

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>SPADE DAVID W</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>200 E JACKSON ST</u> (Street) <u>MUNCIE IN 47305</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/23/2007</u>	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) Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <u>Senior Vice President / Chief Credit Officer</u>	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 <input type="checkbox"/> 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)
<u>Common Stock⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>1,400</u>	<u>D</u>	

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	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

Explanation of Responses:

1. Additional 1515.291 shares of common stock owned in reporting person's 401K.

David W. Spade

01/29/2007

** 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, David W. Spade, has authorized and designated Larry R. Helms and/or Cynthia G. Holaday 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 and/or Cynthia G. Holaday 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 revoked in writing. The undersigned acknowledges Larry R. Helms and/or Cynthia G. Holaday is not assuming any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Date: January 26, 2007

/s/ David W. Spade

David W. Spade