FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

OMB APPF	ROVAL							
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*  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)  Director 10% Owner  V Officer (give title V Other (specify				
(Last) (First) (Middle) 200 E JACKSON STREET						3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/11/2011									X Officer (give title X Other (below)  Chief Financial Officer / Executive President			ow) i	
(Street)  MUNCIE IN 47305  (City) (State) (Zip)						4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 02/15/2011								Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable ne)  X 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. Transac Date (Month/Da						Execution Date,		Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. 5)		ties Acquired (A) I Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4			d Secur Benef	icially d Following	6. Ownershi Form: Direc (D) or Indire (I) (Instr. 4)	of Indirect Beneficial Ownership			
								Code	v	Amount	(A (D	) or )	Price	Trans	action(s) 3 and 4)		(Instr. 4)		
Common Stock <sup>(2)</sup> 02/11/2						2011		A		11,000	) A S		\$ <mark>0</mark>	43,926.4604(1)		D			
	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 Da if any (Month/Day/Y	Date,	Date, Transac Code (I		of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) of Dispo of (D) (Instr	of		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)			7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	e derivative	Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Beneficial Ownership ct (Instr. 4)	
	Code V		v	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisa		Expiration Date	Title	of Sha	res								

## Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Includes 27,949.8790 restricted stock awards and 6,593.5814 shares in reporting person's 401(k) account.
- 2. Non-Derivative Securities Owned Indirect: 401 Nature of Indirect Ownership: Spouse I.R.A.

## Remarks:

<u>Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File)</u>

04/11/2011

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- $^{\star}$  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.