

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL	
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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* <u>Lehman Gary</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) 200 E JACKSON ST PO BOX 792 (Street) MUNCIE IN 47308 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 05/03/2011	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	11,100	D	

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

[Exhibit 24; Confirming Statement](#)

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 05/04/2011

** 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 5 (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.

Confirming Statement

This statement confirms that the undersigned, Gary J. Lehman, has authorized and designated Larry R. Helms or James R. Williams, to execute and file on the undersigned's behalf, all Forms 3, 4, and 5 (including any amendments thereto) that the undersigned may be required to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of First Merchants Corporation. The authority of Larry R. Helms or James R. Williams under this statement shall continue until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4 and 5 with regard to the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of First Merchants Corporation, unless earlier in writing. The undersigned acknowledges Larry R. Helms and James R. Williams are not assuming any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Date: 02/09/2011

/s/ Gary J. Lehman
Signature
