

News Release

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First Merchants Corporation Named to New NASDAQ Global Select Market

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Muncie, Indiana – First Merchants Corporation today announced its inclusion in the new NASDAQ Global Select Market. The NASDAQ Global Select Market has the highest initial listing standards of any exchange in the world based on financial and liquidity requirements. Prior to the change, First Merchants had been listed on the NASDAQ National Market.

“First Merchants is an example of an industry leader that has achieved superior listing standards, which clearly defines the essence of the NASDAQ Global Select Markets,” said Bruce Aust, Executive Vice President, Corporate Client Group. “In recognizing these companies, we are highlighting their achievement in meeting the requirements to be included in the market with the highest listing standards in the world,” added Mr. Aust. NASDAQ-listed companies will now be classified under three listing tiers – NASDAQ Global Select Market, NASDAQ Global Market, and NASDAQ Capital Market.

Michael L. Cox, Chief Executive Officer of First Merchants Corporation, commented, “We are delighted that First Merchants was selected to this new premier NASDAQ market and feel that it is a reflection of our strong financial position and commitment to corporate governance.”

About NASDAQ

NASDAQ is the largest U.S. electronic stock market. With approximately 3,200 companies, it lists more companies and, on average, trades more shares per day than any other U.S. market. It is home to companies that are leaders across all areas of business including technology, retail, communications, financial services, transportation, media and biotechnology. NASDAQ is the primary market for trading NASDAQ-listed stocks. For more information about NASDAQ, visit www.nasdaq.com or the NASDAQ Newsroom at <http://www.nasdaq.com/newsroom/>.

About First Merchants Corporation

First Merchants Corporation (Nasdaq: FRME) is a financial holding company headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. Since its organization in 1982, the Corporation has grown to include eight affiliate banks with 64 locations in 17 Indiana and three Ohio counties, a trust company, a multi-line insurance company, and a title company. Bank subsidiaries of the Corporation include:

- *First Merchants Bank* in Delaware, Hamilton, and Henry counties
- *Madison Community Bank* in Madison County
- *United Communities National Bank (UCNB)* in Randolph, Union, Fayette, Wayne, and Butler (OH) counties
- *First National Bank* in Jay County
- *Decatur Bank & Trust Company* in Adams County
- *Frances Slocum Bank* in Wabash, Howard, and Miami counties
- *Lafayette Bank and Trust Company* in Tippecanoe, Carroll, Jasper, and White counties
- *Commerce National Bank* in Franklin and Hamilton counties in Ohio

The Corporation also operates First Merchants Insurance Services, a full-service property, casualty, personal lines, and health care insurer, and is the majority owner of the Indiana Title Insurance Company LLC. First Merchants Trust Company unites the trust and asset management services of all affiliate banks of the Corporation and represents one of the largest trust companies in the State of Indiana, with assets in excess of \$1.5 billion.

For more information, visit www.firstmerchants.com.