

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL	
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>FLUHLER STEPHAN</u> <hr/> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>200 E JACKSON STREET</u> <hr/> (Street) <u>MUNCIE IN 47305</u> <hr/> (City) (State) (Zip)			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]</u>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director _____ 10% Owner _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <u>Chief Information Officer / Senior Vice President</u>		
			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/09/2022</u>					
			4. 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 Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			

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. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date					
Phantom Stock	(I)	12/09/2022		A		29,908		(I)	(I)	Common Stock	29,908	\$42.11	505.846	D
Phantom Stock	(I)	12/16/2022		A		4,521		(I)	(I)	Common Stock	4,521	\$39.87	510.367	D

Explanation of Responses:

1. Each share of phantom stock is the economic equivalent of one share of FRME common stock. The shares of phantom stock will be settled in cash or shares of FRME common stock, at the reporting person's election, upon separation from First Merchants.

Remarks:

Jacob Burkett (Confirming Statement on File) 12/16/2022

** 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.

CONFIRMING STATEMENT

This statement confirms that the undersigned, Stephan H. Fluhler, has authorized and designated, Jennifer Mainord Melanie Bowling, and Jac

____/s/Stephan H. Fluhler_____
Stephan H. Fluhler

Date: __11/1/2022_____