



EDGA Exchange, Inc. & EDGX Exchange, Inc.			
Regulatory Information Circular			
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Subject: First Trust Preferred Securities and Income ETF

Background Information on the Fund

As more fully explained in the [Registration Statement](#) (Nos. 811-22245 and 333-176976), the First Trust Exchange-Traded Fund III (the “Trust”) is a management investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “1940 Act”), consisting of several investment portfolios. This regulatory information circular relates only to the First Trust Preferred Securities and Income ETF (the “Fund”). The shares of the Fund are referred to herein as “Shares.” First Trust Advisors L.P. (“First Trust” or the “Advisor”) is the investment advisor to the Fund.

Ticker	Fund Name	CUSIP
FPE	First Trust Preferred Securities and Income ETF	33739E108

Description of the Fund

Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets (including investment borrowings) in preferred securities (“Preferred Securities”) and income-producing debt securities (“Income Securities”). Initially, 50% of the Preferred Securities and 50% of the Income Securities held by the Fund will be exchange-listed. For purposes of the 80% test set forth above, securities of other open-end funds, closed end funds or exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”) registered under the 1940 Act, that invest primarily in Preferred Securities or Income Securities will be deemed to be Preferred Securities or Income Securities, respectively.

Preferred Securities held by the Fund generally pay fixed or adjustable-rate distributions to investors and have preference over common stock in the payment of distributions and the liquidation of a company's assets, but are generally junior to all forms of the company’s debt, including both senior and subordinated debt. Certain of the Preferred Securities may be issued by trusts or other special purpose entities created by companies specifically for the purpose of issuing such securities (“Trust Preferred Securities”). For purposes of the 80% test set forth above, Income Securities consist of both foreign and domestic debt instruments, including corporate bonds, high-yield bonds, convertible securities, contingent convertible capital and hybrid-preferred securities. The broad category of corporate debt securities includes debt issued by U.S. and non-U.S. companies of all kinds, including those with small-, mid- and large-

capitalizations. Corporate debt may carry fixed or floating rates of interest.

The Fund may invest in debt and equity securities issued by non-U.S. companies that are traded over-the-counter or listed on an exchange. The non-U.S. equity securities listed on a foreign exchange in which the Fund may invest will be limited to securities that trade in markets that are members of the Intermarket Surveillance Group (“ISG”), which includes all U.S. national securities exchanges and certain foreign exchanges, or are parties to a comprehensive surveillance sharing agreement with the Exchange.

Because the issuers of preferred securities are often financial companies, the Fund intends to concentrate its investments (invest at least 25% of its net assets) in such companies. The Fund invests in the securities of companies in the financials sector which may include banks, thrifts, brokerage firms, broker/dealers, investment banks, finance companies, real estate investment trusts (“REITs”) and companies involved in the insurance industry.

Initially, the Fund will invest at least 80% of the Income Securities in securities of an issuing firm when the issuing firm has a long-term issuer credit rating of investment grade at the time of the investment. However, the Fund may reduce the percentage of assets invested in investment grade securities. “Investment grade” is defined as those issuers that have a long-term credit rating of “BBB-“ or higher by Standard & Poor’s Rating Group, a division of McGraw Hill Companies, Inc. (“S&P”), or “Baa3” or higher by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. (“Moody’s”) or comparably rated by another nationally recognized statistical rating organization (“NRSRO”). The Fund may also invest in securities that are unrated by an NRSRO if such securities are of comparable credit quality. For securities with a split rating, the highest rating will be used. Initially, the Fund may also invest up to 20% of the Income Securities in securities issued by below investment grade issuers if that security has acceptable credit quality and attractive relative value. However, the Fund may increase the percentage of assets invested in below-investment grade securities.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in cash and/or cash equivalents. The Fund may invest in securities issued by companies domiciled in the United States, U.S. dollar-denominated depositary receipts and U.S. dollar-denominated foreign securities. The Fund may invest up to 15% of its net assets in Rule 144A Securities. Rule 144A Securities are generally subject to resale restrictions and may be illiquid.

As described more fully in the Trust’s prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, the Fund will issue and redeem Shares on a continuous basis at their net asset value (“NAV”) only in large blocks of 50,000 Shares (each, a “Creation Unit”). Creation Units will be issued and redeemed principally in-kind for securities included in the underlying index. Except when aggregated in Creation Units, the Shares may not be redeemed with the Fund.

Dividends from net investment income, if any, are declared and paid quarterly by the Fund. The Fund distributes its net realized capital gains, if any, to shareholders at least annually.

Shares are held in book-entry form, which means that no Share certificates are issued. The Depository Trust Company or its nominee is the record owner of all outstanding Shares of

the Funds and is recognized as the owner of all Shares for all purposes.

The NAV per Share for the Fund is computed by dividing the value of the net assets of the Fund (i.e., the value of its total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of Shares outstanding. Expenses and fees are accrued daily and taken into account for purposes of determining NAV. The NAV of each Fund is determined each business day after the close of trading (ordinarily 4:00 p.m., Eastern Time or “ET”) of the New York Stock Exchange. Any assets or liabilities denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar are converted into U.S. dollars at the current market rates on the date of valuation as quoted by one or more sources.

The [Registration Statement](#) for the Fund describes the various fees and expenses for the Fund’s Shares. For a more complete description of the Fund and the underlying Index, visit the Fund’s website at www.ftportfolios.com.

Principal Risks

Interested persons are referred to the discussion in the prospectus for the Fund of the principal risks of an investment in the Fund. These include tracking error risk (factors causing the Fund’s performance to not match the performance of the underlying index), market trading risk (for example, trading halts, trading above or below net asset value), investment style risk, sector risk, investment approach risk, non-diversification risk, equity risk, active management risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund’s [Registration Statement](#) describes other risks of investing in the Fund.

Exchange Rules Applicable to Trading in the Shares

The shares are considered equity securities, thus rendering trading in the shares subject to the Exchange’s existing rules governing the trading of equity securities.

Trading Hours

Trading in the Shares on EDGA Exchange, Inc. and EDGX Exchange, Inc. (together, the “Exchanges”) is on a UTP basis and is subject to the Exchanges equity trading rules. The Shares will trade from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Members trading the Shares during the Extended Market Sessions (Pre-opening and Post-closing sessions) are exposed to the risk of the lack of the calculation or dissemination of Index value or intraday indicative value (“IIV”). For certain derivative securities products, an updated Index value or IIV may not be calculated or publicly disseminated in the Extended Market hours. Since the Index value and IIV are not calculated or widely disseminated during Extended Market hours, an investor who is unable to calculate implied values for certain derivative securities products during Extended Market hours may be at a disadvantage to market professionals.

Trading Halts

The Exchanges will halt trading in the Shares in accordance with Exchange Rules 14.1(c)(4). The grounds for a halt under this Rule include a halt by the primary market because it stops trading the Shares and/or a halt because dissemination of the IIV or applicable currency spot price has ceased, or a halt for other regulatory reasons. In addition, the Exchanges will stop trading the Shares if the primary market de-lists the Shares.

Suitability

Trading in the Shares on the Exchanges will be subject to the provisions of Exchange Rules 3.7. Members recommending transactions in the Shares to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, Members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the “know your customer” obligation that is embedded in Exchange Rules 3.7.

Members also should review FINRA Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

Delivery of a Prospectus

Pursuant to federal securities laws, investors purchasing Shares must receive a prospectus prior to or concurrently with the confirmation of a transaction. Investors purchasing Shares directly from the Fund (by delivery of the Deposit Amount) must also receive a prospectus.

Prospectuses may be obtained through the Distributor or on the Fund’s [website](#). The Prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement (including the exhibits to the registration statement), parts of which have been omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information about the Fund, please refer to the Trust’s [Registration Statement](#).

Exemptive, Interpretive and No-Action Relief Under Federal Securities Regulations

The Commission has issued letters dated October 24, 2006, November 21, 2005 and August 17, 2001 (together, the “No- Action Letters”) granting exemptive, interpretive and no-action relief from certain provisions of and rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for exchange-traded funds listed and traded on a registered national securities exchange that meet certain criteria. Members are referred to the No-Action Letters, available at www.sec.gov, for additional information.

Regulation M Exemptions

Generally, Rules 101 and 102 of Regulation M prohibit any "distribution participant" and its "affiliated purchasers" from bidding for, purchasing, or attempting to induce any person to bid for or purchase any security which is the subject of a distribution until after the applicable restricted period, except as specifically permitted in Regulation M. The provisions of the Rules apply to underwriters, prospective underwriters, brokers, dealers, and other persons who have agreed to participate or are participating in a distribution of securities.

The Commission issued a No-Action Letter by which persons participating in a distribution of shares of a fund may engage in secondary market transactions in such shares during their participation in such a distribution, despite the requirements of from Rule 101 under Regulation M. In addition, the SEC has permitted persons who may be deemed to be participating in the distribution of shares of a fund (i) to purchase securities for the purpose of purchasing creation unit aggregations of fund shares and (ii) to tender securities for redemption in Creation Unit Aggregations. Further, the Commission has clarified that the tender of fund shares to the Fund for redemption does not constitute a bid for or purchase of any of the Fund's securities during the restricted period of Rule 101. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter relating to paragraph (e) of Rule 102 under Regulation M which allow the redemption of fund shares in creation unit aggregations during the continuous offering of shares.

SEC Rule 14e-5

The Commission has permitted any person acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a component security of fund (1) to redeem fund shares in creation unit aggregations from the issuer that may include a security subject to such tender offer and (2) to purchase fund shares during such tender offer. In addition, a No-Action has been issued under Rule 14e-5 states that if a broker-dealer acting as a dealer-manager of a tender offer for a security of the Fund purchases or arranges to purchase such securities in the secondary market for the purpose of tendering such securities to purchase one or more creation unit aggregations of shares, it must be made in conformance with the following:

1. such bids or purchases are effected in the ordinary course of business, in connection with a basket of 20 or more securities in which any security that is the subject of a distribution, or any reference security, does not comprise more than 5% of the value of the basket purchased; or
2. purchases are effected as adjustments to such basket in the ordinary course of business as a result of a change in the composition of the Index; and
3. such bids or purchases are not effected for the purpose of facilitating such tender offer.

Section 11(d)(1); SEC Rules 11d1-1 and 11d1-2

Section 11(d)(1) of the Act generally prohibits a person who is both a broker and a dealer from effecting any transaction in which the broker-dealer extends credit to a customer on any security which was part of a new issue in the distribution of which he participated as a member of a selling syndicate or group within thirty days prior to such transaction. The Commission has clarified that Section 11(d)(1) does not apply to broker-dealers that are not authorized

participants (and, therefore, do not create creation unit aggregations) that engage in both proprietary and customer transactions in shares of a fund in the secondary market, and for broker-dealer authorized participants that engage in creations of creation unit aggregations. This relief is subject to specific conditions, including the condition that such broker-dealer (whether or not an authorized participant) does not, directly or indirectly, receive from the fund complex any payment, compensation or other economic incentive to promote or sell the shares of a fund to persons outside the fund complex, other than non-cash compensation permitted under NASD (now FINRA) Rule 2830 (I)(5)(A), (B) or (C). See letter dated November 22, 2005 from Brian A Bussey, Assistant Chief Counsel, SEC Division of Market Regulation, to Barclays Global Investors, N.A., dated November 22, 2005. The Commission has issued a No-Action Letter under Section 11(d)(1) of the Act now states that broker-dealers may treat shares of a fund, for purposes of Rule 11d1-2, as "securities issued by a registered open-end investment company as defined in the Investment Company Act" and thereby extend credit or maintain or arrange for the extension or maintenance of credit on shares that have been owned by the persons to whom credit is provided for more than 30 days, in reliance on the exemption contained in the rule.

SEC Rule 15c1-5 and 15c1-6

The Commission has issued a No-Action letter with respect to Rule 15c1-5 and Rule 15c1-6 as to the required disclosure of control by a broker or dealer with respect to creations and redemptions of fund shares and secondary market transactions therein.

This Regulatory Information Circular is not a statutory Prospectus. Members should consult the Trust's [Registration Statement](#) and the Fund's [website](#) for relevant information.