FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPRO | VAL | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | |

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * | | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME] | | | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) X Director 10% Owner | | | |
|--|---|--|---|-------|--|---|------|---|--|---|---------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 200 E JACKSON STREET | | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 09/30/2017 | | | | | | | | | Offi belo | cer (give title ow) | Othe belo | r (specify v) |
| (Street) MUNCIE IN 47305 (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | 4. If | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | ne) X For For | dual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transact Date (Month/Day | | | | | | Execution Date, | | | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 4. Securities Acquired (A) Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4) | | | | Secu Bene | ficially ed Following | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount (A) | | or | Price | Trans | action(s) . 3 and 4) | | (iiisti. 4) |
| Common Stock 09/30/2 | | | | | | | 2017 | | A | | 345 | | A | \$42.9 | 93 46, | 031.157(1) | D | |
| | | Та | | | | | | | | | sed of, onvertib | | | | Owned | d | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | | sansaction of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | ative rities ired osed . 3, 4 | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) Date Exercisable Expiration Date | | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4) Amoun or Numbe of Title Shares | | ount | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4 | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes Restricted Stock Awards totaling 6,026 shares

Remarks:

Addison Nicoll (Confirming Statement on File)

10/03/2017

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- * 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).

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.