

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
 Form 4  
 December 09, 2016

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**HARDWICK MARK K**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
 [FRME]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**200 E JACKSON STREET**  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/07/2016**

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
**CFO & COO / Executive Vice President**

**MUNCIE, IN 47305**

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)			
			Code	V	Amount					
					(A) or (D)					
					Price					
Common Stock	12/07/2016		M		7,500	A	\$ 11.38	70,834.446	D	
Common Stock	12/07/2016		M		2,000	A	\$ 15.32	72,834.446	D	
Common Stock	12/07/2016		F		3,198	D	\$ 36.26	69,636.446 <sup>(1)</sup>	D	
Common Stock	12/07/2016		I		6,000.394	D	\$ 36.94	4,000.263	I	401(k) Plan
Common Stock								446	I	Spouse IRA

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 11.38	12/07/2016		M	7,500	02/23/2014 02/23/2022	Common Stock	7,500
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 15.32	12/07/2016		M	2,000	02/19/2015 02/19/2023	Common Stock	2,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HARDWICK MARK K 200 E JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305			CFO & COO	Executive Vice President

## Signatures

Jennifer Mainord (Confirming Statement on File)

12/09/2016

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Includes Restricted Stock Awards totaling 29,310,111 shares

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.  
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