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Closed-End Fund | XNPFX 67080R102 | Inception Date 12/15/2021

Nuveen Variable Rate Preferred & Income Fund (NPFD)

Marketing communication | As of 31 Dec 2025

- The Fund outperformed the NPFD Blended Benchmark (the benchmark) during the quarter.
- Security selection broadly aided relative performance, combined with allocation decisions and a longer leverage-adjusted effective duration versus the benchmark.
- Security selection within the energy sector detracted from performance.

Portfolio review

The Federal Reserve cut rates by 25 basis points in October and December, bringing the target federal funds rate to a range of 3.50%-3.75% by year-end. The U.S. Treasury yield curve steepened as longer-term rates rose modestly, the 10-year Treasury yield ended nearly flat at 4.18% and rates at the shorter end fell during the quarter. Lower rates across the short-to-intermediate part of the curve and tighter credit spreads fueled broadly positive fixed income returns.

For the quarter, the $25 par segment of the benchmark returned -1.4%, underperforming the 1.1% and 1.8% returns of the $1000 par preferred and U.S. dollar-denominated contingent capital securities (USD CoCos) segments, respectively. The average option adjusted spread (OAS) for $25 par preferreds increased by 34 basis points during the quarter, while the average OAS for $1000 par preferreds and USD CoCos increased by just 6 basis points and 5 basis points, respectively. The NPFD Blended Benchmark returned 1.3% for the quarter.

Headlines specific to the two largest sectors in the preferred securities and USD CoCos market, banks and insurance companies, remained relatively benign. Banks, the largest issuers of preferreds and USD CoCos, released third-quarter 2025 earnings results that generally exceeded expectations, continuing a multi-quarter trend. Third-quarter earnings from insurance companies, the second largest sector within the Fund's market, were also strong as both the property and casualty (P&C) and life subcategories performed quite well.

The Fund's leverage-adjusted effective duration ended the quarter at around 5.4 years, longer than the benchmark's duration of approximately 2.9 years.

Contributors

Security selection in banks contributed led by substantial price appreciation in legacy Credit Suisse Additional Tier 1 (AT1) securities, which had been written down as part of the Swiss bank regulator's arranged merger between UBS and Credit Suisse. The securities benefited from a favorable Swiss court ruling during the quarter that is currently being appealed. Increased exposure to Limited Recourse Capital Notes (LRCNs) also aided results. The LRCN segment meaningfully outperformed the broader preferred market after Bloomberg Index Services included these securities in an index used by several non-U.S. asset managers as a performance benchmark.

Allocation decisions also contributed to relative performance, notably the Fund's underweight to $25 par preferred securities and corresponding overweight to $1000 par preferreds.

A longer leverage-adjusted effective duration benefited results as rates fell in the short-to-intermediate part of the yield curve.

Detractors

Security selection within the energy sector detracted from performance as several positions materially underperformed during the quarter.

Nuveen Variable Rate Preferred & Income Fund (NPFD)

As of 31 Dec 2025

Average annualized total returns (%)

	Inception date	QTD	1 year	3 years	Since inception
Share price	15 Dec 21	-2.24	15.74	12.16	1.68
NAV	15 Dec 21	2.19	11.76	9.99	2.58

Performance data shown represents past performance and does not predict or guarantee future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the data shown. NAV returns are net of fund expenses, and assume reinvestment of distributions.

Distribution information

Current Distribution (Monthly)	$0.1565
Average Earnings/Share	$0.1046
Average Earnings/Distribution Ratio	66.82%
Average UNII Per Share	-$0.3225
Distribution Rate on NAV	9.26%
Distribution Rate on Market Price	9.87%

Distributions are currently estimated to include the following amounts from sources other than net investment income: 0% capital gains and 43% return of capital. If a distribution is estimated to include anything other than net investment income, the Fund provides a Section 19(a) notice of the best estimate of its distribution sources at that time which may be viewed at **nuveen.com/CEFdistributions** or within the Fund's literature section under 19(a) notices. These estimates may not match the final tax characterization (for the full year's distributions) contained in shareholders' 1099-DIV forms after the end of the year. The distribution rate should not be confused with yield or performance.

Credit quality (%)

	% of portfolio
AAA	0.0%
AA	0.0%
A	8.3%
BBB	67.7%
BB	20.5%
B	0.4%
NR	2.7%
Cash and Equivalents	0.4%

Ratings shown are the highest rating given by one of the following national rating agencies: S&P, Moody's, Fitch, DBRS or AM Best. Credit ratings are subject to change. AAA, AA, A, and BBB are investment grade ratings; BB, B, CCC/CC/C and D are below-investment grade ratings. Holdings designated NR are not rated by these national rating agencies and, where applicable, include net derivative positions.

Fund description

The Fund seeks to provide a high level of current income and total return by investing in primarily investment grade, variable rate preferred securities and other variable rate income-producing securities from high quality, highly regulated companies such as banks, utilities and insurance companies. All, or almost all, of the Fund's distributions of net investment income are expected to be treated as qualified dividend income (QDI) which is generally taxed at a lower rate than interest and ordinary dividend income, assuming holding period and certain other requirements are met.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of Managed Assets in contingent capital securities or contingent convertible securities (CoCos) and up to 15% in companies located in emerging market countries but will only invest in U.S. dollar denominated securities. More than 25% of Managed Assets will be invested in securities of companies in the financial services sector.

Portfolio management

Nuveen Asset Management, LLC is the subadviser to the Fund and an affiliate of Nuveen, LLC.

All characteristics as a percentage of the fund's managed assets (total assets of the fund, minus the sum of its accrued liabilities other than fund liabilities incurred for the express purpose of creating leverage). Holdings and ratings are subject to change. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

For more information contact: 800.752.8700 or visit nuveen.com

Important information on risk

Investing in closed-end funds involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. Closed-end fund shares may frequently trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. **Preferred securities** are subordinated to bonds and other debt instruments in a company's capital structure, and therefore are subject to greater credit risk. **Debt or fixed income securities** such as those held by the Fund, are subject to market risk, credit risk, interest rate risk, derivatives risk, liquidity risk, and income risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices fall. **Lower credit** debt securities may be more likely to fail to make timely interest or principal payments. **Leverage** increases return volatility and magnifies the Fund's potential return and its risks; there is no guarantee a fund's leverage strategy will be successful. Certain types of preferred, hybrid or debt securities with special loss absorption provisions, such as **contingent capital securities** (CoCos), may be or become so subordinated that they present risks equivalent to, or in some cases even greater than, the same company's common stock. These loss absorption features work to the benefit of the security issuer, not the investor (this fund). These and other risk considerations, including the Fund's **limited term** and **concentration risk**, are described in more detail in the Shareholder Update section of the Fund's annual report at www.nuveen.com/NPFD-annual-report.

Average earnings per share and **average undistributed net investment income (UNII) per share** are estimates, using an average of the last three months, except for preferred securities funds, mortgage-backed securities funds and floating rate funds, which use an average of the last six months.

Distribution Rate at market price and NAV is calculated by annualizing the most recent declared regular distribution and dividing by the fund's market price or NAV, respectively. Special distributions, including special capital gains distributions, are not included in the calculation.

This material is not intended to be a recommendation or investment advice, does not constitute a solicitation to buy, sell or hold a security or an investment strategy, and is not provided in a fiduciary capacity. The information provided does not take into account the specific objectives or circumstances of any particular investor, or suggest any specific course of action. Investment decisions should be made based on an investor's objectives and circumstances and in consultation with his or her financial professional.

Glossary

The **NPFD Blended Benchmark** consists of 80% ICE Variable Rate Preferred & Hybrid Securities Index and 20% ICE USD Contingent Capital Index.The **ICE Variable Rate Preferred & Hybrid Securities Index** is designed to measure the performance of floating- and variable-rate investment grade and below investment grade USD-denominated preferred stock and hybrid debt publicly issued by corporations in the U.S. domestic market. The **ICE USD Contingent Capital Index (CDLR)** is designed to track the performance of USD-denominated contingent capital debt publicly issued in the major domestic and Eurobond markets, including investment grade and below investment grade issues. **It is not possible to invest directly in an index.**

Nuveen Securities, LLC, member FINRA and SIPC.