FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

OMB APPROVAL										
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 an		2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [ FRME ]									k all app	olicable)	g Person(s) to	Issuer Owner					
(Last) (First) (Middle) 200 E JACKSON STREET							3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/01/2012								Offic below	er (give title w)	Oth belo	er (specify w)	
(Street) MUNCIE IN 47305  (City) (State) (Zip)					4. If	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)									Forn Forn	I or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable orm filed by One Reporting Person orm filed by More than One Reporting erson			
	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned																		
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transacti Date (Month/Day						Execution Date,			3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)						Securi Benefi	cially I Following	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Ownership	
									Code	v	Amount	(A) (D)	or P	rice	Transa	action(s) 3 and 4)		(Instr. 4)	
Common Stock <sup>(1)(3)</sup> 05/01/20							.012		P		8.138	A \$1		12.288	40,062.851(2)		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. Deen Executio if any (Month/D	n Date,		ransaction Code (Instr.				6. Date Exercis Expiration Dat (Month/Day/Ye		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instiand 4)		Der Sec (Ins	Price of ivative curity str. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction ((Instr. 4)	Ownershi Form: Direct (D) or Indirec (I) (Instr. 4	Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
					Code	v	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisa	ble	Expiration Date	Title	Numb of Share						

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy) = 6,814 shares
- 2. Non-Derivative Securities Owned Indirect: 551. Nature of Indirect Ownership: Spouse
- 3. Includes 9,320 shares held in restricted stock awards.

## Remarks:

Justin Bates (Confirming 05/02/2012 Statement on File)

\*\* 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.