

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____
B	This return/report is: ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2001
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) FIRST RELIANCE BANK 2170 WEST PALMETTO STREET FLORENCE, SC 29501
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 843-656-5000
2d	Business code (see instructions) 522110

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	09/17/2024	LESLIE CHAPLIN
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor PENTEGRA SERVICES, INC. 701 WESTCHESTER AVE STE 320E WHITE PLAINS, NY 10604	3b Administrator's EIN 13-3745616 3c Administrator's telephone number 866-633-4015
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 281
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 183 6a(2) 178 6b 0 6c 124 6d 302 6e 1 6f 303 6g(1) 281 6g(2) 293 6h 8
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2H 2I 2J 2K 2O 2E 3I 2T b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:	

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)	
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (4) ☐ DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____ (5) ☐ MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached <u>0</u> (4) ☒ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FIRST RELIANCE BANK	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. ☐ Yes ☒ No
- b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation
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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

PENTEGRA RETIREMENT SERVICES, INC.

13-3745616

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
15	RECORD KEEPER	35477	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration		DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.		OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.	
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023					
A Name of plan FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN				B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001	
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FIRST RELIANCE BANK				D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842	
Part I Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)					
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SVF METLIFE GAC SERIES 25053					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): RELIANCE TRUST					
c EIN-PN 46-6625485-001		d Entity code C		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2271748	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)	
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:					
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):					
c EIN-PN		d Entity code		e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 10	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FIRST RELIANCE BANK	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	10415	10578
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	29122	31889
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	6731	16682
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	548117	402254
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)	2416058	2271748
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	5213640	7396337
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)	4124228	4067930
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	12348311	14197418
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h	0	682
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	682
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	12348311	14196736

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	433135	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	933660	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	46936	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1413731
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	531	
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	23778	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		24309
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	163285	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		163285
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)	-31128	
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)	2110	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		59500
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		1016583
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2648390

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	694503	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		694503
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		69985
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	35477	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		35477
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		799965

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		1848425
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **ELLIOTT DAVIS,LLC**

(2) EIN: **57-0381582**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		3000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan FIRST RELIANCE BANK EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FIRST RELIANCE BANK	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 58-2463842	

Part I	Distributions	
All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.		
1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	10
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): 58-1428634	
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.		
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)	
4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.		
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.	
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.		
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments	
9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase ☐ Decrease ☐ Both ☐ No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.	
10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes ☒ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes ☒ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes ☒ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes ☒ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:		
a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:		
a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	
16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:		
a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):	
a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%	
b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.	
a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:	
☐ Yes.	
☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.	
☐ No. Other. Provide explanation: _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No	
21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).	
☐ Design-based safe harbor method	
☒ "Prior year" ADP test	
☐ "Current year" ADP test	
☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ____/____/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.	

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Report on Financial Statements

For the year ended December 31, 2023



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Independent Auditor's Report

The Trustee of
First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan
Florence, South Carolina

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the financial statements of First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from Reliance Trust Company, the trustee, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by Reliance Trust Company agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Elliott Davis, LLC
355 South Main Street
Suite 500
Greenville, SC 29601
864.242.3370

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Investments

As discussed in Note 8, the financial statements include common stock representing 8 percent and 9 percent of total assets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, whose fair value has been estimated by an independent appraisal, in the absence of readily ascertainable fair values, with the assistance of management and approved by the trustee. Because of the inherent uncertainty of the valuation, the estimated value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a market for the investment existed, and the difference could be material. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements, Continued

In performing audits in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of U.S. GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. GAAP.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule, Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2023, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA, Continued

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by Reliance Trust Company agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Elliott Davis, LLC

Greenville, South Carolina
September 10, 2024

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets		
Investments at fair value (See Note 4)	<u>\$ 13,752,015</u>	<u>\$ 11,760,639</u>
Receivables		
Notes receivable from participants	402,254	548,117
Participant contributions receivable	31,889	29,122
Employer contributions receivable	<u>10,578</u>	<u>10,415</u>
	444,721	587,654
Cash, non-interest bearing	<u>-</u>	<u>22,403</u>
Total assets	<u>14,196,736</u>	<u>12,370,696</u>
Liabilities		
Due to broker	<u>-</u>	<u>22,385</u>
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>22,385</u>
Net assets available for benefits	<u>\$ 14,196,736</u>	<u>\$ 12,348,311</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

For the year ended December 31, 2023

Additions

Investment income	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 1,047,065
Dividend and interest income	<u>163,816</u>
Total investment income	<u>1,210,881</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>23,778</u>
Contributions	
Participants	933,660
Employer	433,135
Rollovers	<u>46,936</u>
Total contributions	<u>1,413,731</u>
Total additions	<u>2,648,390</u>

Deductions

Benefits paid to participants	764,488
Administrative expenses	<u>35,477</u>
Total deductions	<u>799,965</u>
Net increase	1,848,425

<i>Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year</i>	<u>12,348,311</u>
<i>Net assets available for benefits, end of year</i>	<u><u>\$ 14,196,736</u></u>

See Notes to Financial Statements

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

First Reliance Bank (the "Bank") established the Plan effective as of January 1, 2006. The Plan is an Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") with 401(k) provisions covering all employees of the Bank who have attained the age of 18. The ESOP portion of the Plan is discretionary and employees are eligible to participate after six months of employment. The Board of Directors of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. (the "Company") serves as trustee of the Plan. The Plan operates, in relevant part, as an ESOP and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 50 percent of their compensation, as defined in the Plan. Participants who have attained the age of 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan includes an auto-enrollment provision whereby all newly eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan unless they affirmatively elect not to participate in the Plan. Automatically enrolled participants have their deferral rate set at 3 percent of eligible compensation and their contributions invested in a designated balanced fund until changed by the participant. The Company contributes a match of 50 percent of the first 6 percent of base compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan, which are made in the First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. unitized stock fund. During 2023, the Company made matching contributions in the amount of \$283,135. The Company may elect to make a discretionary contribution to the ESOP. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Company made \$150,000 in discretionary contributions to the Plan. Contributions are subject to certain Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitations.

Participant accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, Company contributions, and Plan earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 1. Description of the Plan, Continued

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their voluntary contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company contribution portion of their accounts is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 50 percent vested after 1 year of credited service and 100 percent vested after 2 years of credited service.

Notes receivable from participants

Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their vested balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The loan interest rates range from 4.25 percent - 9.50 percent, as defined by the Plan. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Payment of benefits

On termination of service, a participant may elect to receive an amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account in either a lump-sum amount or other installment options as provided by the Plan. Hardship distributions are permitted upon demonstration of a financial hardship. All fully vested balances are available for distribution after the participant reaches the age of 59 ^{1/2}.

Forfeited accounts

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, forfeited nonvested accounts totaled \$73,955 and \$109,899, respectively. These accounts will be used to reduce plan administrative expenses and future Company contributions. During 2023, \$47,759 in forfeitures were used to reduce employer contributions.

Voting of Company stock

Participants who are vested in the stock of the Company are allowed to exercise voting rights. Each participant is entitled to direct the Trustee to exercise voting rights attributable to shares of the Company's stock allocated to his or her account.

Put option:

Under federal income tax regulations, the Company stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market or is subject to trading limitations, includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the current value of the stock. The Company can pay for the purchase with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash. As of December 31, 2023, the Company has not repurchased any shares under the put option.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Contributions

Contributions from Plan participants and the matching contributions from the employer are recorded in the year in which participant compensation is earned.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The Plan relies significantly on the use of estimates in determining the valuation of the ESOP portion of the Plan's investment in the Company's common stock. The financial statements include the Company's ESOP common stock valued at \$8.47 and \$8.72 per share at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The ESOP portion of the stock's value has been estimated by management in the absence of a readily ascertainable market value. This estimate was based on a valuation completed by an independent outside appraiser. Because of the inherent subjectivity in any valuation, the estimated value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for the securities existed, and the difference could be material.

Investment valuation and income recognition

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's Investment Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisors. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Notes receivable from participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, Continued

Payment of benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Expenses

Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Plan and are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants and other distributions are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation in fair value of investments.

Reclassification

Certain reclassifications have been made to the prior year's financial statements in order to conform with the current year presentation.

Subsequent events

The Plan has evaluated subsequent events through September 10, 2024, the date that the financial statements were available to be issued.

Recently issued accounting pronouncements

Accounting standards that have been issued or proposed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board or other standards-setting bodies are not expected to have a material impact on the Plan's financial statements.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 3. Trustee Certifications

The following is a summary of the Plan's asset information as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023, included throughout the Plan's financial statements and supplemental schedule, that was prepared by or derived from information provided by the trustee and furnished to the plan administrator. The plan administrator has obtained certifications from the trustee that the information provided to the plan administrator by the trustee related to the following assets is complete and accurate. Accordingly, as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, the plan administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to information which appears throughout the financial statements and supplemental schedule related to the following assets:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Investments at fair value:		
Common trust funds	\$ 2,271,748	\$ 2,416,058
Common stock	1,126,963	1,066,238
Mutual funds	7,412,337	5,220,353
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. unitized stock fund	<u>2,940,967</u>	<u>3,057,990</u>
	13,752,015	11,760,639
Notes receivable from participants	402,254	548,117
Non-interest bearing cash	<u>-</u>	<u>22,403</u>
	<u>\$ 14,154,269</u>	<u>\$ 12,331,159</u>

The trustee also certified the completeness and accuracy of \$1,047,065 of net appreciation in fair value of investments and \$163,816 of interest and dividends as well as \$23,778 of interest income on notes receivable from participants for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described as follows:

- Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, such as:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets.
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability.
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3: Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Common stock:

The fair value of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. common stock is determined by an independent valuation specialist utilizing both income and market approach. Factors considered in determining the fair market value include the nature and history of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc., the economic outlook for the banking industry, the Company's financial condition, projections of future earnings, the capacity to continue to pay dividends and previous sales of First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. common stock. Additionally, the prevailing market valuation multiples of selected publicly-traded banking organizations located in the Southeastern United States are also considered in the evaluation of fair value (see Note 8).

Common trust funds:

Net asset value (NAV), as provided by the custodian is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of underlying investments held by the fund less its liabilities. The practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount differing from the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of a common trust fund, the investment advisor reserves the right to temporarily delay the withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

Mutual funds:

Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Unitized stock fund:

Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded, plus the carrying value of the cash component of the fund, which approximates fair value.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value:

2023				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. - common stock	\$ -	\$ 1,126,963	\$ -	\$ 1,126,963
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. - unitized stock fund	-	2,940,967	-	2,940,967
Mutual funds	<u>7,412,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,412,337</u>
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 7,412,337</u>	<u>\$ 4,067,930</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	11,480,267
Investments measured at NAV (a)				<u>2,271,748</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 13,752,015</u>

2022				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. - common stock	\$ -	\$ 1,066,238	\$ -	\$ 1,066,238
First Reliance Bancshares, Inc. - unitized stock fund	-	3,057,990	-	3,057,990
Mutual funds	<u>5,220,353</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,220,353</u>
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	<u>\$ 5,220,353</u>	<u>\$ 4,124,228</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	9,344,581
Investments measured at NAV (a)				<u>2,416,058</u>
Investments at fair value				<u>\$ 11,760,639</u>

- (a) Certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share or its equivalent have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the items presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements, Continued

The following tables set forth a summary of the Plan's investments reported at NAV as a practical expedient to estimate fair value:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>2023</u>			
	<u>Fair value</u>	<u>Unfunded commitment</u>	<u>Redemption frequency</u>	<u>Redemption notice period</u>
Common trust funds	<u>\$ 2,271,748</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	Daily	None

<u>Investment</u>	<u>2022</u>			
	<u>Fair value</u>	<u>Unfunded commitment</u>	<u>Redemption frequency</u>	<u>Redemption notice period</u>
Common trust funds	<u>\$ 2,416,058</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	Daily	None

Note 5. Concentrations

Financial instruments, which potentially subject the Plan to concentrations of credit risk, consist principally of investments in managed funds and in Common Stock of the Company. The Plan's custodian offers a variety of funds so participants may diversify investments between separate funds in order to limit the amount of credit exposure to any one fund. The underlying assets owned by that fund collateralize each managed fund.

At December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Plan's assets included \$4,067,930 and \$4,124,228, respectively, in common stock and the unitized stock of the Company. This represents approximately 29 and 33 percent of total Plan assets at December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, that are subject to fluctuation in the price of the Company's common stock.

Note 6. Related-Party and Party in Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are invested with the Company as described in Note 5. This relationship is considered a party in interest. Certain Plan investments are managed by Reliance Trust Company. Reliance Trust Company is the custodian as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party in interest transactions. Fees incurred by the Plan for the investment management services are included in net appreciation in fair value of the investment, as they are paid through revenue sharing, rather than a direct payment. As described in Note 2, the Plan made direct payments to the third party administrator totaling \$35,477 which were not covered by revenue sharing. The Company pays directly any other fees related to the Plan's operations.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Plan has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100 percent vested in their Company contributions.

Note 8. Company Stock

As an ESOP, the Plan investments include 131,501 and 122,275 shares of Company stock contributed by the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The Company's common stock fund as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, totaled \$1,126,963 and \$1,066,238, respectively. The Company's legal counsel has determined that the Plan must comply with Section 401(a) 28 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code Section which provides that Company securities held by an ESOP are not considered to be readily tradable on an established securities market and must be valued by an independent appraiser. Company stock held by an ESOP is traded on the Over the Counter Bulletin Board, which does not meet the definition of "readily tradable" per the Code section. Therefore, the value of these shares has been estimated as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, by an independent valuation specialist and are disclosed as a Level 2 asset in the fair value disclosure at Note 4. Because of the inherent subjectivity in any valuation, the estimated value may differ significantly from the value that would have been used had a ready market for the securities existed as defined by the Code section. This difference could be material.

Each participant receiving a distribution of Company stock from the trust fund has the option to sell the Company stock to the Company, at any time during two option periods, at the current fair value as reflected in the most current independent valuation. The first option period runs for a period of 60 days commencing on the date of distribution of Company stock to the participant. The second option period runs for a period of 60 days commencing in the next plan year after the new determination of the fair value of Company stock by the Plan Administrator and notice to the participant of the new fair value. If a participant (or beneficiary) exercises his/her option, the Company has the option purchase the Company stock at fair value upon specific terms.

The Plan also contains a 401(k) provision, which allows participants to obtain Company stock through employer matching contributions. Plan assets include 460,195 and 466,114 units of the Company's unitized stock fund as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, acquired by participants through employer matching contributions. The Company's unitized stock fund as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, consists of Company common stock totaling \$2,940,967 and \$3,057,990, respectively. Because these shares were acquired under the Plan's 401(k) provision, the Company's legal counsel has determined that they are not subject to the above code section. Therefore, these shares have been valued at the closing price on the active market on which they are traded, plus the carrying value of the cash component of the fund as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, and are appropriately disclosed as a Level 2 asset in the fair value disclosure at Note 4.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2023 and 2022

Note 9. Tax Status

The IRS has determined and informed the Plan by a letter dated October 23, 2013, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. The plan administrator believes the Plan and trust are operating in a manner that does not jeopardize this tax status.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 10. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the 2023 statement of net assets available for benefits.

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan*Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) EIN 58-2463842, Plan No. 001**As of December 31, 2023*

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, and par or maturity value	Cost	Current value
Investments at fair value				
	American Funds	EuroPacific Growth R6	**	\$ 280,268
	BlackRock	Adv Small Cap Core K	**	346,698
	Dodge & Cox	Income	**	530,417
	Federated Hermes	Government Obligation Fund	**	16,000
*	First Reliance Bancshares, Inc.	Unitized Stock Fund	**	2,940,967
*	First Reliance Bancshares, Inc.	ESOP Common Stock	**	1,126,963
*	Reliance Trust Company	MetLife GAC Series 25053	**	2,271,748
	MFS	Value R6	**	530,110
	Vanguard	Mid Cap Index	**	408,828
	Putnam	Growth Opportunities R6	**	1,708,433
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2025	**	493,860
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035	**	304,512
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045	**	63,424
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2020	**	33,820
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030	**	386,407
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040	**	301,520
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050	**	207,612
	Vanguard	Target Retirement Income Inv	**	176,200
	Vanguard	500 Index Admiral	**	1,523,477
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2060	**	28,854
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2055	**	40,780
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2065 Fund	**	29,718
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2070	**	1,399
				<u>13,752,015</u>
Notes receivable from participants				
*	Participant loans	Loan fund, interest rates of 4.25% - 9.50%		<u>402,254</u>
				<u><u>\$ 14,154,269</u></u>

* Indicates a party in interest to the Plan

** Cost information omitted due to participant directed funds

First Reliance Bank Employee Stock Ownership Plan*Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) EIN 58-2463842, Plan No. 001**As of December 31, 2023*

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
	Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, and par or maturity value	Cost	Current value
Investments at fair value				
	American Funds	EuroPacific Growth R6	**	\$ 280,268
	BlackRock	Adv Small Cap Core K	**	346,698
	Dodge & Cox	Income	**	530,417
	Federated Hermes	Government Obligation Fund	**	16,000
*	First Reliance Bancshares, Inc.	Unitized Stock Fund	**	2,940,967
*	First Reliance Bancshares, Inc.	ESOP Common Stock	**	1,126,963
*	Reliance Trust Company	MetLife GAC Series 25053	**	2,271,748
	MFS	Value R6	**	530,110
	Vanguard	Mid Cap Index	**	408,828
	Putnam	Growth Opportunities R6	**	1,708,433
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2025	**	493,860
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035	**	304,512
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	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2020	**	33,820
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030	**	386,407
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040	**	301,520
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050	**	207,612
	Vanguard	Target Retirement Income Inv	**	176,200
	Vanguard	500 Index Admiral	**	1,523,477
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2060	**	28,854
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2055	**	40,780
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2065 Fund	**	29,718
	Vanguard	Target Retirement 2070	**	1,399
				<u>13,752,015</u>
Notes receivable from participants				
*	Participant loans	Loan fund, interest rates of 4.25% - 9.50%		<u>402,254</u>
				<u><u>\$ 14,154,269</u></u>

* Indicates a party in interest to the Plan

** Cost information omitted due to participant directed funds