<u>\$ 3,169,574</u>	Tyco Electronics Ltd.	66,320	1,628,156
					<u>\$ 7,554,148</u>
<b>Broadcasting – 0.7%</b>			<b>Electronics – 2.9%</b>		
Walt Disney Co.	44,410	\$ 1,432,222	First Solar, Inc. (a)	4,300	\$ 582,220
<b>Brokerage &amp; Asset Managers – 2.1%</b>			Intel Corp.	152,030	3,101,412
Affiliated Managers Group, Inc. (a)	17,790	\$ 1,198,157	Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., GDR	6,052	2,086,770
Charles Schwab Corp.	33,400	628,588			<u>\$ 5,770,402</u>
CME Group, Inc.	2,450	823,077	<b>Energy – Independent – 4.2%</b>		
Franklin Resources, Inc.	14,200	1,495,970	Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	23,160	\$ 1,445,647
		<u>\$ 4,145,792</u>	Apache Corp.	19,300	1,991,181
<b>Business Services – 1.8%</b>			Cobalt International Energy, Inc. (a)	50,300	696,152
Accenture Ltd., "A"	40,890	\$ 1,696,935	Devon Energy Corp.	7,200	529,200
MasterCard, Inc., "A"	6,910	1,768,822	Noble Energy, Inc.	15,780	1,123,852
		<u>\$ 3,465,757</u>	Occidental Petroleum Corp.	20,060	1,631,881
<b>Cable TV – 0.9%</b>			Southwestern Energy Co. (a)	16,470	793,854
Comcast Corp., "Special A"	23,800	\$ 381,038			<u>\$ 8,211,767</u>
DIRECTV Group, Inc., "A" (a)	18,720	624,312	<b>Energy – Integrated – 5.4%</b>		
Time Warner Cable, Inc.	17,930	742,123	Chevron Corp.	66,800	\$ 5,142,932
		<u>\$ 1,747,473</u>	Exxon Mobil Corp. (s)	67,580	4,608,280
<b>Chemicals – 2.3%</b>			Hess Corp.	10,620	642,510
Celanese Corp.	45,570	\$ 1,462,797	Suncor Energy, Inc.	8,230	292,813
Monsanto Co.	38,740	3,166,995			<u>\$ 10,686,535</u>
		<u>\$ 4,629,792</u>	<b>Engineering – Construction – 1.1%</b>		
<b>Computer Software – 2.9%</b>			Fluor Corp.	46,920	\$ 2,113,277
Adobe Systems, Inc. (a)	43,890	\$ 1,614,274	<b>Food &amp; Beverages – 4.5%</b>		
MicroStrategy, Inc., "A" (a)	7,620	716,432	Flowers Foods, Inc.	24,510	\$ 582,358
Oracle Corp.	138,560	3,400,262	General Mills, Inc.	27,460	1,944,443
		<u>\$ 5,730,968</u>	J.M. Smucker Co.	23,591	1,456,744
<b>Computer Software – Systems – 6.1%</b>			Kellogg Co.	18,120	963,984
Apple, Inc. (a)	25,230	\$ 5,319,998	Nestle S.A.	13,147	638,718
Dell, Inc. (a)	105,370	1,513,113	PepsiCo, Inc. (s)	53,640	3,261,312
EMC Corp. (a)	85,290	1,490,016			<u>\$ 8,847,559</u>
Hewlett-Packard Co.	73,840	3,803,498	<b>Food &amp; Drug Stores – 0.9%</b>		
		<u>\$ 12,126,625</u>	Walgreen Co.	50,840	\$ 1,866,845
<b>Construction – 1.4%</b>			<b>Gaming &amp; Lodging – 0.5%</b>		
Lennar Corp., "A"	141,100	\$ 1,801,847	International Game Technology	23,580	\$ 442,597
Sherwin-Williams Co.	14,250	878,513	Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc.	13,810	505,032
		<u>\$ 2,680,360</u>			<u>\$ 947,629</u>

## MFS Research Series

Portfolio of Investments – continued

Issuer	Shares/Par	Value (\$)	Issuer	Shares/Par	Value (\$)
<b>COMMON STOCKS – continued</b>			<b>COMMON STOCKS – continued</b>		
<b>General Merchandise – 2.7%</b>			<b>Network &amp; Telecom – 3.1%</b>		
Dollar General Corp. (a)	31,980	\$ 717,311	Cisco Systems, Inc. (a)	167,800	\$ 4,017,132
Target Corp.	50,100	2,423,337	Juniper Networks, Inc. (a)	53,290	1,421,244
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	40,500	2,164,725	Palm, Inc. (a)	59,100	593,364
		<u>\$ 5,305,373</u>			<u>\$ 6,031,740</u>
<b>Health Maintenance Organizations – 0.6%</b>			<b>Oil Services – 1.6%</b>		
WellPoint, Inc. (a)	19,100	\$ 1,113,339	Halliburton Co.	74,080	\$ 2,229,067
<b>Insurance – 2.1%</b>			Noble Corp.	21,100	858,770
ACE Ltd.	11,110	\$ 559,944			<u>\$ 3,087,837</u>
Aflac, Inc.	21,240	982,350	<b>Other Banks &amp; Diversified Financials – 0.8%</b>		
MetLife, Inc.	27,550	973,893	American Express Co.	38,080	\$ 1,543,002
Prudential Financial, Inc.	16,210	806,610	<b>Pharmaceuticals – 5.1%</b>		
Travelers Cos., Inc.	15,420	768,841	Abbott Laboratories	62,120	\$ 3,353,859
		<u>\$ 4,091,638</u>	Johnson & Johnson	60,120	3,872,329
<b>Internet – 2.5%</b>			Pfizer, Inc.	80,150	1,457,928
Google, Inc., "A" (a)	7,970	\$ 4,941,241	Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., ADR	25,160	1,413,489
<b>Machinery &amp; Tools – 0.4%</b>					<u>\$ 10,097,605</u>
RTI International Metals, Inc. (a)	27,650	\$ 695,951	<b>Precious Metals &amp; Minerals – 0.7%</b>		
<b>Major Banks – 8.7%</b>			Teck Resources Ltd., "B" (a)	39,910	\$ 1,405,064
Bank of America Corp.	271,630	\$ 4,090,748	<b>Printing &amp; Publishing – 0.3%</b>		
Bank of New York Mellon Corp.	59,099	1,652,999	Lamar Advertising Co., "A" (a)	17,270	\$ 536,924
Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	18,720	3,160,685	<b>Specialty Chemicals – 1.0%</b>		
JPMorgan Chase & Co. (s)	111,580	4,649,539	Praxair, Inc.	17,120	\$ 1,374,907
Regions Financial Corp.	150,010	793,553	Rockwood Holdings, Inc. (a)	26,880	633,293
State Street Corp.	44,320	1,929,693			<u>\$ 2,008,200</u>
SunTrust Banks, Inc.	44,460	902,093	<b>Specialty Stores – 4.3%</b>		
		<u>\$ 17,179,310</u>	Abercrombie & Fitch Co., "A"	35,110	\$ 1,223,584
<b>Medical &amp; Health Technology &amp; Services – 1.4%</b>			Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	19,590	793,003
DaVita, Inc. (a)	17,190	\$ 1,009,741	Amazon.com, Inc. (a)	7,330	986,031
Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings (a)	13,880	1,038,779	GameStop Corp., "A" (a)	29,780	653,373
VCA Antech, Inc. (a)	32,140	800,929	Home Depot, Inc.	68,680	1,986,912
		<u>\$ 2,849,449</u>	Limited Brands, Inc.	49,250	947,570
<b>Medical Equipment – 4.4%</b>			Staples, Inc.	74,860	1,840,807
Becton, Dickinson & Co.	16,180	\$ 1,275,955			<u>\$ 8,431,280</u>
Medtronic, Inc.	49,980	2,198,120	<b>Telecommunications – Wireless – 0.1%</b>		
St. Jude Medical, Inc. (a)	38,360	1,410,881	Sprint Nextel Corp. (a)	49,360	\$ 180,658
Synthes, Inc.	8,790	1,151,212	<b>Telephone Services – 3.0%</b>		
Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc. (a)	28,540	1,361,073	American Tower Corp., "A" (a)	23,130	\$ 999,447
Waters Corp. (a)	21,970	1,361,261	AT&T, Inc.	139,720	3,916,352
		<u>\$ 8,758,502</u>	CenturyTel, Inc.	27,900	1,010,259
<b>Metals &amp; Mining – 0.5%</b>					<u>\$ 5,926,058</u>
United States Steel Corp.	16,610	\$ 915,543	<b>Tobacco – 1.8%</b>		
<b>Natural Gas – Distribution – 1.3%</b>			Lorillard, Inc.	8,400	\$ 673,932
EQT Corp.	21,670	\$ 951,746	Philip Morris International, Inc.	59,440	2,864,413
Questar Corp.	14,620	607,753			<u>\$ 3,538,345</u>
Sempra Energy	18,890	1,057,462	<b>Trucking – 1.4%</b>		
		<u>\$ 2,616,961</u>	Expeditors International of Washington, Inc.	81,410	\$ 2,827,369

## Portfolio of Investments – continued

Issuer	Shares/Par	Value (\$)
<b>COMMON STOCKS – continued</b>		
<b>Utilities – Electric Power – 2.9%</b>		
American Electric Power Co., Inc.	36,040	\$ 1,253,831
CMS Energy Corp.	63,380	992,531
NRG Energy, Inc. (a)	18,890	445,993
PG&E Corp.	24,900	1,111,785
PPL Corp.	29,510	953,468
Progress Energy, Inc.	5,460	223,915
Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc.	24,720	821,940
		<u>\$ 5,803,463</u>
<b>Total Common Stocks</b> <b>(Identified Cost, \$185,644,484)</b>		<b><u>\$196,190,046</u></b>
<b>MONEY MARKET FUNDS (v) – 0.7%</b>		
MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio, 0.12%, at Cost and Net Asset Value	1,459,456	\$ 1,459,456
<b>Issuer/Expiration Date/Strike Price</b>	<b>Number of</b>	<b>Contracts</b>
<b>CALL OPTIONS PURCHASED – 0.1%</b>		
<b>Energy – Independent – 0.1%</b>		
Devon Energy Corp. – April 2010 @ \$75 (Premiums Paid, \$57,165)	179	\$ 80,550
<b>Total Investments</b> <b>(Identified Cost, \$187,161,105)</b>		<b><u>\$197,730,052</u></b>

Issuer	Shares/Par	Value (\$)
<b>SECURITIES SOLD SHORT – (0.3)%</b>		
<b>Network &amp; Telecom – (0.3)%</b>		
Motorola, Inc. (Proceeds Received, \$580,485) (a)	(67,500)	\$ (523,800)
<b>OTHER ASSETS, LESS</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES – 0.1%</b>		
<b>Net Assets – 100.0%</b>		
		<b><u>218,610</u></b>
		<b><u>\$197,424,862</u></b>

(a) Non-income producing security.

(s) Security or a portion of the security was pledged to cover collateral requirements for securities sold short. At December 31, 2009, the value of securities pledged amounted to \$346,357.

(v) Underlying fund that is available only to investment companies managed by MFS. The rate quoted is the annualized seven-day yield of the fund at period end.

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

ADR American Depository Receipt

GDR Global Depository Receipt

**See Notes to Financial Statements**

## MFS Research Series

### 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 12/31/09

#### Assets

Investments –	
Non-affiliated issuers, at value (identified cost, \$185,701,649)	\$196,270,596
Underlying funds, at cost and value	1,459,456
Total investments, at value (identified cost, \$187,161,105)	\$197,730,052
Foreign currency, at value (identified cost, \$672)	677
Deposits with brokers for securities sold short	580,477
Receivables for	
Investments sold	47,222
Fund shares sold	19,277
Interest and dividends	203,565
Other assets	3,133
Total assets	\$198,584,403

#### Liabilities

Payables for	
Securities sold short, at value (proceeds received, \$580,485)	\$523,800
Investments purchased	497,155
Fund shares reacquired	78,638
Payable to affiliates	
Investment adviser	8,184
Shareholder servicing costs	99
Distribution and/or service fees	238
Administrative services fee	218
Payable for independent Trustees' compensation	18
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	51,191
Total liabilities	\$1,159,541
Net assets	\$197,424,862

#### Net assets consist of

Paid-in capital	\$393,938,678
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	10,625,825
Accumulated net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions	(208,901,469)
Undistributed net investment income	1,761,828
Net assets	\$197,424,862
Shares of beneficial interest outstanding	11,923,179

	Net assets	Shares outstanding	Net asset value per share
Initial Class	\$180,228,583	10,879,602	\$16.57
Service Class	17,196,279	1,043,577	16.48

See Notes to Financial Statements

## 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 12/31/09**

**Net investment income**

Income		
Dividends	\$3,271,964	
Interest	100,808	
Dividends from underlying funds	3,152	
Foreign taxes withheld	(37,590)	
<b>Total investment income</b>		<b>\$3,338,334</b>
Expenses		
Management fee	\$1,282,780	
Distribution and/or service fees	35,434	
Shareholder servicing costs	26,772	
Administrative services fee	38,730	
Independent Trustees' compensation	7,080	
Custodian fee	40,756	
Shareholder communications	69,834	
Auditing fees	47,710	
Legal fees	5,908	
Dividend and interest expense on securities sold short	2,835	
Miscellaneous	19,597	
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>\$1,577,436</b>
Fees paid indirectly	(2)	
Reduction of expenses by investment adviser	(1,050)	
<b>Net expenses</b>		<b>\$1,576,384</b>
<b>Net investment income</b>		<b>\$1,761,950</b>
<b>Realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions</b>		
Realized gain (loss) (identified cost basis)		
Investment transactions	\$(24,295,985)	
Written option transactions	24,663	
Securities sold short	(100,663)	
Foreign currency transactions	411	
<b>Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions</b>		<b>\$(24,371,574)</b>
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)		
Investments	\$69,199,537	
Securities sold short	87,460	
Translation of assets and liabilities in foreign currencies	641	
<b>Net unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency translation</b>		<b>\$69,287,638</b>
<b>Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency</b>		<b>\$44,916,064</b>
<b>Change in net assets from operations</b>		<b>\$46,678,014</b>

**See Notes to Financial Statements**

## MFS Research Series

### 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.

<b>For years ended 12/31</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>		
<b>From operations</b>		
Net investment income	\$1,761,950	\$2,462,416
Net realized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency transactions	(24,371,574)	(21,397,962)
Net unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency translation	69,287,638	(79,532,966)
Change in net assets from operations	\$46,678,014	\$(98,468,512)
<b>Distributions declared to shareholders</b>		
From net investment income	\$(2,452,982)	\$(1,312,851)
Change in net assets from fund share transactions	\$(9,268,512)	\$(40,205,384)
Total change in net assets	\$34,956,520	\$(139,986,747)
<b>Net assets</b>		
At beginning of period	162,468,342	302,455,089
At end of period (including undistributed net investment income of \$1,761,828 and \$2,452,449, respectively)	\$197,424,862	\$162,468,342

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 by which 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	Years ended 12/31				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$12.90	\$20.28	\$18.04	\$16.41	\$15.30
<b>Income (loss) from investment operations</b>					
Net investment income (d)	\$0.15	\$0.18	\$0.09	\$0.12	\$0.07
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency	3.72	(7.47)	2.28	1.59	1.11
Total from investment operations	\$3.87	\$(7.29)	\$2.37	\$1.71	\$1.18
<b>Less distributions declared to shareholders</b>					
From net investment income	\$(0.20)	\$(0.09)	\$(0.13)	\$(0.08)	\$(0.07)
Net asset value, end of period	\$16.57	\$12.90	\$20.28	\$18.04	\$16.41
Total return (%) (k)(r)(s)	30.54	(36.09)(t)	13.20	10.48	7.80
<b>Ratios (%) (to average net assets) and Supplemental data:</b>					
Expenses before expense reductions (f)	0.90	0.88	0.88	0.90	0.93
Expenses after expense reductions (f)	0.90	0.88	0.88	0.89	0.93
Expenses after expense reductions excluding short sale dividend and interest expense (f)	0.90	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Net investment income	1.05	1.04	0.46	0.71	0.47
Portfolio turnover	107	123	87	90	93
Net assets at end of period (000 omitted)	\$180,229	\$149,517	\$281,339	\$267,602	\$289,472

See Notes to Financial Statements

## MFS Research Series

Financial Highlights – continued

Service Class	Years ended 12/31				
	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$12.82	\$20.16	\$17.94	\$16.33	\$15.23
<b>Income (loss) from investment operations</b>					
Net investment income (d)	\$0.11	\$0.13	\$0.05	\$0.09	\$0.04
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments and foreign currency	3.71	(7.42)	2.26	1.57	1.11
Total from investment operations	\$3.82	\$(7.29)	\$2.31	\$1.66	\$1.15
<b>Less distributions declared to shareholders</b>					
From net investment income	\$(0.16)	\$(0.05)	\$(0.09)	\$(0.05)	\$(0.05)
Net asset value, end of period	\$16.48	\$12.82	\$20.16	\$17.94	\$16.33
Total return (%) (k)(r)(s)	30.20	(36.25)(t)	12.93	10.20	7.57
<b>Ratios (%) (to average net assets) and Supplemental data:</b>					
Expenses before expense reductions (f)	1.15	1.14	1.13	1.14	1.19
Expenses after expense reductions (f)	1.15	1.13	1.13	1.14	1.19
Expenses after expense reductions excluding short sale dividend and interest expense (f)	1.15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Net investment income	0.80	0.78	0.23	0.51	0.23
Portfolio turnover	107	123	87	90	93
Net assets at end of period (000 omitted)	\$17,196	\$12,951	\$21,116	\$16,674	\$13,533

(d) Per share data is based on average shares outstanding.

(f) Ratios do not reflect reductions from fees paid indirectly, if applicable.

(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.

(t) Excluding the effect of the proceeds received from a non-recurring litigation settlement against Enron Corp., the Initial Class and Service Class total returns for the year ended December 31, 2008 would have each been lower by approximately 0.82%.

**See Notes to Financial Statements**

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**(1) Business and Organization**

MFS Research Series (the fund) is a series of MFS Variable Insurance Trust (the trust). The trust is organized as a Massachusetts business 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.

**(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 revenues and expenses 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 February 16, 2010 which is the date that the financial statements were issued. The fund can invest in foreign securities, including securities of emerging market issuers. Investments in foreign securities are vulnerable to the effects of changes in the relative values of the local currency and the U.S. dollar and to the effects of changes in each country's legal, political, and economic environment. The markets of emerging markets countries are generally more volatile than the markets of developed countries with more mature economies. All of the risks of investing in foreign securities previously described are heightened when investing in emerging markets countries.

**Investment Valuations** – Equity securities, including restricted equity securities, are generally valued at the last sale or official closing price as provided by a third-party pricing service on the market or exchange on which they are primarily traded. Equity securities, for which there were no sales reported that day, are generally valued at the last quoted daily bid quotation as provided by a third-party pricing service on the market or exchange on which such securities are primarily traded. Equity securities held short, for which there were no sales reported for that day, are generally valued at the last quoted daily ask quotation as provided by a third-party pricing service on the market or exchange on which such securities are primarily traded. Short-term instruments with a maturity at issuance of 60 days or less generally are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. Exchange-traded options are generally valued at the last sale or official closing price as provided by a third-party pricing service on the exchange on which such options are primarily traded. Exchange-traded options for which there were no sales reported that day are generally valued at the last daily bid quotation as provided by a third-party pricing service on the exchange on which such options are primarily traded. Options not traded on an exchange are generally valued at a broker/dealer bid quotation. Foreign currency options are generally valued using an external pricing model that uses market data from a third-party source. Open-end investment companies are generally valued at net asset value per share. 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. Values obtained from third-party pricing services can utilize both transaction data and market information such as yield, quality, coupon rate, maturity, type of issue, trading characteristics, and other market data. 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.

The Board of Trustees has delegated primary responsibility for determining or causing to be determined the value of the fund's investments (including any fair valuation) to the adviser pursuant to valuation policies and procedures approved by the Board. If the adviser determines that reliable market quotations are not readily available, investments are valued at fair value as determined in good faith by the adviser in accordance with such procedures under the oversight of the Board of Trustees. Under the fund's valuation policies and procedures, market quotations are not considered to be readily available for most types of debt instruments and floating rate loans and many types of derivatives. These investments are generally valued at fair value based on information from third-party pricing services. In addition, investments may be valued at fair value if the adviser determines that an 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 halting 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 on a frequent basis 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 may be deemed to have a material affect 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; 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

## MFS Research Series

Notes to Financial Statements – continued

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 carried at market value. 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 unobservable inputs, which may include the adviser's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments. Other financial instruments are derivative instruments not reflected in total investments, such as futures, forwards, swap contracts, and written options. The following is a summary of the levels used as of December 31, 2009 in valuing the fund's assets or liabilities carried at market value:

Investments at Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Equity Securities:				
United States	\$189,282,530	\$—	\$—	\$189,282,530
South Korea	—	2,086,770	—	2,086,770
Switzerland	—	1,789,930	—	1,789,930
Canada	1,697,877	—	—	1,697,877
Israel	1,413,489	—	—	1,413,489
Mutual Funds	1,459,456	—	—	1,459,456
Total investments	\$193,853,352	\$3,876,700	\$—	\$197,730,052
Short Sales	\$(523,800)	\$—	\$—	\$(523,800)

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

**Repurchase Agreements** – The fund may enter into repurchase agreements with approved counterparties. Each repurchase agreement is recorded at cost. The fund requires that the securities collateral in a repurchase transaction be transferred to a custodian. The fund monitors, on a daily basis, the value of the collateral to ensure that its value, including accrued interest, is greater than amounts owed to the fund under each such repurchase agreement. The fund and other funds managed by MFS may utilize a joint trading account for the purpose of entering into one or more repurchase agreements.

**Foreign Currency Translation** – Purchases and sales of foreign investments, income, and expenses are converted into U.S. dollars based upon currency exchange rates prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions or on the reporting date for foreign denominated receivables and payables. Gains and losses attributable to foreign currency exchange rates on sales of securities are recorded for financial statement purposes as net realized gains and losses on investments. Gains and losses attributable to foreign exchange rate movements on receivables, payables, income and expenses are recorded for financial statement purposes as foreign currency transaction gains and losses. That portion of both realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments that results from fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates is not separately disclosed.

**Derivatives** – The fund may use derivatives for different purposes, including to earn income and enhance returns, to increase or decrease exposure to a particular market, to manage or adjust the risk profile of the fund, or as alternatives to direct investments. Derivatives may be used for hedging or non-hedging purposes. While hedging can reduce or eliminate losses, it can also reduce or eliminate gains. When the fund uses derivatives as an investment to increase market exposure, or for hedging purposes, gains and losses from derivative instruments may be substantially greater than the derivative's original cost.

In this reporting period the fund adopted the disclosure provisions of FASB Accounting Standard Codification 815, Derivatives and Hedging ("ASC 815"). ASC 815 requires enhanced disclosures about the fund's use of and accounting for derivative instruments and the effect of derivative instruments on the fund's results of operations and financial position. Tabular disclosure regarding derivative fair value and gain/loss by contract type (e.g., interest rate contracts, foreign exchange contracts, credit contracts, etc.) is required and derivatives accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815 must be disclosed separately from those that do not qualify for hedge accounting. Even though the fund may use derivatives in an attempt to achieve an economic hedge, the fund's derivatives are not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815 because investment companies account for their derivatives at fair value and record any changes in fair value in current period earnings.

## Notes to Financial Statements – continued

Derivative instruments include written options, purchased options, futures contracts, forward foreign currency exchange contracts, and swap agreements. The fund's period end derivatives, as presented in the Portfolio of Investments and the associated Derivative Contract Tables, generally are indicative of the volume of its derivative activity during the period.

The following table presents, by major type of derivative contract, the fair value, on a gross basis, of the asset and liability components of derivatives held by the fund at December 31, 2009:

		Asset Derivatives	
		Location on Statement of Assets and Liabilities	Fair Value
Equity Contracts	Equity Options Purchased	Total investments, at value	\$80,550

The following table presents, by major type of derivative contract, the realized gain (loss) on derivatives held by the fund for the year ended December 31, 2009 as reported in the Statement of Operations:

	Written Option Transactions	Investment Transactions (i.e., Purchased Options)	Total
Equity Contracts	\$24,663	\$(367,590)	\$(342,927)

The following table presents, by major type of derivative contract, the change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on derivatives held by the fund for the year ended December 31, 2009 as reported in the Statement of Operations:

		Investments (i.e., Purchased Options)
Equity Contracts	Equity Options Purchased	\$23,385

Derivative counterparty credit risk is managed through formal evaluation of the creditworthiness of all potential counterparties. On certain over-the-counter derivatives, the fund attempts to reduce its exposure to counterparty credit risk whenever possible by entering into an International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA) Master Agreement on a bilateral basis with each of the counterparties with whom it undertakes a significant volume of transactions. The ISDA Master Agreement gives each party to the agreement the right to terminate all transactions traded under such agreement if there is a certain deterioration in the credit quality of the other party. The ISDA Master Agreement gives the fund the right, upon an event of default by the applicable counterparty or a termination of the agreement, to close out all transactions traded under such agreement and to net amounts owed under each transaction to one net amount payable by one party to the other. This right to close out and net payments across all transactions traded under the ISDA Master Agreement could result in a reduction of the fund's credit risk to such counterparty equal to any amounts payable by the fund under the applicable transactions, if any. However, absent an event of default by the counterparty or a termination of the agreement, the ISDA Master Agreement does not result in an offset of reported balance sheet assets and liabilities across transactions between the fund and the applicable counterparty.

Collateral requirements differ by type of derivative. Collateral or margin requirements are set by the broker or exchange clearing house for exchange traded derivatives (i.e., futures and exchange-traded options) while collateral terms are contract specific for over-the-counter traded derivatives (i.e., forwards, swaps and over-the-counter options). For derivatives traded under an ISDA Master Agreement, the collateral requirements are netted across all transactions traded under such agreement and one amount is posted from one party to the other to collateralize such obligations. Cash collateral that has been pledged to cover obligations of the fund under derivative contracts will be reported separately on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as restricted cash. Securities collateral pledged for the same purpose is noted in the Portfolio of Investments.

**Written Options** – In exchange for a premium, the fund writes call or put options on securities for which it believes the premium received exceeds the potential loss that would result from adverse price changes in the options' underlying securities. In a written option, the fund as the option writer grants the buyer the right to purchase from, or sell to, the fund a specified number of shares or units of a particular security, currency or index at a specified price within a specified period of time.

The premium received is initially recorded as a liability on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The option is subsequently marked-to-market daily with the difference between the premium received and the market value of the written option being recorded as unrealized appreciation or depreciation. When a written option expires, the fund realizes a gain equal to the amount of the premium received. The difference between the premium received and the amount paid on effecting a closing transaction is considered a realized gain or loss. When a written call option is exercised, the premium received is offset against the proceeds to determine the realized gain or loss. When a written put option is exercised, the premium reduces the cost basis of the security purchased by the fund.

## MFS Research Series

Notes to Financial Statements – continued

At the initiation of the written option contract, for exchange traded options, the fund is required to deposit securities or cash as collateral with the custodian for the benefit of the broker. For over-the-counter options, the fund may post collateral subject to the terms of an ISDA Master Agreement as generally described above if the market value of the options contract moves against it. The fund, as writer of an option, may have no control over whether the underlying securities may be sold (call) or purchased (put) and, as a result, bears the market risk of an unfavorable change in the price of the securities underlying the written option. Although the fund's market risk may be significant, the maximum counterparty credit risk to the fund is equal to the market value of any collateral posted to the broker. For over-the-counter options, this risk is mitigated in cases where there is an ISDA Master Agreement between the fund and the counterparty providing for netting as described above.

### Written Option Transactions

	Number of contracts	Premiums received
Outstanding, beginning of period	—	\$ —
Options written	541	61,077
Options closed	(541)	(61,077)
Outstanding, end of period	—	\$ —

**Purchased Options** – The fund may purchase call or put options for a premium. Purchased options entitle the holder to buy or sell a specified number of shares or units of a particular security, currency or index at a specified price at a specified date or within a specified period of time. Purchasing call options may be used to hedge against an anticipated increase in the dollar cost of securities or currency to be acquired or to increase the fund's exposure to an underlying instrument. Purchasing put options may hedge against a decline in the value of portfolio securities or currency.

The premium paid is initially recorded as an investment in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. That investment is subsequently marked-to-market daily with the difference between the premium paid and the market value of the purchased option being recorded as unrealized appreciation or depreciation. Premiums paid for purchased options which have expired are treated as realized losses on investments in the Statement of Operations. Upon the exercise or closing of a purchased option, the premium paid is either added to the cost of the security or financial instrument in the case of a call option, or offset against the proceeds on the sale of the underlying security or financial instrument in the case of a put option, in order to determine the realized gain or loss on investments.

The risk in purchasing an option is that the fund pays a premium whether or not the option is exercised. The fund's maximum risk of loss due to counterparty credit risk is limited to the market value of the option. For over-the-counter options, this risk is mitigated in cases where there is an ISDA Master Agreement between the fund and the counterparty providing for netting as described above and for posting of collateral by the counterparty to the fund to cover the fund's exposure to the counterparty under such ISDA Master Agreement.

**Short Sales** – The fund may enter into short sales whereby it sells a security it does not own in anticipation of a decline in the value of that security. The fund will realize a gain if the security price decreases and a loss if the security price increases between the date of the short sale and the date on which the fund replaces the borrowed security. Losses from short sales can exceed the proceeds of the security sold; and they can also exceed the potential loss from an ordinary buy and sell transaction. The amount of any premium, dividends, or interest the fund may be required to pay in connection with a short sale will be recognized as a fund expense. During the year ended December 31, 2009, this expense amounted to \$2,835. The fund segregates cash or marketable securities in an amount that, when combined with the amount of proceeds from the short sale deposited with the broker, at least equals the current market value of the security sold short.

**Security Loans** – State Street Bank and Trust Company ("State Street"), as lending agent, may loan the securities of the fund to certain qualified institutions (the "Borrowers") approved by the fund. 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. 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. State Street provides the fund with indemnification against Borrower default. The fund bears the risk of loss with respect to the investment of cash collateral. On loans collateralized by cash, the cash collateral is invested in a money market fund or short-term securities. 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 included in interest income on 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. At December 31, 2009, there were no securities on loan.

*Notes to Financial Statements – continued*

**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. All premium and discount is amortized or accreted for financial statement purposes in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. 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 and interest payments received in additional securities are recorded on the ex-dividend or ex-interest date in an amount equal to the value of the security on such date.

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.

**Fees Paid Indirectly** – The fund’s custody fee may be reduced according to an arrangement that measures the value of cash deposited with the custodian by the fund. This amount, for the year ended December 31, 2009, is shown as a reduction of total expenses on 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 for the prior three fiscal years remain subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service. Foreign taxes, if any, have been accrued by the fund in the accompanying financial statements.

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. Distributions in excess of net investment income or net realized gains are temporary overdistributions for financial statement purposes resulting from differences in the recognition or classification of income or distributions for financial statement and tax purposes.

Book/tax differences primarily relate to expiration of capital loss carryforwards, wash sale loss deferrals, and straddle loss deferrals.

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

	12/31/09	12/31/08
Ordinary income (including any short-term capital gains)	\$2,452,982	\$1,312,851

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

<b>As of 12/31/09</b>	
Cost of investments	\$187,506,504
Gross appreciation	22,348,917
Gross depreciation	(12,125,369)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	\$10,223,548
Undistributed ordinary income	1,761,828
Capital loss carryforwards	(208,482,108)
Other temporary differences	(17,084)

As of December 31, 2009, the fund had capital loss carryforwards available to offset future realized gains. Such losses expire as follows:

12/31/10	\$(162,851,213)
12/31/16	(20,169,637)
12/31/17	(25,461,258)
	\$(208,482,108)

## MFS Research Series

Notes to Financial Statements – continued

**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 on the Statements of Changes in Net Assets are presented by class as follows:

	From net investment income	
	Year ended 12/31/09	Year ended 12/31/08
Initial Class	\$2,291,426	\$1,264,745
Service Class	161,556	48,106
Total	\$2,452,982	\$1,312,851

### (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 the following annual rates:

First \$1 billion of average daily net assets	0.75%
Average daily net assets in excess of \$1 billion	0.65%

The management fee incurred for the year ended December 31, 2009 was equivalent to an annual effective rate of 0.75% of the fund’s average daily net assets.

**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, 2009, the fee was \$25,621, which equated to 0.0150% annually of the fund’s average daily net assets. MFSC also receives payment from the fund for out-of-pocket expenses paid by MFSC on behalf of the fund. For the year ended December 31, 2009, these costs amounted to \$1,151.

**Administrator** – MFS provides certain financial, legal, shareholder communications, compliance, and other administrative services to the fund. Under an administrative services agreement, the fund partially 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, 2009 was equivalent to an annual effective rate of 0.0226% 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 for their services to the fund from MFS. Certain officers and Trustees of the fund are officers or directors of MFS, MFD, and MFSC.

**Other** – This fund and certain other funds managed by MFS (the funds) have entered into services agreements (the Agreements) which provide for payment of fees by the funds to Tarantino LLC and Griffin Compliance LLC in return for the provision of services of an Independent Chief Compliance Officer (ICCO) and Assistant ICCO, respectively, for the funds. The ICCO and Assistant ICCO are officers of the funds and the sole members of Tarantino LLC and Griffin Compliance LLC, respectively. The funds can terminate the Agreements with Tarantino LLC and Griffin Compliance LLC at any time under the terms of the Agreements. For the year ended December 31, 2009, the aggregate fees paid by the fund to Tarantino LLC and Griffin Compliance LLC were \$2,011 and are included in miscellaneous expense on the Statement of Operations. MFS has

## Notes to Financial Statements – continued

agreed to reimburse the fund for a portion of the payments made by the fund in the amount of \$1,050, which is shown as a reduction of total expenses in the Statement of Operations. Additionally, MFS has agreed to bear all expenses associated with office space, other administrative support, and supplies provided to the ICCO and Assistant ICCO.

The fund may invest in a money market fund managed by MFS which seeks a high level of current income consistent with preservation of capital and liquidity. Income earned on this investment is included in dividends from underlying funds on the Statement of Operations. This money market fund does not pay a management fee to MFS.

**(4) Portfolio Securities**

Purchases and sales of investments, other than U.S. Government securities, purchased option transactions, short sales, and short-term obligations, aggregated \$180,428,480 and \$187,833,250, 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 12/31/09		Year ended 12/31/08	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Shares sold				
Initial Class	1,367,134	\$18,881,402	2,931,871	\$54,152,673
Service Class	183,284	2,574,386	183,327	3,184,432
	1,550,418	\$21,455,788	3,115,198	\$57,337,105
Shares issued to shareholders in reinvestment of distributions				
Initial Class	183,903	\$2,291,426	66,741	\$1,264,745
Service Class	13,008	161,556	2,551	48,106
	196,911	\$2,452,982	69,292	\$1,312,851
Shares reacquired				
Initial Class	(2,266,106)	\$(30,950,570)	(5,275,210)	\$(95,094,385)
Service Class	(163,311)	(2,226,712)	(222,743)	(3,760,955)
	(2,429,417)	\$(33,177,282)	(5,497,953)	\$(98,855,340)
Net change				
Initial Class	(715,069)	\$(9,777,742)	(2,276,598)	\$(39,676,967)
Service Class	32,981	509,230	(36,865)	(528,417)
	(682,088)	\$(9,268,512)	(2,313,463)	\$(40,205,384)

**(6) Line of Credit**

The fund and certain other funds managed by MFS participate in a \$1.1 billion unsecured committed line of credit, subject to a \$1 billion sublimit, provided by a syndication 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 higher of the Federal Reserve funds rate or one month LIBOR 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 at the end of each calendar quarter. 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 a rate equal to the Federal Reserve funds rate plus an agreed upon spread. For the year ended December 31, 2009, the fund's commitment fee and interest expense were \$2,712 and \$0, respectively, and are included in miscellaneous expense on the Statement of Operations.

**(7) Transactions in Underlying Funds – 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 fund assumes the following to be affiliated issuers:

Underlying Funds	Beginning Shares/Par Amount	Acquisitions Shares/Par Amount	Dispositions Shares/Par Amount	Ending Shares/Par Amount
MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio	—	35,662,218	(34,202,762)	1,459,456
Underlying Funds	Realized Gain (Loss)	Capital Gain Distributions	Dividend Income	Ending Value
MFS Institutional Money Market Portfolio	\$—	\$—	\$3,152	\$1,459,456

## MFS Research Series

### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Trustees of MFS Variable Insurance Trust and the Shareholders of MFS Research Series:

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the portfolio of investments, of MFS Research Series (the "Fund") (one of the series comprising MFS Variable Insurance Trust) as of December 31, 2009, and 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, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). 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. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, 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. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2009, by correspondence with the custodians and brokers; where replies were not received from brokers, we performed other auditing procedures. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of MFS Research Series as of December 31, 2009, the results of its operations for 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, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Boston, Massachusetts  
February 16, 2010

## TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS – IDENTIFICATION AND BACKGROUND

The Trustees and officers of the Trust, as of February 1, 2010, 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 500 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

<u>Name, Date of Birth</u>	<u>Position(s) Held with Fund</u>	<u>Trustee/Officer Since <sup>(h)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years &amp; Other Directorships <sup>(i)</sup></u>
<b>INTERESTED TRUSTEES</b>			
Robert J. Manning <sup>(k)</sup> (born 10/20/63)	Trustee	February 2004	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Investment Officer and Director, President (until December 2009)
Robert C. Pozen <sup>(k)</sup> (born 8/08/46)	Trustee	February 2004	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Chairman (since February 2004); Medtronic, Inc. (medical devices), Director (since 2004); Harvard Business School (education), Senior Lecturer (since 2008); Bell Canada Enterprises (telecommunications), Director (until February 2009); The Bank of New York, Director (finance), (March 2004 to May 2005); Telesat (satellite communications), Director (until November 2007)
<b>INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES</b>			
David H. Gunning (born 5/30/42)	Trustee and Chair of Trustees	January 2004	Retired; Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. (mining products and service provider), Vice Chairman/Director (until May 2007); Lincoln Electric Holdings, Inc. (welding equipment manufacturer), Director; Development Alternatives, Inc. (consulting), Director/Non Executive Chairman; Southwest Gas Corp. (natural gas distribution), Director (until May 2004); Portman Limited (mining), Director (until 2008)
Robert E. Butler <sup>(n)</sup> (born 11/29/41)	Trustee	January 2006	Consultant – investment company industry regulatory and compliance matters (since July 2002); PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (professional services firm), Partner (until 2002)
Lawrence H. Cohn, M.D. (born 3/11/37)	Trustee	June 1989	Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Senior Cardiac Surgeon (since 2005); Harvard Medical School, Professor of Cardiac Surgery; Partners HealthCare, Physician Director of Medical Device Technology (since 2006); Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Chief of Cardiac Surgery (until 2005)
Maureen R. Goldfarb (born 4/6/55)	Trustee	January 2009	Private investor; John Hancock Financial Services, Inc., Executive Vice President (until 2004); John Hancock Mutual Funds, Trustee and Chief Executive Officer (until 2004)
William R. Gutow (born 9/27/41)	Trustee	December 1993	Private investor and real estate consultant; Capital Entertainment Management Company (video franchise), Vice Chairman; Atlantic Coast Tan (tanning salons), Vice Chairman (until 2007); Texas Donuts (donut franchise), Vice Chairman (until 2009)
Michael Hegarty (born 12/21/44)	Trustee	December 2004	Private investor; AXA Financial (financial services and insurance), Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer (until 2001); The Equitable Life Assurance Society (insurance), President and Chief Operating Officer (until 2001)
John P. Kavanaugh (born 11/4/54)	Trustee	January 2009	Private investor; The Hanover Insurance Group, Inc., Vice President and Chief Investment Officer (until 2006); Allmerica Investment Trust, Allmerica Securities Trust and Opus Investment Trust (investment companies), Chairman, President and Trustee (until 2006)
J. Dale Sherratt (born 9/23/38)	Trustee	June 1989	Insight Resources, Inc. (acquisition planning specialists), President; Wellfleet Investments (investor in health care companies), Managing General Partner
Laurie J. Thomsen (born 8/05/57)	Trustee	March 2005	New Profit, Inc. (venture philanthropy), Executive Partner (since 2006); Private investor; The Travelers Companies (commercial property liability insurance), Director; Prism Venture Partners (venture capital), Co-founder and General Partner (until June 2004)
Robert W. Uek (born 5/18/41)	Trustee	January 2006	Consultant to investment company industry; PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (professional services firm), Partner (until 1999); TT International Funds (mutual fund complex), Trustee (until 2005); Hillview Investment Trust II Funds (mutual fund complex), Trustee (until 2005)
<b>OFFICERS</b>			
Maria F. Dwyer <sup>(k)</sup> (born 12/01/58)	President	March 2004	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory Officer (since March 2004) Chief Compliance Officer (since December 2006); Fidelity Management & Research Company, Vice President (prior to March 2004); Fidelity Group of Funds, President and Treasurer (until March 2004)
Christopher R. Bohane <sup>(k)</sup> (born 1/18/74)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	July 2005	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Senior Counsel

## MFS Research Series

### Trustees and Officers – continued

<u>Name, Date of Birth</u>	<u>Position(s) Held with Fund</u>	<u>Trustee/Officer Since <sup>(h)</sup></u>	<u>Principal Occupations During the Past Five Years &amp; Other Directorships <sup>(i)</sup></u>
John M. Corcoran <sup>(k)</sup> (born 4/13/65)	Treasurer	October 2008	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Senior Vice President (since October 2008); State Street Bank and Trust (financial services provider), Senior Vice President, (until September 2008)
Ethan D. Corey <sup>(k)</sup> (born 11/21/63)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	July 2005	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel (since 2004); Dechert LLP (law firm), Counsel (prior to December 2004)
David L. DiLorenzo <sup>(k)</sup> (born 8/10/68)	Assistant Treasurer	July 2005	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President (since June 2005); JP Morgan Investor Services, Vice President (until June 2005)
Timothy M. Fagan <sup>(k)</sup> (born 7/10/68)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	September 2005	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Senior Counsel (since September 2005); John Hancock Advisers, LLC, Vice President, Senior Attorney and Chief Compliance Officer (until August 2005)
Mark D. Fischer <sup>(k)</sup> (born 10/27/70)	Assistant Treasurer	July 2005	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President (since May 2005); JP Morgan Investment Management Company, Vice President (until May 2005)
Robyn L. Griffin (born 7/04/75)	Assistant Independent Chief Compliance Officer	August 2008	Griffin Compliance LLC (provider of compliance services), Principal (since August 2008); State Street Corporation (financial services provider), Mutual Fund Administration Assistant Vice President (October 2006 – July 2008); Liberty Mutual Group (insurance), Personal Market Assistant Controller (April 2006 – October 2006); Deloitte & Touche LLP (professional services firm), Senior Manager (prior to April 2006)
Brian E. Langenfeld <sup>(k)</sup> (born 3/07/73)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	June 2006	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Senior Counsel (since May 2006); John Hancock Advisers, LLC, Assistant Vice President and Counsel (until April 2006)
Ellen Moynihan <sup>(k)</sup> (born 11/13/57)	Assistant Treasurer	April 1997	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Senior Vice President
Susan S. Newton <sup>(k)</sup> (born 3/07/50)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	May 2005	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel (since April 2005); John Hancock Advisers, LLC, Senior Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer (until April 2005)
Susan A. Pereira <sup>(k)</sup> (born 11/05/70)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	July 2005	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Senior Counsel (since June 2004); Bingham McCutchen LLP (law firm), Associate (until June 2004)
Mark N. Polebaum <sup>(k)</sup> (born 5/01/52)	Secretary and Clerk	January 2006	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary (since January 2006); Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP (law firm), Partner (until January 2006)
Frank L. Tarantino (born 3/07/44)	Independent Chief Compliance Officer	June 2004	Tarantino LLC (provider of compliance services), Principal (since June 2004); CRA Business Strategies Group (consulting services), Executive Vice President (until June 2004)
Richard S. Weitzel <sup>(k)</sup> (born 7/16/70)	Assistant Secretary and Assistant Clerk	October 2007	Massachusetts Financial Services Company, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel (since 2004); Massachusetts Department of Business and Technology, General Counsel (until April 2004)
James O. Yost <sup>(k)</sup> (born 6/12/60)	Assistant Treasurer	September 1990	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. For the period from December 15, 2004 until February 22, 2005, Messrs. Pozen and Manning served as Advisory Trustees. For the period March 2008 until October 2008, Ms. Dwyer served as Treasurer of the Funds.

(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 position with MFS. The address of MFS is 500 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

(n) In 2004 and 2005, Mr. Butler provided consulting services to the independent compliance consultant retained by MFS pursuant to its settlement with the SEC concerning market timing and related matters. The terms of that settlement required that compensation and expenses related to the independent compliance consultant be borne exclusively by MFS and, therefore, MFS paid Mr. Butler for the services he rendered to the independent compliance consultant. In 2004 and 2005, MFS paid Mr. Butler a total of \$351,119.29.

Each Trustee 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. The Trust held a shareholders’ meeting in January 2010 to elect Trustees, and will hold a shareholders’ meeting at least once every five years thereafter, to elect Trustees. Messrs. Butler, Kavanaugh, Sherratt, Uek and Ms. Thomsen are members of the Trust’s Audit Committee.

*Trustees and Officers – continued*

Each of the Fund's Trustees and officers holds comparable positions with certain other funds of which MFS or a subsidiary is the investment adviser or distributor, and, in the case of the officers, with certain affiliates of MFS. As of January 1, 2010, the Trustees served as board members of 99 funds within the MFS Family of Funds.

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

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**Investment Adviser**

Massachusetts Financial Services Company  
500 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116-3741

**Distributor**

MFS Fund Distributors, Inc.  
500 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116-3741

**Portfolio Managers**

Joseph MacDougall  
Katrina Mead

**Custodian**

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

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Deloitte & Touche LLP  
200 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

## MFS Research Series

### BOARD REVIEW OF INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT

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, 2009 (“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 the MFS Funds’ Independent Chief Compliance Officer, a full-time senior officer appointed by and reporting 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 agreement and other arrangements 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 Lipper Inc., an independent third party, on the investment performance of the Fund for various time periods ended December 31, 2008 and the investment performance of a group of funds with substantially similar investment classifications/objectives (the “Lipper performance universe”), (ii) information provided by Lipper Inc. on the Fund’s advisory fees and other expenses and the advisory fees and other expenses of comparable funds identified by Lipper Inc. (the “Lipper expense group”), (iii) information provided by MFS on the advisory fees of comparable 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, (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 Lipper Inc. 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 Lipper Inc., the Trustees reviewed the Fund’s total return investment performance as well as the performance of peer groups of funds 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 Lipper performance universe over the three-year period ended December 31, 2008, 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 was in the 2nd quintile relative to the other funds in the universe for this three-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 2nd quintile for the one-year period and the 1st quintile for the five-year period ended December 31, 2008 relative to the Lipper performance universe. Because of the passage of time, these performance results are likely to differ from the performance results for more recent periods, including those shown elsewhere in this report.

*Board Review of Investment Advisory Agreement – continued*

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.

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 peer groups of funds based on information provided by Lipper Inc. The Trustees considered that, according to the Lipper data (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 higher than the Lipper expense group median.

The Trustees also considered the advisory fees charged by MFS to institutional accounts. 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 in comparison to institutional accounts, 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, and the impact on MFS and expenses associated with the more extensive regulatory regime to which the Fund is subject in comparison to institutional accounts.

The Trustees also considered whether the Fund is likely to benefit from any economies of scale in the management of the Fund in the event of growth in assets of the Fund. They noted that the Fund' advisory fee rate schedule is currently subject to a contractual breakpoint that reduces the Fund's advisory fee rate on average daily net assets over \$1 billion. The Trustees concluded that the existing breakpoint was sufficient to allow the Fund to benefit from economies of scale as its 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 entry into the industry 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 also considered benefits to MFS from the use of the Fund's portfolio brokerage commissions, if applicable, to pay for investment research and various other factors. Additionally, the Trustees considered so-called "fall-out benefits" to MFS such as reputational value derived from serving as investment manager to the Fund.

Based on their evaluation of factors that they deemed to be material, including those factors described above, the Board of Trustees, including a majority of 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, 2009.

A discussion regarding the Board's most recent review and renewal of the fund's Investment Advisory Agreement with MFS is available by clicking on the fund's name under "Variable Insurance Portfolios — VIT" in the "Products and Performance" section of the MFS Web site ([mfs.com](http://mfs.com)).

## **MFS Research Series**

### **PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

A general description of the MFS funds' proxy voting policies and procedures is available without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-225-2606, by visiting the Proxy Voting section of *mfs.com* 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 without charge by visiting the Proxy Voting section of *mfs.com* or by visiting the SEC's Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

### **QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO DISCLOSURE**

The fund will file a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The fund's Form N-Q may be reviewed and copied at the:

Public Reference Room  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, NE, Room 1580  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The fund's Form N-Q is available on the EDGAR database on the Commission's Internet Web site at <http://www.sec.gov>, and copies of this information may be obtained, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov) or by writing the Public Reference Section at the above address.

### **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 by visiting the "News & Commentary" section of *mfs.com* or by clicking on the fund's name under "Variable Insurance Portfolios — VIT" in the "Products and Performance" section of *mfs.com*.

### **FEDERAL TAX INFORMATION (unaudited)**

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

For corporate shareholders, 100.00% of the ordinary income dividends paid during the fiscal year qualify for the corporate dividends received deduction.

**MFS® PRIVACY NOTICE**

Privacy is a concern for every investor today. At MFS Investment Management® and the MFS funds, we take this concern very seriously. We want you to understand our policies about the investment products and services that we offer, and how we protect the nonpublic personal information of investors who have a direct relationship with us and our wholly owned subsidiaries.

Throughout our business relationship, you provide us with personal information. We maintain information and records about you, your investments, and the services you use. Examples of the nonpublic personal information we maintain include

- data from investment applications and other forms
- share balances and transactional history with us, our affiliates, or others
- facts from a consumer reporting agency

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone, except as permitted by law. We may share nonpublic personal information with third parties or certain of our affiliates in connection with servicing your account or processing your transactions. We may share information with companies or financial institutions that perform marketing services on our behalf or with other financial institutions with which we have joint marketing arrangements, subject to any legal requirements.

Authorization to access your nonpublic personal information is limited to appropriate personnel who provide products, services, or information to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to help protect the personal information we collect about you.

If you have any questions about the MFS privacy policy, please call 1-800-225-2606 any business day.

*Note:* If you own MFS products or receive MFS services in the name of a third party such as a bank or broker-dealer, their privacy policy may apply to you instead of ours.

