

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS***Years Ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999***NOTE 1—Statement of Accounting Policies****General**

The following summary of accounting and reporting policies is presented to aid the reader in obtaining a better understanding of the financial statements and related financial data of First Commonwealth Financial Corporation and its subsidiaries (the “Corporation”) contained in this report.

The financial information is presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and general practice for financial institutions in the United States of America. In preparing financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. In addition, these estimates and assumptions affect revenues and expenses in the financial statements and as such, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Through its subsidiaries which include two commercial banks, a nondepository trust company and insurance agency, the Corporation provides a full range of loan, deposit, trust and insurance services primarily to individuals and small to middle-market businesses in seventeen counties in central and western Pennsylvania. Under current conditions, the Corporation is reporting one business segment.

The Corporation is subject to regulations of certain state and federal agencies. These regulatory agencies periodically examine the Corporation for adherence to laws and regulations. As a consequence, the cost of doing business may be affected.

**Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries. All material intercompany transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Investments of 20 to 50 percent of the outstanding common stock of investees are accounted for using the equity method of accounting.

**Reclassifications**

Financial statement amounts in prior periods have been reclassified to conform to the presentation format used in 2001. The reclassifications had no effect on the Corporation’s financial condition or results of operations.

**Securities**

Debt securities that the Corporation has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as *securities held-to-maturity* and are reported at amortized cost. Debt and equity securities that are bought and held principally for the purpose of selling them in the near term are to be

classified as *trading securities* and reported at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses included in earnings. Debt and equity securities not classified as either held-to-maturity securities or trading securities are classified as *securities available-for-sale* and are reported at fair value, with unrealized gains and losses excluded from earnings and reported as a separate component of shareholders’ equity, net of deferred taxes.

The Corporation has securities classified as either held-to-maturity or available-for-sale. The Corporation does not engage in trading activities. Net gain or loss on the sale of securities is determined by using the specific identification method.

**Loans**

Loans are carried at the principal amount outstanding. Unearned income on installment loans and leases is taken into income on a declining basis which results in an approximately level rate of return over the life of the loan or lease. Interest is accrued as earned on nondiscounted loans.

The Corporation considers a loan to be impaired when, based on current information and events, it is probable that a creditor will be unable to collect principal or interest due according to the contractual terms of the loan. Loan impairment is measured based on the present value of expected cash flows discounted at the loan’s effective interest rate or, as a practical expedient, at the loan’s observable market price or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent.

Payments received on impaired loans are applied against the recorded investment in the loan. For loans other than those that the Corporation expects repayment through liquidation of the collateral, when the remaining recorded investment in the impaired loan is less than or equal to the present value of the expected cash flows, income is recorded on a cash basis.

**Mortgage Servicing Rights**

When the Corporation purchases or originates mortgage loans with a definitive plan to sell or securitize those loans and retain the mortgage servicing rights, the Corporation measures the mortgage servicing rights at cost by allocating the cost of the mortgage loans between the mortgage servicing rights and the mortgage loans (without the mortgage servicing rights) based on their relative fair values at the date of purchase or origination. When the Corporation does not have a definitive plan at the purchase or origination date and later sells or securitizes the mortgage loans and retains the mortgage servicing rights, the Corporation allocates the amortized cost of the mortgage loans between the mortgage servicing rights and the mortgage loans (without mortgage servicing rights) based on their relative fair values at the date of sale. The amount capitalized as the right to service mortgage loans is recognized as a separate