

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
Form SC 13G  
February 14, 2017

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

SCHEDULE 13G  
(Rule 13d-102)

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. \_\_)

First Merchants Corporation.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock  
(Title of Class of Securities)

320817109  
(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2016  
(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)
- Rule 13d-1(c)
- Rule 13d-1(d)

\* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

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The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be “filed” for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Act”) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP 320817109 Page 2 of 7 Pages

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)  
Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, L.P. 04-3304963  
2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP  
(a)  
(b)  
3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH  
5 SOLE VOTING POWER 1,712,650  
6 SHARED VOTING POWER 0  
7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER 2,294,300  
8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 102,499

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
2,396,799 shares

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
Not Applicable

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)  
5.9%

12

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON  
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

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1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  
 I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)  
 Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, Inc. 04-3304959

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP  
 (a)  
 (b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
 Delaware

5 SOLE VOTING POWER  
 1,712,650

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

6 SHARED VOTING POWER  
 0

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
 2,294,300

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
 102,499

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
 2,396,799 shares

10 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)  
 Not Applicable

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)  
 5.9%

12

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON  
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

HC

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CUSIP 320817109 Page 4 of 7 Pages

Item Name of Issuer: First Merchants Corporation

1(a).

Item Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

1(b).

200 East Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 792  
Muncie, IN 47308

Item Name of Person(s) Filing:

2(a).

Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, L.P. ("Vaughan Nelson")  
Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, Inc. ("General Partner")

Item Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:

2(b).

Both Vaughan Nelson and the General Partner maintain their principal offices at:  
600 Travis Street, Suite 6300  
Houston, Texas 77002

Item Citizenship:

2(c).

Vaughan Nelson is Delaware limited partnership.  
The General Partner is a Delaware corporation.

Item Title of Class of Securities:

2(d).

Common Stock

Item CUSIP Number:

2(e).

320817109

Item 3. If this Statement is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a:

- (a)  Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).
- (b)  Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c)  Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d)  Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C 80a-8).
- (e)  An investment adviser in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f)  An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g)  A parent holding company or control person in accordance with § 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h)  A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813);
- (i)  A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3);

- (j) o Group, in accordance with §240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).
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Item Ownership:

4.

By reason of investment advisory relationships with the person who owns the Shares, Vaughan Nelson may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of the reported shares of the Issuer's common stock. Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, Inc., as General Partner of Vaughan Nelson, may be deemed the indirect beneficial owner of the reported shares of the Issuer's common stock. Both Vaughan Nelson and Vaughan Nelson Investment Management, Inc. disclaim beneficial ownership of the reported shares of the Issuer's common stock.

(a) Amount beneficially owned 2,396,799

(b) Percent of class: 5.9%

(c) Number of shares as to which the person has:

(i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 1,712,650

(ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 0

(iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 2,294,300

(iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 102,499

Item Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:

5.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the class of securities, check the following: [ ]

Item Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:

6.

Various persons, as investment advisory clients of Vaughan Nelson, have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the common stock of the Issuer. To the knowledge of Vaughan Nelson, no one such person's interest in the common stock of the Issuer is more than five percent of the total outstanding common stock of the Issuer.

Item Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the

7. Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:

Not Applicable

Item Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:

8.

Not Applicable



CUSIP 320817109 Page 6 of 7 Pages

Item Notice of Dissolution of Group:

9.  
Not Applicable

Item Certification:

10.  
Each of the Reporting Persons hereby makes the following certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

EXECUTED as a sealed instrument this 13th day of February, 2017.

Vaughan Nelson Investment  
Management, L.P.

By: /s/ Richard B. Faig  
By: Richard B. Faig  
Its: Chief Compliance Officer

Vaughan Nelson Investment  
Management, Inc.

By: /s/ Richard B. Faig  
By: Richard B. Faig  
Its: Chief Compliance Officer

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CUSIP 320817109 Page 7 of 7 Pages

Exhibit 1

AGREEMENT

Each of the undersigned, pursuant to Rule 13d-1(k)(1) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, hereby agrees that only one statement containing the information required by Schedule 13G needs be filed with respect to the ownership by each of the undersigned of the shares of common stock of First Merchants Corporation that the Schedule 13G to which this Agreement is appended as Exhibit 1 is to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on behalf of each of the undersigned on or about the date hereof.

EXECUTED as a sealed instrument this 13th day of February, 2017.

Vaughan Nelson Investment  
Management, L.P.

By: /s/ Richard B. Faig

By: Richard B. Faig

Its: Chief Compliance Officer

Vaughan Nelson Investment  
Management, Inc.

By: /s/ Richard B. Faig

By: Richard B. Faig

Its: Chief Compliance Officer