

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP  
Form 8-K  
February 10, 2017

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

DATE OF REPORT (Date of earliest event reported): February 9, 2017

Commission File Number 0-17071

FIRST MERCHANTS CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

INDIANA 35-1544218  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

200 East Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 792  
Muncie, IN 47305-2814  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(765) 747-1500  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers

(d) On February 9, 2017, the Board of Directors of First Merchants Corporation appointed Michael J. (Jud) Fisher to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the retirement of Roderick English on October 1, 2016. Mr Fisher's term will continue until the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Shareholders, at which time he will be considered for election for a three (3) year term. A copy of the Corporation's press release, dated February 10, 2017, announcing the appointment of Mr. Fisher is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release, dated February 10, 2017, issued by First Merchants Corporation

---

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

First Merchants Corporation  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Mark K. Hardwick  
Mark K. Hardwick  
Executive Vice President,  
Chief Financial Officer  
and Chief Operating Officer

Dated: February 10, 2017