FORM 4

obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| STATEMENT | OF CHANGES | IN BENEFICIAL | <b>OWNERSHIP</b> |
|-----------|------------|---------------|------------------|
|           |            |               |                  |

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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>ENGLE JERRY R</u> |                  |   |               |   |       | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [ FRME ] |         |  |                   |   |                     |         |  |   | check all a                                   | tionship of Reporting<br>all applicable)<br>Director       |  | Person(s) to Issuer<br>10% Owner |            |
|---|------------------|---|---------------|---|-------|---|---------|--|-------------------|---|---------------------|---------|--|---|---|--|--|----------------------------------|------------|
| (Last) 200 E JA   | (Fii<br>CKSON ST | ,   | (Middle)      |   |       | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/25/2010               |         |  |                   |   |                     |         |  |   |   | Officer (give title below)                                 |  | Other (speci<br>below)           |            |
| (Street)  MUNCIE  (City)                                      |                  |   | 17305<br>Zip) |   |       | Ame<br>29/2   |         | , Date o   | f Original        | Filed   | (Month/Da           | ay/Year | )  |   | ne)<br><mark>X</mark> Fo<br>Fo                | or Joint/Group<br>rm filed by On<br>rm filed by Mo<br>rson | e Reporti  | ng Pers                          | on         |
|   |                  | Tabl  | e I - Non     | n-Deriv                                 | ative | Se  | curitie | s Acc  | quired,           | Dis   | osed o              | f, or   | Bene                                       | eficia  | ally Owi                                      | ned  |  |                                  |            |
| Date  |                  |   |               | Exect<br>Day/Year) if any               |       | A. Deemed<br>execution Date,<br>any<br>Month/Day/Year)                    |         | Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. 5)                           |                   | ities Acquired (A<br>d Of (D) (Instr. 3,  |                     |         | nd Secu<br>Bend<br>Own                     | nount of<br>irities<br>eficially<br>ed Following<br>orted | 6. Owne<br>Form: D<br>(D) or In<br>(I) (Instr | irect<br>direct  | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership                |                                  |            |
|   |                  |   |               |   |       |   |         |  | Code              | v   | Amount              | ()      | A) or<br>D)                                | Price   | Tran  | saction(s)<br>r. 3 and 4)                                  |  |                                  | (Instr. 4) |
| Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>                                   |                  |   | 02/25         | 5/2010                                  | /2010 |   |         | A  |                   | 1,000   | )                   | A       | \$(  | )   | 44,486  |  | )  |                                  |            |
|   |                  | Та  | ble II - D    |   |       |   |         |  |                   |   | sed of,<br>onvertib |         |  |   | y Owne  | d  |  |                                  |            |
| Derivative Conversion Date Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if       |                  | 3A. Deeme<br>Execution<br>if any<br>(Month/Da | Date,         | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |       | ı of  |         | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                   | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr.<br>and 4) |                     |         | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) |   | Owr<br>Forr<br>Dire<br>or Ir<br>(I) (I        | nership<br>n:<br>ct (D)<br>ndirect<br>nstr. 4)             | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |                                  |            |
|   |                  |   |               |   | Code  | v   | (A)     | (D)  | Date<br>Exercisal |   | Expiration<br>Date  | Title   | Amo<br>or<br>Num<br>of<br>Shai             | nber  |   |  |  |                                  |            |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

1. Employee Stock Option - Right to Buy equals 17,991.

## Remarks:

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File)

12/30/2010

\*\* 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.