

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP
Form 3
January 30, 2008

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Â Stewart Michael J		(Month/Day/Year)	FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)
200 EAST JACKSON STREET			(Check all applicable)	
(Street)			<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) Executive Vice President / Chief Banking Officer	
MUNCIE,Â INÂ 47305			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	<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)
Common Stock	3,750	D	Â

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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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 of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	

				Shares		(I) (Instr. 5)	
Employee stock option right to buy	01/29/2010	01/29/2018	Common Stock	6,000	\$ 24.55	D	^

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Stewart Michael J 200 EAST JACKSON STREET MUNCIE, IN 47305	^	^	^ Executive Vice President	Chief Banking Officer

Signatures

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 01/30/2008

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).

^
Remarks:
Exhibit^ 24

Confirming^ Statement

This^ statement^ confirms^ that^ the^ undersigned,^ Michael^ J.^ Stewart,^ has^ authorized^ and designated^ Larry^ R.^ Helms^ 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^ of the^ undersigned's^ ownership^ of^ or^ transactions^ in^ the^ securities^ of^ First^ Merchants Corporation.^ The^ authority^ of^ Larry^ R.^ Helms^ 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^ is^ not^ assuming^ any^ of^ the^ undersigned's^ responsibilities^ to^ comply with^ Section^ 16^ of^ the^ Securities^ Exchange^ Act^ of^ 1934.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *See* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.