| SEC Form 4 |  |
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Instruction 1(b).

## FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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*<br><u>Fehring Patrick J.</u>            |                       |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>FIRST MERCHANTS CORP</u> [ FRME ] |                        | ationship of Reporting P<br>< all applicable)<br>Director  | erson(s) to Issuer<br>10% Owner |  |  |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|----------|---|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| (Last)<br>200 E JACK   | (First)<br>SON STREET | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>06/30/2022                      |                        | Officer (give title below)   | Other (specify below)           |  |  |  |  |
| 200 E JACKSON STREET   (Street)   MUNCIE   IN   47305   (City) (State)   (Zip)   |                       |          | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                            | 6. Indiv<br>Line)<br>X | ividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable<br>Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person |                                 |  |  |  |  |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |                       |          |   |                        |  |                                 |  |  |  |  |

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |      |   | 4. Securities<br>Disposed Of<br>5) |               |         | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------|---|------------------------------------|---------------|---------|---|---|---|
|                                 |  |   | Code | v | Amount                             | (A) or<br>(D) | Price   | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)  |   | (1130.4)  |
| Common                          | 06/30/2022                                 |   | Α    |   | 504                                | Α             | \$35.62 | 139,492 <sup>(1)</sup>  | D   |   |
| Common                          |  |   |      |   |                                    |               |         | 20,605  | Ι   | By<br>Spouse  |

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   | of<br>Deriv | r<br>osed<br>)<br>:. 3, 4 | Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                    | xpiration Date Amount of<br>Ionth/Day/Year) Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative |  | Amount of Derivative<br>Securities Security<br>Underlying (Instr. 5)<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr. 5) |  | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
|   |   |  |   | Code                         | v | (A)         | (D)                       | Date<br>Exercisable                 | Expiration<br>Date | Title  | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |   |  |  |  |  |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes Restricted Stock Awards totaling 504 shares

Remarks:

Melanie Bowling (Confirming 07/05/2022

Statement on File)

\*\* 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.