

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

( ) Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
ANDERSON, STEFAN S  
2705 WEST TWICKINGHAM DRIVE  
MUNCIE, IN 47304  
USA
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
FRME
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)  
###-##-####
4. Statement for Month/Year  
DECEMBER 31, 1999
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
(X) Director ( ) 10% Owner ( ) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other (specify below)  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  
(X) Form filed by One Reporting Person  
( ) Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Director or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
COMMON STOCK	12/08/99	G*	2,499			
	12/17/99	S	38,000	28.00		
				1,875	I	Spouse

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Code	4. Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Director or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Non-Employee Director Stock Option (Right to Buy)								27,700	D	

Explanation of Responses:

\*Gift by reporting person to Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

Stefan S. Anderson (Confirming Signature on File)

DATE

January 3, 2000