



## **First Merchants Corporation Announces Quarterly Cash Dividend**

October 30, 2009

MUNCIE, Ind.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- At its meeting held on October 28, 2009, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation (Nasdaq: FRME) declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.08 per share on its common stock.

The cash dividend is payable December 18, 2009, to stockholders of record December 4, 2009. For purposes of broker trading, the ex-date of the cash dividend is December 2, 2009.

### About First Merchants Corporation

First Merchants Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. The Corporation is comprised of First Merchants Bank, N.A., which also operates as Lafayette Bank & Trust, A Division of First Merchants Bank, N.A., Commerce National Bank, A Division of First Merchants Bank, N.A., as well as First Merchants Trust Company, N.A., and First Merchants Insurance Services, a full-service property casualty, personal lines, and healthcare insurance agency.

First Merchants Corporation's common stock is traded over-the-counter on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol FRME. Quotations are carried in daily newspapers and can be found on the company's Internet web page (<http://www.firstmerchants.com>).

Source: First Merchants Corporation

Contact: First Merchants Corporation Mark K. Hardwick, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, 765-751-1857  
<http://www.firstmerchants.com>