

SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORP

Form S-4/A

September 30, 2014

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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 29, 2014.

Registration No. 333-197708

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

Amendment No. 2
to
FORM S-4
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

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

Arkansas
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

6022
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)
501 Main Street

71-0407808
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

(870) 541-1000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

George A. Makris, Jr.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Simmons First National Corporation

501 Main Street

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

(870) 541-1000

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

With copies to:

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Gary E. Metzger

J. Kyle McCurry

President and CEO **Baker, Donelson, Bearman,** **Chairman and CEO** **T.J. Lynn**

Community First Bancshares, Inc. **Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC** **Liberty Bancshares, Inc.** **Stinson Leonard Street LLP**

115 West Washington Avenue **211 Commerce Street, Suite 800** **4625 South National Avenue** **1201 Walnut, Suite 2900**

Union City, Tennessee 38261 **Nashville, Tennessee 37201** **Springfield, Missouri 65810** **Kansas City, Missouri 64106**

(731) 886-8800

(615) 726-5718

(417) 888-3000

(816) 691-3285

Approximate date of commencement of the proposed sale of the securities to the public: As soon as practicable after this Registration Statement becomes effective and upon completion of the merger described in the enclosed document.

If the securities being registered on this Form are being offered in connection with the formation of a holding company and there is compliance with General Instruction G, check the following box. "

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(d) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer x
 Non-accelerated filer " (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller accelerated filer "

If applicable, place an X in the box to designate the appropriate rule provision relied upon in conducting this transaction:

Exchange Act Rule 13e-4(i) (Cross-Border Issuer Tender Offer) "

Exchange Act Rule 14d-1(d) (Cross-Border Third-Party Tender Offer) "

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, or until the registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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Information contained herein is subject to completion or amendment. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These securities may not be sold nor may offers to buy be accepted prior to the time the registration statement becomes effective. This document shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of any offer to buy nor shall there be any sale of these securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer, solicitation or sale would be unlawful prior to registration or qualification under the securities laws of any such jurisdiction.

PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2014

Joint Proxy Statement

Prospectus

MERGER PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Shareholder:

On _____, 2014, we will hold a special meeting of the shareholders of Simmons First National Corporation, or Simmons, to consider and vote upon two separate proposals to merge with Community First Bancshares, Inc., or Community First, and Liberty Bancshares, Inc., or Liberty. Simmons will be the surviving corporation in the merger with Community First, which we refer to as the Community First merger, and in the merger with Liberty, which we refer to as the Liberty merger.

Community First is headquartered in Union City, Tennessee, currently operates 31 branches or financial centers, of which 21 are located in western Tennessee, eight in middle Tennessee and two in eastern Tennessee, and has assets of approximately \$1.9 billion. The completion of the Community First merger will constitute Simmons' initial entry into the Tennessee banking markets. In addition to providing traditional community banking services to its customers, the Community First merger will strengthen Simmons' specialty product offerings in the areas of consumer finance, insurance and Small Business Administration, or SBA, lending.

Liberty is headquartered in Springfield, Missouri, currently operates 24 financial centers in southwest Missouri, including six in Springfield, Missouri, and has assets of approximately \$1.1 billion. The completion of the Liberty merger will significantly increase Simmons' market position in the Springfield and southwest Missouri banking markets. In addition to providing traditional community banking services to its customers, the pending Liberty merger will strengthen Simmons' specialty product offerings in the area of SBA lending.

Under the terms of the agreement and plan of merger, as amended, with Community First, which we refer to as the Community First merger agreement, each share of Community First common stock (except for shares of Community First common stock held by Community First or Simmons and any dissenting shares) will be converted into the right to receive 17.8975 shares of Simmons common stock, subject to possible adjustment. Simmons expects to issue 6,624,000 shares of common stock to Community First shareholders in the aggregate upon completion of the Community First merger. In addition, each share of Community First Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C, which we refer to as Community First Series C preferred stock, will be exchanged for one share of Simmons Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, which we refer to as Simmons Series A

preferred stock. Simmons expects to issue 30,852 shares of Simmons Series A preferred stock.

Under the terms of the agreement and plan of merger, as amended, with Liberty, which we refer to as the Liberty merger agreement, each share of Liberty common stock (except for shares of Liberty common stock held by Liberty or Simmons and any dissenting shares) will be converted into the right to receive 1.0 share of Simmons common stock, subject to possible adjustment. Simmons expects to issue 5,247,187 shares of common stock to Liberty shareholders in the aggregate upon completion of the Liberty merger.

Based upon the closing sales price of Simmons common stock on May 5, 2014, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the Community First merger, and _____, 2014, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the implied aggregate value of the Community First merger is approximately \$243.4 million, or \$657.55 per share of Community First common stock, and \$ _____ million, or \$ _____ per share of Community First common stock, respectively. Based upon the closing sales price of Simmons common stock on May 27, 2014, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the Liberty merger, and _____, 2014, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the implied aggregate value of the Liberty merger is approximately \$213.1 million, or \$40.62 per share of Liberty common stock, and \$ _____ million, or \$ _____ per share of Liberty common stock, respectively.

Simmons, Community First and Liberty will each hold a special meeting of their respective shareholders in connection with the Community First merger and the Liberty merger. At such special meetings, Simmons, Community First and Liberty shareholders will be asked to vote to approve the Community First merger agreement and the Liberty merger agreement, as applicable, and related matters as described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus. Approval of the Community First merger agreement and the Liberty merger agreement by Simmons shareholders requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of votes entitled to be cast. In addition, the written consent of the holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock is required to approve the Community First merger.

If the Community First merger and Liberty merger are both completed, existing Simmons shareholders would own approximately 60.2% of the common stock of Simmons immediately following completion of the mergers, while former Community First shareholders would own approximately 22.2% and former Liberty shareholders would own approximately 17.6%. If the Community First merger is completed, but the Liberty merger is not completed, existing Simmons and Community First shareholders would own approximately 73.1% and 26.9%, respectively, of Simmons common stock upon completion of the Community First merger. If the Liberty merger is completed, but the Community First merger is not completed, existing Simmons and Liberty shareholders would own approximately 77.4% and 22.6%, respectively, of Simmons common stock upon completion of the Liberty merger.

In addition to considering and voting upon the Community First merger and the Liberty merger, Simmons shareholders will also be asked to consider and vote upon a proposal to designate the number of members comprising the board of directors of Simmons as 12, increasing by three the number of Simmons directors, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we refer to as the Simmons director proposal.

The increase in the number of Simmons directors is being effected to implement agreements in the Community First merger and the Liberty merger to provide for representation of such parties on the Simmons board of directors. Approval of the Simmons director proposal by Simmons shareholders requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the votes cast on the Simmons director proposal at the Simmons special meeting.

The board of directors of Simmons believes the mergers with Community First and Liberty, together with the merger with Metropolitan National Bank that was completed on November 25, 2013 and the merger with Delta Trust & Banking Corporation that was completed on August 31, 2014, are transformative events for Simmons, allowing Simmons to diversify its market area, achieve scale, and attract seasoned management, thereby increasing shareholder

value for Simmons by providing a broader array of products and services and lending capacity to meet the needs of its customers as they grow.

The special meeting of Simmons shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at _____, at _____ local time.

Simmons board of directors unanimously recommends that Simmons shareholders vote FOR the approval of the Community First merger agreement, FOR the approval of the Liberty merger agreement, FOR the approval of the Simmons director proposal, and FOR the approval of any other matters to be considered at the Simmons special meeting.

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This joint proxy statement/prospectus describes the special meeting of Simmons, the special meeting of Community First, the special meeting of Liberty, the Community First merger, the Liberty merger, the documents related to the mergers and other related matters. **Please carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including Risk Factors, beginning on page 50, for a discussion of the risks relating to the proposed Community First merger and the proposed Liberty merger.** You also can obtain information about Simmons from documents that it has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

George A. Makris, Jr.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Simmons First National Corporation

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the Community First merger, the Liberty merger, the issuance of the Simmons common stock to be issued in the Community First merger or the Liberty merger, or the other transactions described in this document or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities to be issued in the mergers are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank or non-bank subsidiary of Simmons, Community First, or Liberty, and they are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Deposit Insurance Fund, or any other governmental agency.

The date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus is _____, and it is first being mailed or otherwise delivered to the shareholders of Simmons, Community First and Liberty on or about _____.

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Joint Proxy Statement

Prospectus

MERGER PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Shareholder:

On _____, 2014, we will hold a special meeting of the shareholders of Community First Bancshares, Inc. or Community First, to vote on a proposal to merge with Simmons First National Corporation, or Simmons. On May 6, 2014, Simmons and Community First entered into an agreement and plan of merger, as amended, which we refer to as the Community First merger agreement, that provides for the combination of Community First with Simmons. Under the Community First merger agreement, Community First will merge with and into Simmons, with Simmons as the surviving corporation, which we refer to as the Community First merger.

In the Community First merger, each share of Community First common stock (except for shares of Community First common stock held by Community First or Simmons and any dissenting shares) will be converted into the right to receive 17.8975 shares of Simmons common stock, subject to possible adjustment, which we refer to as the Community First merger consideration, or 6,624,000 shares of Simmons common stock in the aggregate, and each share of Community First Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C, which we refer to as Community First Series C preferred stock, will be exchanged for one share of Simmons Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, which we refer to as Simmons Series A preferred stock, or 30,852 shares of Simmons Series A preferred stock in the aggregate. Although the number of shares of Simmons common stock that Community First shareholders will receive is fixed, the market value of the Community First merger consideration will fluctuate with the market price of Simmons common stock and will not be known at the time Community First shareholders vote on the Community First merger. Based on the closing sales price of Simmons common stock on May 5, 2014, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the Community First merger, and _____, 2014, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the implied aggregate value of the Community First merger is approximately \$243.4 million, or \$657.55 per share of Community First common stock, and \$ _____ million, or \$ _____ per share of Community First common stock, respectively. **We urge you to obtain current market quotations for Simmons common stock (trading symbol SFNC).**

In addition to the merger with Community First, Simmons and Liberty Bancshares, Inc., or Liberty, have also entered into an agreement and plan of merger, as amended, which we refer to as the Liberty merger agreement, that provides for the combination of Liberty with Simmons, with Simmons as the surviving corporation, which we refer to as the Liberty merger. Liberty is headquartered in Springfield, Missouri, operates 24 financial centers, and has assets of approximately \$1.1 billion. The shareholders of Liberty will receive 1.0 share of Simmons common stock for each of their shares of Liberty common stock, or 5,247,187 shares of Simmons common stock in the aggregate.

While the shareholders of Simmons will need to approve the Liberty merger for it to be consummated, the shareholders of Community First will not. Information included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus with respect to Liberty and the Liberty merger is provided as information for Community First shareholders to consider when voting upon the Community First merger and for ease of reference for Simmons shareholders as they are required to consider and vote upon both the Community First merger and the Liberty merger.

If the Community First merger and Liberty merger are both completed, existing Simmons shareholders would own approximately 60.2% of the common stock of Simmons immediately following completion of the mergers, while former Community First shareholders would own approximately 22.2% and former Liberty shareholders would own

approximately 17.6%. If the Community First merger is completed, but the Liberty merger is not completed, existing Simmons and Community First shareholders would own approximately 73.1% and 26.9%, respectively, of Simmons common stock upon completion of the Community First merger.

Neither the closing of the Community First merger nor the closing of the Liberty merger is conditioned upon closing of the other merger.

Simmons and Community First will each hold a special meeting of their respective shareholders in connection with the Community First merger. At such special meetings, Simmons and Community First shareholders will be asked to vote to approve the Community First merger agreement and related matters as described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus. Approval of the Community First merger agreement by Simmons shareholders requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of votes entitled to be cast, and approval of the Community First merger agreement by Community First shareholders requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast. The holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock is also required to consent to the Community First merger.

At the Simmons special meeting, the Simmons shareholders will also be asked to vote to approve the Liberty merger agreement and related matters as described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus. Liberty will also hold a special meeting of its shareholders in connection with the Liberty merger. At such special meeting, Liberty shareholders will be asked to vote to approve the Liberty merger agreement and related matters as described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus.

The special meeting of Community First shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at 100 East Reelfoot Avenue, Union City, Tennessee 38261, at _____ local time. The special meeting of Simmons shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at _____, at _____ local time.

Community First's board of directors unanimously recommends that Community First shareholders vote FOR the approval of the Community First merger agreement and FOR the approval of any other matters to be considered at the Community First special meeting.

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This joint proxy statement/prospectus describes the special meeting of Simmons, the special meeting of Community First, the special meeting of Liberty, the Community First merger, the Liberty merger, the documents related to the mergers and other related matters. **Please carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including Risk Factors, beginning on page 50, for a discussion of the risks relating to the proposed Community First merger.** You also can obtain information about Simmons from documents that it has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

George A. Makris, Jr.

John C. Clark

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

President and Chief Executive Officer

Simmons First National Corporation

Community First Bancshares, Inc.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the Community First merger, the Liberty merger, the issuance of the Simmons common stock to be issued in the Community First merger or the Liberty merger, or the other transactions described in this document or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities to be issued in the mergers are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank or non-bank subsidiary of Simmons, Community First, or Liberty, and they are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Deposit Insurance Fund, or any other governmental agency.

The date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus is _____, and it is first being mailed or otherwise delivered to the shareholders of Simmons, Community First and Liberty on or about _____.

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Joint Proxy Statement

Prospectus

MERGER PROPOSED YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT

Dear Shareholder:

On _____, 2014, we will hold a special meeting of the shareholders of Liberty Bancshares, Inc., or Liberty, to vote on a proposal to merge with Simmons First National Corporation, or Simmons. On May 27, 2014, Simmons and Liberty entered into an agreement and plan of merger, as amended, which we refer to as the Liberty merger agreement, that provides for the combination of Liberty with Simmons. Under the Liberty merger agreement, Liberty will merge with and into Simmons, with Simmons as the surviving corporation, which we refer to as the Liberty merger.

In the Liberty merger, each share of Liberty common stock (except for shares of Liberty common stock held by Liberty or Simmons and any dissenting shares) will be converted into the right to receive 1.0 share of Simmons common stock, subject to possible adjustment, which we refer to as the Liberty merger consideration, or 5,247,187 shares of Simmons common stock in the aggregate. Although the number of shares of Simmons common stock that Liberty shareholders will receive is generally fixed, the market value of the Liberty merger consideration will fluctuate with the market price of Simmons common stock and will not be known at the time Liberty shareholders vote on the Liberty merger. Based on the closing sales price of Simmons common stock on May 27, 2014, the last trading day prior to the announcement of the Liberty merger, and _____, 2014, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus, the implied aggregate value of the Liberty merger is approximately \$213.1 million, or \$40.62 per share of Liberty common stock, and \$ _____ million, or \$ _____ per share of Liberty common stock, respectively. **We urge you to obtain current market quotations for Simmons common stock (trading symbol SFNC).**

In addition to the merger with Liberty, Simmons and Community First Bancshares, Inc., or Community First, have also entered into an agreement and plan of merger, as amended, which we refer to as the Community First merger agreement, that provides for the combination of Community First with Simmons, with Simmons as the surviving corporation, which we refer to as the Community First merger. Community First is headquartered in Union City, Tennessee, operates 31 branches or financial centers, and has assets of approximately \$1.9 billion. The holders of Community First common stock will receive 17.8975 shares of Simmons common stock for each of their shares of Community First common stock, or 6,624,000 shares of Simmons common stock in the aggregate, and the holder of Community First Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C, which we refer to as Community First Series C preferred stock, will receive one share of Simmons Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, which we refer to as Simmons Series A preferred stock, for each share of Community First Series C preferred stock, or 30,852 shares of Simmons Series A preferred stock in the aggregate.

While the shareholders of Simmons will need to approve the Community First merger for it to be consummated, the shareholders of Liberty will not. Information included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus with respect to Community First and the Community First merger is provided as information for Liberty shareholders to consider when voting upon the Liberty merger and for ease of reference for Simmons shareholders as they are required to consider and vote upon both the Liberty merger and the Community First merger.

If the Liberty merger and Community First merger are both completed, existing Simmons shareholders would own approximately 60.2% of the common stock of Simmons immediately following completion of the mergers, while former Liberty shareholders would own approximately 17.6% and former Community First shareholders would own

approximately 22.2%. If the Liberty merger is completed, but the Community First merger is not completed, existing Simmons and Liberty shareholders would own approximately 77.4% and 22.6%, respectively, of Simmons common stock upon completion of the Liberty merger.

Neither the closing of the Liberty merger nor the closing of the Community First merger is conditioned upon closing of the other merger.

Simmons and Liberty will each hold a special meeting of their respective shareholders in connection with the Liberty merger. At such special meetings, Simmons and Liberty shareholders will be asked to vote to approve the Liberty merger agreement and related matters as described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus. Approval of the Liberty merger agreement by Simmons shareholders requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of votes entitled to be cast, and approval of the Liberty merger agreement by Liberty shareholders requires the affirmative vote of the holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Liberty common stock entitled to vote at such meeting.

At the Simmons special meeting, the Simmons shareholders will also be asked to vote to approve the Community First merger agreement and related matters as described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus. Community First will also hold a special meeting of its shareholders in connection with the Community First merger. At such special meeting, Community First shareholders will be asked to vote to approve the Community First merger agreement and related matters as described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus. The holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock is also required to consent to the Community First merger.

The special meeting of Liberty shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at 5400 Highland Springs Boulevard, Springfield, Missouri, 65809, at _____ local time. The special meeting of Simmons shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at _____, at _____ local time.

Liberty's board of directors unanimously recommends that Liberty shareholders vote FOR the approval of the Liberty merger agreement and FOR the approval of any other matters to be considered at the Liberty special meeting.

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This joint proxy statement/prospectus describes the special meeting of Simmons, the special meeting of Liberty, the special meeting of Community First, the Liberty merger, the Community First merger, the documents related to the mergers and other related matters. **Please carefully read this entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including Risk Factors, beginning on page 50, for a discussion of the risks relating to the proposed Liberty merger.** You also can obtain information about Simmons from documents that it has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

George A. Makris, Jr.

Gary E. Metzger

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Simmons First National Corporation

Liberty Bancshares, Inc.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved the Liberty merger, the Community First merger, the issuance of the Simmons common stock to be issued in the Liberty merger or the Community First merger, or the other transactions described in this document or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities to be issued in the mergers are not savings or deposit accounts or other obligations of any bank or non-bank subsidiary of Simmons, Liberty, or Community First, and they are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Deposit Insurance Fund, or any other governmental agency.

The date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus is _____, and it is first being mailed or otherwise delivered to the shareholders of Simmons, Liberty and Community First on or about _____.

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REFERENCES TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This joint proxy statement/prospectus incorporates important business and financial information about Simmons from documents filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, that are not included in or delivered with this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You can obtain any of the documents filed with or furnished to the SEC by Simmons at no cost from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may also request copies of these documents, including documents incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus, at no cost by contacting Simmons at the following address:

Simmons First National Corporation

501 Main Street

P.O. Box 7009

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611

Attention: Susan F. Smith

Telephone: (501) 377-7629

You will not be charged for any of these documents that you request. To obtain timely delivery of these documents, you must request them no later than five business days before the date of your meeting. This means that Simmons shareholders requesting documents must do so by _____, 2014 in order to receive them before the Simmons special meeting, Community First shareholders requesting documents must do so by _____, 2014 in order to receive them before the Community First special meeting, and Liberty shareholders requesting documents must do so by _____, 2014 in order to receive them before the Liberty special meeting.

You should rely only on the information contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this document. No one has been authorized to provide you with information that is different from that contained in, or incorporated by reference into, this document. This document is dated _____, 2014, and you should assume that the information in this document is accurate only as of such date. You should assume that the information incorporated by reference into this document is accurate as of the date of such document. Neither the mailing of this document to Simmons shareholders, Community First shareholders, or Liberty shareholders nor the issuance by Simmons of shares of Simmons common stock in connection with the mergers will create any implication to the contrary. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#) for more details.

This document does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities, or the solicitation of a proxy, in any jurisdiction to or from any person to whom it is unlawful to make any such offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. Except where the context otherwise indicates, information contained in this document regarding Simmons has been provided by Simmons, information contained in this document regarding Community First has been provided by Community First, and information contained in this document regarding Liberty has been provided by Liberty.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON _____, 2014

To the Shareholders of Simmons First National Corporation:

Simmons First National Corporation will hold a special meeting of shareholders at _____ local time, on _____, 2014, at _____, to consider and vote upon the following matters:

a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 6, 2014, as amended on September 11, 2014, by and between Simmons First National Corporation and Community First Bancshares, Inc., pursuant to which Community First will merge with and into Simmons, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we refer to as the Community First merger proposal;

a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 27, 2014, as amended on September 11, 2014, by and between Simmons First National Corporation and Liberty Bancshares, Inc., pursuant to which Liberty will merge with and into Simmons, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we refer to as the Liberty merger proposal;

a proposal to designate the number of members comprising the board of directors of Simmons as 12, increasing by three the number of Simmons directors, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we refer to as the Simmons director proposal;

a proposal to adjourn the Simmons special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Community First merger proposal, which we refer to as the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal; and

a proposal to adjourn the Simmons special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Liberty merger proposal, which we refer to as the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal.

We have fixed the close of business on _____, 2014 as the record date for the Simmons special meeting. Only Simmons common shareholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Simmons special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the Simmons special meeting. Approval of each of the Community First merger proposal and the Liberty merger proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on each proposal. Approval of the Simmons director proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes cast on the proposal. Approval of each of the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal and the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of shares cast on each proposal.

Simmons board of directors has unanimously adopted the Community First merger agreement and the Liberty merger agreement, has determined that the agreements and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the mergers, are in the best interests of Simmons and its shareholders, and unanimously recommends that Simmons shareholders vote FOR the Community First merger proposal, FOR the Liberty merger proposal,

FOR the Simmons director proposal, and FOR the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate, and FOR the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

Your vote is very important. We cannot complete the mergers unless Simmons common shareholders approve the Community First merger proposal and the Liberty merger proposal.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the Simmons special meeting, please vote as soon as possible. If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record of Simmons, please vote as promptly as possible by (1) accessing the internet site listed on your proxy card, (2) calling the toll-free number listed on your proxy card, or (3) completing, signing, dating and returning your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope. If you hold your stock in street name through a bank or broker, please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card furnished by the record holder.

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Under Arkansas law, Simmons shareholders who do not vote in favor of the Community First merger proposal or the Liberty merger proposal and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights. See Questions and Answers Are Simmons shareholders entitled to dissenters' rights?

The enclosed joint proxy statement/prospectus provides a detailed description of the special meetings, the mergers, the documents related to the mergers and other related matters. We urge you to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus, including any documents incorporated in the joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference, and its annexes carefully and in their entirety.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

George A. Makris, Jr.

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON _____, 2014

To the Shareholders of Community First Bancshares, Inc.:

Community First Bancshares, Inc. will hold a special meeting of shareholders at _____ local time, on _____, 2014, at 100 East Reelfoot Avenue, Union City, Tennessee 38261, to consider and vote upon the following matters:

a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 6, 2014, as amended on September 11, 2014, by and between Simmons First National Corporation and Community First Bancshares, Inc., pursuant to which Community First will merge with and into Simmons, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we refer to as the Community First merger proposal; and

a proposal to adjourn the Community First special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Community First merger proposal, which we refer to as the Community First adjournment proposal.

We have fixed the close of business on _____, 2014, as the record date for the Community First special meeting. Only Community First common shareholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Community First special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the Community First special meeting. Approval of the Community First merger proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the proposal. Approval of the Community First adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of shares represented at the special meeting.

Community First's board of directors has unanimously adopted the Community First merger agreement, has determined that the Community First merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, are in the best interests of Community First and its shareholders, and unanimously recommends that Community First shareholders vote FOR the Community First merger proposal and FOR the Community First adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

Your vote is very important. We cannot complete the merger unless Community First's common shareholders approve the Community First merger proposal.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the Community First special meeting, please vote as soon as possible. If you hold stock in your name as a shareholder of record of Community First, please vote as promptly as possible by completing, signing, dating and returning your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope. If you hold your stock in street name through a bank or broker, please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card furnished by the record holder.

Under Tennessee law, Community First shareholders who do not vote in favor of the Community First merger proposal and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights. See Questions and Answers Are Community First shareholders entitled to dissenters' rights?

The enclosed joint proxy statement/prospectus provides a detailed description of the special meetings, the mergers, the documents related to the mergers and other related matters. We urge you to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus, including any documents incorporated in the joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference, and its annexes carefully and in their entirety.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

R. Newell Graham

Chairman of the Board

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON _____, 2014

To the Shareholders of Liberty Bancshares, Inc.:

Liberty Bancshares, Inc. will hold a special meeting of shareholders at _____ local time, on _____, 2014, at 5400 Highland Springs Boulevard, Springfield, Missouri 65809, to consider and vote upon the following matters:

a proposal to approve the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 27, 2014, as amended on September 11, 2014, by and between Simmons First National Corporation and Liberty Bancshares, Inc., pursuant to which Liberty will merge with and into Simmons, as more fully described in the attached joint proxy statement/prospectus, which we refer to as the Liberty merger proposal; and

a proposal to adjourn the Liberty special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Liberty merger proposal, which we refer to as the Liberty adjournment proposal.

We have fixed the close of business on _____, 2014 as the record date for the Liberty special meeting. Only Liberty common shareholders of record at that time are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Liberty special meeting, or any adjournment or postponement of the Liberty special meeting. Approval of the Liberty merger proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Liberty common stock entitled to vote at such meeting. Approval of the Liberty adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of shares of common stock represented at the special meeting.

Liberty's board of directors has adopted the Liberty merger agreement, has determined that the Liberty merger agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby, including the merger, are in the best interests of Liberty and its shareholders, and unanimously recommends that Liberty shareholders vote FOR the Liberty merger proposal and FOR the Liberty adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

Your vote is very important. We cannot complete the Liberty merger unless Liberty's common shareholders approve the Liberty merger proposal.

Regardless of whether you plan to attend the Liberty special meeting, please vote as soon as possible by completing, signing, dating and returning your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope. If you hold your stock in street name through a bank or broker, please follow the instructions on the voting instruction card furnished by the record holder.

Under Missouri law, Liberty shareholders who do not vote in favor of the merger proposal and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights. See Questions and Answers Are Liberty shareholders entitled to dissenters' rights?

The enclosed joint proxy statement/prospectus provides a detailed description of the special meetings, the mergers, the documents related to the mergers and other related matters. We urge you to read the joint proxy statement/prospectus, including any documents incorporated in the joint proxy statement/prospectus by reference, and its annexes carefully and in their entirety.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

Gary E. Metzger

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following are some questions that you may have about the Community First merger or the Liberty merger, which we collectively refer to as the mergers, and the Simmons, Community First or Liberty special meetings, and brief answers to those questions. We urge you to read carefully the remainder of this joint proxy statement/prospectus because the information in this section does not provide all of the information that might be important to you with respect to the mergers and the Simmons, Community First or Liberty special meetings. Additional important information is also contained in the documents incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to **Simmons** refer to Simmons First National Corporation, an Arkansas corporation, and its subsidiaries, references to **Community First** refer to Community First Bancshares, Inc., a Tennessee corporation, and its subsidiaries, and references to **Liberty** refer to Liberty Bancshares, Inc., a Missouri corporation, and its subsidiaries.

Q: What are the mergers?

A: Simmons and Community First have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 6, 2014, as amended on September 11, 2014, which we refer to as the Community First merger agreement, and Simmons and Liberty have entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of May 27, 2014, as amended on September 11, 2014, which we refer to as the Liberty merger agreement, and collectively we refer to the Community First merger agreement and the Liberty merger agreement as the merger agreements. Under the Community First merger agreement, Community First will be merged with and into Simmons, with Simmons continuing as the surviving corporation, and under the Liberty merger agreement, Liberty will be merged with and into Simmons, with Simmons continuing as the surviving corporation. Copies of the Community First merger agreement and the Liberty merger agreement are included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A and Annex B, respectively.

The mergers cannot be completed unless, among other things, the Simmons shareholders, Community First shareholders and Liberty shareholders approve their respective proposals to approve the merger agreements.

Q: Is the consummation of one merger conditioned on the consummation of the other merger?

A: No. The Community First merger may be consummated regardless of whether the Liberty merger is consummated. Similarly, the Liberty merger may be consummated regardless of whether the Community First merger is consummated.

Q: Why am I receiving this joint proxy statement/prospectus?

A: We are delivering this document to you because it is a joint proxy statement being used by the Simmons, Community First and Liberty boards of directors to solicit proxies of their respective shareholders in connection

with approval of the mergers and related matters.

In order to approve the mergers and related matters, Simmons, Community First and Liberty have each called a special meeting of their common shareholders, which we refer to as the Simmons special meeting, Community First special meeting and the Liberty special meeting, respectively. This document serves as a proxy statement for the Simmons special meeting, Community First special meeting and the Liberty special meeting and describes the proposals to be presented at the meetings.

This document is also a prospectus that is being delivered to Community First shareholders and Liberty shareholders because Simmons is offering shares of its common stock to both the Community First shareholders and the Liberty shareholders in connection with the mergers.

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This joint proxy statement/prospectus contains important information about the mergers and the other proposals being voted on at the meetings. You should read it carefully and in its entirety. The enclosed materials allow you to have your shares voted by proxy without attending your meeting. Your vote is important. We encourage you to submit your proxy as soon as possible.

Q: In addition to the Community First merger proposal and Liberty merger proposal, what else are Simmons shareholders being asked to vote on?

A: In addition to the two merger proposals, Simmons is soliciting proxies from its shareholders with respect to (1) a proposal to designate the number of members comprising the board of directors of Simmons as 12, increasing by three the number of Simmons directors, which we refer to as the Simmons director proposal, (2) a proposal to adjourn the Simmons special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Community First merger proposal, which we refer to as the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal, and (3) a proposal to adjourn the Simmons special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Liberty merger proposal, which we refer to as the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal. Approval of the Simmons director proposal is necessary for the completion of the Community First merger and the Liberty merger. Completion of the Community First merger and the Liberty merger are not conditioned upon approval of either of the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal or the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal.

Q: In addition to the Community First merger proposal, what else are Community First shareholders being asked to vote on?

A: In addition to the Community First merger proposal, Community First is soliciting proxies from its shareholders with respect to a proposal to adjourn the Community First special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Community First merger proposal, which we refer to as the Community First adjournment proposal.

Completion of the Community First merger is not conditioned upon approval of the Community First adjournment proposal.

Q: In addition to the Liberty merger proposal, what else are Liberty shareholders being asked to vote on?

A: In addition to the Liberty merger proposal, Liberty is soliciting proxies from its shareholders with respect to a proposal to adjourn the Liberty special meeting, if necessary or appropriate, to solicit additional proxies in favor of the Liberty merger proposal, which we refer to as the Liberty adjournment proposal.

Completion of the Liberty merger is not conditioned upon approval of the Liberty adjournment proposal.

Q: What will Community First shareholders receive in the merger?

- A: If the Community First merger is completed, holders of Community First common stock will receive 17.8975 shares of Simmons common stock (subject to possible adjustments), which we refer to as the Community First merger consideration, for each share of Community First common stock held immediately prior to the merger. Simmons will not issue any fractional shares of Simmons common stock in the Community First merger. Community First shareholders who would otherwise be entitled to a fractional share of Simmons common stock upon the completion of the Community First merger will instead receive an amount in cash equal to the product of the average of the last reported sale prices per share of Simmons common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for the 20 consecutive trading days ending immediately prior to the 10th day before the date on which the Community First merger is completed, times the fraction of a share of Simmons common stock to which the Community First shareholder otherwise would be entitled.

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If the number of shares of Community First common stock outstanding (including shares of Community First restricted common stock) increases or decreases prior to the effective time of the Community First merger, then the number of shares of Simmons common stock to be issued for each share of Community First common stock shall be adjusted from 17.8975 shares of Simmons common stock to a number that will result in Simmons issuing no more than 6,624,000 shares of Simmons common stock in the Community First merger. We refer to the number of shares of Simmons common stock to be issued for each share of Community First common stock, as adjusted, as the Community First exchange ratio. In addition, if the Community First board of directors exercises its right to terminate the Community First merger agreement due to the decrease in the average closing price of Simmons common stock relative to an index of banking stocks, Simmons may elect to increase the Community First merger consideration by paying, in addition to shares of Simmons common stock, cash for each share of Community First common stock. See The Merger Agreements Walkaway Counteroffers Community First Merger.

In addition to the Community First common stock being exchanged for Simmons common stock, Community First Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series C, or Community First Series C preferred stock, will be exchanged for a new series of Simmons preferred stock designated as Simmons Senior Non-Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, or Simmons Series A preferred stock, with substantially identical terms, except that Simmons Series A preferred stock will not have any transfer restrictions or be subject to registration rights.

Q: Is approval of the Community First merger by the holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock necessary for the completion of the Community First merger?

A: Yes. The written consent of the holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock is required for completion of the Community First merger.

Q: What will Liberty shareholders receive in the merger?

A: If the Liberty merger is completed, Liberty shareholders will receive 1.0 share of Simmons common stock (subject to possible adjustment), which we refer to as the Liberty merger consideration, for each share of Liberty common stock held immediately prior to the Liberty merger. We refer to the Community First merger consideration and the Liberty merger consideration collectively as the merger consideration. Simmons will not issue any fractional shares of Simmons common stock in the Liberty merger. Liberty shareholders who would otherwise be entitled to a fractional share of Simmons common stock upon the completion of the merger will instead receive an amount in cash equal to the product of the average of the last reported sale prices per share of Simmons common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for the 20 consecutive trading days ending immediately prior to the 10th day before the date on which the Liberty merger is completed, times the fraction of a share of Simmons common stock to which the Liberty shareholder otherwise would be entitled.

If the number of shares of Liberty common stock outstanding (including shares of Liberty common stock subject to Liberty stock options) increases or decreases prior to the effective time of the Liberty merger, then the number of shares of Simmons common stock to be issued for each share of Liberty common stock shall be adjusted from 1.0 share of Simmons common stock to a number that will result in Simmons issuing no more than 5,247,187 shares of Simmons common stock in the Liberty merger. We refer to the number of shares of Simmons common stock to be issued for each of share of Liberty common stock, as adjusted, as the Liberty exchange ratio. In addition, if the Liberty board of directors exercises its right to terminate the Liberty merger agreement due to the decrease in the average

closing price of Simmons common stock relative to an index of banking stocks, Simmons may elect to increase the Liberty merger consideration by paying, in addition to shares of Simmons common stock, cash for each share of Liberty common stock. See The Merger Agreements Walkaway Counteroffers Liberty Merger.

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Q: What will Simmons shareholders receive in the mergers?

A: If either or both of the mergers are completed, Simmons shareholders will not receive any merger consideration and will continue to hold the shares of Simmons common stock that they currently hold. Following the mergers, shares of Simmons common stock will continue to be traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol SFNC.

Q: How will the Community First merger affect Community First restricted stock?

A: Each share of Community First restricted stock, that is not Community First double trigger restricted stock, will vest at the effective time of the Community First merger and will be entitled to be exchanged for the Community First merger consideration in the same manner as unrestricted shares of Community First common stock. Each share of Community First double trigger restricted stock will be exchanged for the Community First merger consideration but the shares of Simmons common stock received as Community First merger consideration shall not vest at the effective time of the Community First merger but instead shall vest or be forfeited pursuant to the terms of the Community First stock plan under which they were granted (taking into account that the consummation of the Community First merger and its related transactions will constitute the first trigger for the Community First double trigger restricted stock). Community First double trigger restricted stock are shares of Community First restricted stock that vest only upon both a change in control of Community First and two years of continued service following the change in control of Community First by the holder of Community First double trigger restricted stock.

Q: How will the Liberty merger affect Liberty stock options?

A: Each option to purchase shares of Liberty common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Liberty merger will be converted into an option to purchase Simmons common stock on the same terms and conditions as were applicable prior to the Liberty merger, except that (1) the number of shares of Simmons common stock subject to the new option will be equal to the product of the number of shares of Liberty common stock subject to the existing option and the Liberty exchange ratio and (2) the exercise price per share of Simmons common stock under the new option will be equal to the exercise price per share of Liberty common stock of the existing option divided by the Liberty exchange ratio.

Q: Will the value of the merger consideration change between the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the time the mergers are completed?

A: Because the number of shares of Simmons common stock that both Community First and Liberty shareholders will receive for each share of Community First common stock and Liberty common stock, respectively, is fixed (subject, in each case, to possible adjustment), the value of the merger consideration in each merger will fluctuate between the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and the completion of the mergers based upon the market value for Simmons common stock. Any fluctuation in the market price of Simmons common stock after the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus will change the value of the shares of Simmons common stock

that both Community First and Liberty shareholders will receive, subject to any payment made by Simmons in connection with a walkaway counteroffer.

Q: How does Simmons board of directors recommend that Simmons shareholders vote at the Simmons special meeting?

A: Simmons board of directors unanimously recommends that Simmons shareholders vote **FOR** both merger proposals, **FOR** the Simmons director proposal, **FOR** the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate, and **FOR** the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

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Q: How does Community First's board of directors recommend that Community First shareholders vote at the Community First special meeting?

A: Community First's board of directors unanimously recommends that Community First shareholders vote **FOR** the Community First merger proposal and **FOR** the Community First adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

Q: How does Liberty's board of directors recommend that Liberty shareholders vote at the Liberty special meeting?

A: Liberty's board of directors unanimously recommends that Liberty shareholders vote **FOR** the Liberty merger proposal and **FOR** the Liberty adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

Q: When and where are the meetings?

A: The Simmons special meeting will be held at _____ on _____, 2014, at _____ local time.

The Community First special meeting will be held at the 100 East Reelfoot Avenue, Union City, Tennessee 38261 on _____, 2014, at _____ local time.

The Liberty special meeting will be held at 5400 Highland Springs Boulevard, Springfield, Missouri 65809 on _____, 2014, at _____ local time.

Q: What do I need to do now?

A: After you have carefully read this joint proxy statement/prospectus in its entirety and have decided how you wish to vote your shares, please vote your shares promptly so that your shares are represented and voted at your special meeting. If you hold your shares in your name as a shareholder of record, you must complete, sign, date and mail your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid return envelope as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you are a Simmons shareholder, you may vote through the internet or by telephone. Information and applicable deadlines for voting by internet or by telephone are set forth in the enclosed proxy card instructions. If you are a Simmons shareholder, you are encouraged to vote through the internet or by telephone. If you hold your shares in _____ street name through a bank or broker, you must direct your bank or broker how to vote in accordance with the instructions you have received from your bank or broker. _____ street name shareholders who wish to vote in person at the special meetings will need to obtain a legal proxy from the institution that holds their shares.

Q: What constitutes a quorum for the Simmons special meeting?

A: The presence at the Simmons special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Simmons common stock entitled to vote at the Simmons special meeting will constitute a quorum.

Q: What constitutes a quorum for the Community First special meeting?

A: The presence at the Community First special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Community First common stock entitled to vote at the Community First special meeting will constitute a quorum. Community First will seek the written consent of the holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock for the Community First merger. As a result, Community First does not expect the holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock to attend or vote at the Community First special meeting.

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Q: What constitutes a quorum for the Liberty special meeting?

A: The presence at the Liberty special meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast at the Liberty special meeting will constitute a quorum.

Q: What is the vote required to approve each proposal at the Simmons special meeting?

A: *Community First and Liberty merger proposals:*

Standard: Approval of both of the Community First and Liberty merger proposals require the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast on the proposal.

Effect of abstentions and broker non-votes: If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to either submit a proxy card or vote by telephone or the internet or in person at the Simmons special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker with respect to the merger proposals, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the merger proposals.

Simmons director proposal:

Standard: Approval of the Simmons director proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of shares cast on the Simmons director proposal.

Effect of abstentions and broker non-votes: If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote or fail to either submit a proxy card entirely or vote by telephone or the internet or in person at the Simmons special meeting, with respect to the Simmons director proposal, it will have no effect on such proposal.

Simmons/Community First and Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposals:

Standard: Approval of each of the Simmons/Community First and Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposals requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of shares of Simmons common stock cast on such proposal.

Effect of abstentions and broker non-votes: If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote or fail to either submit a proxy card entirely or vote by telephone or the internet or in person at the Simmons special meeting, with respect to the Simmons/Community First or Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposals, it will have no effect on the respective proposals.

Q: What is the vote required to approve each proposal at the Community First special meeting?

A: *Community First merger proposal:*

Standard: Approval of the Community First merger proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to vote on the proposal.

Effect of abstentions and broker non-votes: If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to submit a proxy card or vote in person at the Community First special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect

to the Community First merger proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal.

Community First adjournment proposal:

Standard: Approval of the Community First adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of shares represented at the Community First special meeting.

Effect of abstentions and broker non-votes: If you mark ABSTAIN on your proxy card, or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, with respect to the Community First adjournment proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal. If you are a street name holder and fail to submit a proxy card or vote in person at the Community First special meeting, it will have no effect on such proposal.

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Q: What is the vote required to approve each proposal at the Liberty special meeting?

A: Liberty merger proposal:

Standard: Approval of the Liberty merger proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Liberty common stock entitled to vote at such meeting.

Effect of abstentions and broker non-votes: If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to either submit a proxy card or vote in person at the Liberty special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the Liberty merger proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal.

Liberty adjournment proposal:

Standard: Approval of the Liberty adjournment proposal requires the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of shares represented at the Liberty special meeting.

Effect of abstentions and broker non-votes: If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, with respect to the Liberty adjournment proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal. If you are a **street name** holder and fail to either submit a proxy card entirely or vote in person at the Liberty special meeting, it will have no effect on such proposal.

Q: Why is my vote important?

A: If you do not vote, it will be more difficult for Simmons, Community First or Liberty to obtain the necessary quorum to hold their special meetings. In addition, your failure to submit a proxy or vote in person, failure to vote by telephone or the internet for Simmons shareholders, or failure to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, or abstention will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** approval of the merger agreements. The merger agreements must be approved by the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by Simmons shareholders on both merger agreements, the affirmative vote of holders of a majority of the votes entitled to vote by Community First shareholders on the Community First merger agreement and the affirmative vote of holders of two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Liberty common stock entitled to vote by Liberty shareholders on the Liberty merger agreement. The Simmons board of directors recommends that you vote **FOR** both merger proposals, and the Community First board of directors and the Liberty board of directors unanimously recommend that you vote **FOR** the Community First merger proposal and **FOR** the Liberty merger proposal, respectively.

Q: If my shares of common stock are held in **street name by my bank or broker, will my bank or broker automatically vote my shares for me?**

A: No. Your bank or broker cannot vote your shares without instructions from you. You should instruct your bank or broker how to vote your shares in accordance with the instructions provided to you. Please check the voting form used by your bank or broker.

Q: How do I vote if I own shares through the Simmons First National Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan, or Simmons ESOP?

A: You will be given the opportunity to instruct the trustee of the Simmons ESOP how to vote the shares that you hold in your account. To the extent that you do not timely give such instructions, your shares will not be voted.

Q: Can I attend the meeting and vote my shares in person?

A: Yes. All shareholders of Simmons, Community First and Liberty, including shareholders of record and shareholders who hold their shares through banks, brokers, nominees or any other holder of record, are invited to attend their respective meetings. Holders of record of Simmons, Community First and Liberty common stock can vote in person at the Simmons special meeting, Community First special meeting and

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Liberty special meeting, respectively. Holders of record of Simmons common stock can also vote by telephone or the internet. If you are not a shareholder of record, you must obtain a proxy card, executed in your favor, from the record holder of your shares, such as a broker, bank or other nominee, to be able to vote in person at the meetings. If you plan to attend your meeting, you must hold your shares in your own name or bring a copy of a bank or brokerage statement to the special meeting reflecting your stock ownership as of the record date. In addition, you must bring a form of personal photo identification with you in order to be admitted. Simmons, Community First and Liberty reserve the right to refuse admittance to anyone without proper proof of share ownership or without proper photo identification.

Q: Can I change my vote?

A: *Simmons shareholders:* Yes. If you are a holder of record of Simmons common stock, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted by (1) signing and returning a proxy card with a later date, (2) delivering a written revocation letter to Simmons' corporate secretary, (3) attending the special meeting in person, notifying the corporate secretary and voting by ballot at the special meeting, or (4) voting by telephone or the internet at a later time. Attendance at the special meeting by itself will not automatically revoke your proxy. A revocation or later-dated proxy received by Simmons after the vote will not affect the vote. Simmons' corporate secretary's mailing address is: Corporate Secretary, Simmons First National Corporation, 501 Main Street, P.O. Box 7009, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71611. If you hold your shares in street name through a bank or broker, you should contact your bank or broker to revoke your proxy.

Community First shareholders: Yes. If you are a holder of record of Community First common stock, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted by (1) signing and returning a proxy card with a later date, (2) delivering a written revocation letter to Community First's corporate secretary, or (3) attending the special meeting in person, notifying the corporate secretary and voting by ballot at the special meeting. Attendance at the special meeting by itself will not automatically revoke your proxy. A revocation or later-dated proxy received by Community First after the vote will not affect the vote. Community First's corporate secretary's mailing address is: Corporate Secretary, Community First Bancshares, Inc., 115 West Washington Avenue, Union City, Tennessee 38261. If you hold your shares in street name through a bank or broker, you should contact your bank or broker to revoke your proxy.

Liberty shareholders: Yes. If you are a holder of record of Liberty common stock, you may revoke any proxy at any time before it is voted by (1) signing and returning a proxy card with a later date, (2) delivering a written revocation letter to Liberty's corporate secretary, or (3) attending the special meeting in person, notifying the corporate secretary and voting by ballot at the special meeting. Attendance at the special meeting by itself will not automatically revoke your proxy. A revocation or later-dated proxy received by Liberty after the vote will not affect the vote. Liberty's corporate secretary's mailing address is: Corporate Secretary, Liberty Bancshares, Inc., 4625 South National Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65810. If you hold your shares in street name through a bank or broker, you should contact your bank or broker to revoke your proxy.

Q: What are the U.S. federal income tax consequences of the merger to Community First shareholders and Liberty shareholders?

A: The mergers are intended to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the Code, and it is a condition to the respective obligations of Simmons, Community First and

Liberty to complete the mergers that each of Simmons, Community First and Liberty receives a legal opinion to that effect. The opinion as issued indicates that a Community First shareholder and a Liberty common shareholder generally will receive shares of Simmons common stock in exchange for the shares of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock in a tax free exchange without the recognition of gain or loss. However, a Community First common shareholder or a Liberty common shareholder generally will recognize gain or loss with respect to cash received instead of fractional shares of Simmons common stock that the Community First common shareholder or the Liberty common shareholder would otherwise be entitled to receive. In connection with the filing of the registration statement of which

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this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part, Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow, PLLC has delivered an opinion to Simmons, Community First and Liberty, respectively, to the same effect. These tax opinions are exhibits to this registration statement. For further information, see United States Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Merger.

The U.S. federal income tax consequences described above may not apply to all holders of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock. Your tax consequences will depend on your individual situation. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to consult your independent tax advisor for a full understanding of the particular tax consequences of the merger to you.

Q: Are Simmons shareholders entitled to dissenters' rights?

A: Yes. Simmons shareholders who do not vote in favor of either the Community First merger proposal or the Liberty merger proposal and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights under Subchapter 13 of the Arkansas Business Corporation Act, or ABCA, provided they take the steps required to perfect their rights thereunder. For further information, see The Mergers Simmons Shareholders Dissenters' Rights in the Community First Merger and Liberty Merger. In addition, a copy of Subchapter 13 of the ABCA is attached as Annex G to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: Are Community First shareholders entitled to dissenters' rights?

A: Yes. Community First shareholders who do not vote in favor of the Community First merger proposal and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights under Chapter 23 of the Tennessee Business Corporation Act, or TBCA, provided they take the steps required to perfect their rights under Sections 48-23-101 to 48-23-302. For further information, see The Community First Merger Dissenters' Rights in the Community First Merger. In addition, a copy of Chapter 23 of the TBCA is attached as Annex H to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: Are Liberty shareholders entitled to dissenters' rights?

A: Yes. Liberty shareholders who do not vote in favor of the Liberty merger proposal and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights under Section 351.455 of The General and Business Corporation Law of Missouri, or GBCM, provided they take the steps required to perfect their rights thereunder. For further information, see The Liberty Merger Dissenters' Rights in the Liberty Merger. In addition, a copy of Section 351.455 of the GBCM is attached as Annex I to this joint proxy statement/prospectus.

Q: If I am a Community First or Liberty shareholder, should I send in my Community First or Liberty stock certificates now?

A:

No. Community First or Liberty shareholders SHOULD NOT send in any stock certificates now. If either or both of the mergers occur, an exchange agent will send you instructions for exchanging Community First or Liberty stock certificates for the applicable merger consideration under separate cover and the stock certificates should be sent at that time in accordance with those instructions. See The Merger Agreements Conversion of Shares; Exchange of Certificates.

Q: What should I do if I hold my shares of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock in book-entry form?

A: If either or both of the mergers occur, you are not required to take any special additional action to receive the merger consideration if your shares of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock are held in book-entry form. After the completion of the applicable merger, shares of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock held in book-entry form automatically will be exchanged for the applicable merger consideration, including shares of Simmons common stock in book-entry form, and any cash to be paid in exchange for fractional shares in the applicable merger.

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Q: Whom may I contact if I cannot locate my Community First stock certificate(s)?

A: If you are unable to locate your original Community First stock certificate(s), you should contact Community First's corporate secretary, Kathy Barber, at (731) 886-8850.

Q: Whom may I contact if I cannot locate my Liberty stock certificate(s)?

A: If you are unable to locate your original Liberty stock certificate(s), you should contact Liberty's corporate secretary, Pat Sechler, at (417) 875-7574.

Q: What should I do if I receive more than one set of voting materials?

A: Simmons shareholders, Community First shareholders and Liberty shareholders may receive more than one set of voting materials, including multiple copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus and multiple proxy cards or voting instruction cards. For example, if you hold shares of Simmons and/or Community First and/or Liberty common stock in more than one brokerage account, you will receive a separate voting instruction card for each brokerage account in which you hold such shares. If you are a holder of record of Simmons common stock, Community First common stock or Liberty common stock and your shares are registered in more than one name, you will receive more than one proxy card. In addition, if you are a holder of Simmons common stock and/or Community First common stock and/or Liberty common stock, you will receive one or more separate proxy cards or voting instruction cards for each company. Please complete, sign, date and return each proxy card and voting instruction card that you receive or otherwise follow the voting instructions set forth in this joint proxy statement/prospectus to ensure that you vote every share of Simmons common stock and/or Community First common stock and/or Liberty common stock that you own.

Q: When do you expect to complete the mergers?

A: Each of Simmons, Community First and Liberty expect to complete the applicable merger in the fourth quarter of 2014. However, Simmons, Community First or Liberty cannot assure you of when or if the applicable merger will be completed. Simmons, Community First and Liberty must first obtain the approval of Simmons shareholders, Community First shareholders and Liberty shareholders for the applicable merger, as well as obtain necessary regulatory approvals and satisfy certain other closing conditions.

Q: What happens if the mergers are not completed?

A: If the mergers are not completed, holders of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock, as applicable, will not receive any merger consideration for their shares in connection with the applicable merger and the holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock will not receive shares of Simmons Series A

preferred stock. Instead, Community First or Liberty or both will remain an independent company. In addition, if either or both of the merger agreements are terminated in certain circumstances, a termination fee may be required to be paid by either Community First or Liberty. See *The Merger Agreements Termination Fees* for a discussion of the circumstances under which termination fees will be required to be paid.

Q: Whom should I call with questions?

A: *Simmons shareholders*: If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of Simmons common stock, please contact Investor Relations at (870) 541-1243, or Simmons proxy solicitor, Eagle Rock Proxy Advisors, at the following address or telephone number: 12 Commerce Drive, Cranford, New Jersey 07016 or (888) 859-0692.

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Community First shareholders: If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of Community First common stock, please contact Kathy Barber, Corporate Secretary, at the following address or telephone number: 115 West Washington Avenue, Union City, Tennessee 38261 or (731) 886-8850.

Liberty shareholders: If you have any questions concerning the merger or this joint proxy statement/prospectus, would like additional copies of this joint proxy statement/prospectus or need help voting your shares of Liberty common stock, please contact Caroline Butler, Chief Financial Officer at the following address or telephone number: 4625 South National Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65810 or (417) 875-7574.

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SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information from this joint proxy statement/prospectus. It may not contain all of the information that is important to you. We urge you to read carefully the entire joint proxy statement/prospectus, including the annexes, and the other documents to which we refer in order to fully understand the merger. See **Where You Can Find More Information. Each item in this summary refers to the page of this joint proxy statement/prospectus on which that subject is discussed in more detail.**

The Companies (pages 72, 75 and 76)

Simmons

Simmons is a financial holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, or the BHC Act. Simmons is headquartered in Arkansas and as of June 30, 2014, had total assets of \$4.3 billion, loans of \$2.4 billion, deposits of \$3.6 billion and equity capital of \$414.1 million. As of June 30, 2014, Simmons conducted its banking operations through 103 branches or financial centers located in 56 communities in Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas.

Simmons common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol SFNC. Simmons principal executive offices are located at 501 Main Street, Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601, and its telephone number is (870) 541-1000. Simmons also has corporate offices in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Additional information about Simmons and its subsidiaries is included in documents incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus. See **Where You Can Find More Information**.

Community First

Community First is a bank holding company registered under the BHC Act. Community First is headquartered in Union City, Tennessee and as of June 30, 2014, had total assets of \$1.9 billion, loans of \$1.1 billion, deposits of \$1.6 billion and equity capital of \$179.4 million. Community First conducts its banking operations through 31 branches or financial centers located in 25 communities in Tennessee.

Community First is a community-focused financial institution that offers a full range of financial services to individuals, businesses, municipal entities, and nonprofit organizations in the communities that it serves. These services include consumer and commercial loans, deposit accounts, trust services, safe deposit services, consumer finance, insurance, mortgage lending, and Small Business Administration, or SBA, lending. Community First operates through its wholly owned bank subsidiary, First State Bank, which was founded in 1887, and is the fifth largest bank headquartered in Tennessee based on deposits.

Community First's principal executive offices are located at 115 West Washington Avenue, Union City, Tennessee 38261, and its telephone number is (731) 886-8800.

Liberty

Liberty is a bank holding company registered under the BHC Act. Liberty is headquartered in Springfield, Missouri and as of June 30, 2014, had total assets of \$1.1 billion, loans of \$802.5 million, deposits of \$881.2 million and equity capital of \$104.0 million. Liberty conducts its banking operations through 24 financial centers located in 16 communities in Missouri.

Liberty is a community-focused financial institution that offers a full range of financial services to individuals, businesses, municipal entities, and nonprofit organizations in the communities that it serves. These

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services include consumer and commercial loans, deposit accounts, trust services, safe deposit services, consumer finance, insurance, mortgage lending, and SBA lending. Liberty operates through its wholly owned bank subsidiary, Liberty Bank, which was founded in 1995.

Liberty's principal executive offices are located at 4625 South National Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65810, and its telephone number is (417) 888-3000.

In the Mergers, both Community First Shareholders and Liberty Shareholders Will Receive Shares of Simmons Common Stock and Cash in Lieu of Fractional Shares (page 154)

Simmons and Community First, and Simmons and Liberty are respectively proposing strategic mergers. If the mergers are completed, Community First shareholders will receive 17.8975 shares of Simmons common stock and Liberty shareholders will receive 1.0 share of Simmons common stock, respectively, for each share of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock they hold immediately prior to the effective time of the applicable merger. Simmons will not issue any fractional shares of Simmons common stock in the mergers. Community First shareholders who would otherwise be entitled to a fraction of a share of Simmons common stock upon the completion of the Community First merger will instead receive, for the fraction of a share, an amount in cash equal to the product of the average of the last reported sale prices per share of Simmons common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for the 20 consecutive trading days ending immediately prior to the 10th day before the date on which the Community First merger is completed, times the fraction of a share of Simmons common stock to which the Community First shareholder otherwise would be entitled. Liberty shareholders who would otherwise be entitled to a fraction of a share of Simmons common stock upon the completion of the Liberty merger will instead receive, for the fraction of a share, an amount in cash equal to the product of the average of the last reported sale prices per share of Simmons common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for the 20 consecutive trading days ending immediately prior to the 10th day before the date on which the Liberty merger is completed, times the fraction of a share of Simmons common stock to which the Liberty shareholder otherwise would be entitled. *For example, if you hold 100 shares of Community First common stock, you will receive 1,789 shares of Simmons common stock and a cash payment instead of the additional 0.75 shares of Simmons common stock that you otherwise would have received (100 shares \times 17.8975 = 1,789.75 shares), and if you hold 100 shares of Liberty common stock, you will receive 100 shares of Simmons common stock (100 shares \times 1.0 = 100 shares).*

Simmons common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol SFNC. The following tables show the closing sale prices of Simmons common stock as reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on May 5, 2014, the last full trading day before the public announcement of the Community First merger agreement, May 27, 2014, the last full trading day before the public announcement of the Liberty merger agreement, and on _____, 2014, the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus. These tables also show the implied value of the Community First merger consideration payable for each share of Community First common stock and the Liberty merger consideration payable for each share of Liberty common stock, each of which we calculated by multiplying the closing price of Simmons common stock on those dates by the exchange ratios of 17.8975 and 1.0, respectively. There is no established public trading market for Community First common stock or Liberty common stock. In addition, because there have been no recent private sales of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock of which Simmons, Community First or Liberty are aware, no recent price data regarding Community First common stock or Liberty common stock is available.

Simmons Common Stock	Implied Value of Merger Consideration for One Share
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			of Community First Common Stock
May 5, 2014		\$ 36.74	\$ 657.55
	, 2014	\$	\$

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	Simmons Common Stock	Implied Value of Merger Consideration for One Share of Liberty Common Stock
May 27, 2014	\$ 40.62	\$ 40.62
, 2014	\$	\$

In addition to the Community First common stock being exchanged for Simmons common stock, the Community First Series C preferred stock will be exchanged for a new series of Simmons preferred stock designated as Simmons Series A preferred stock, with substantially identical terms, except that Simmons Series A preferred stock will not have any transfer restrictions or be subject to registration rights.

The merger agreements govern the mergers. The Community First merger agreement and the Liberty merger agreement are included in this joint proxy statement/prospectus as Annex A and Annex B, respectively. All descriptions in this summary and elsewhere in this joint proxy statement/prospectus of the terms and conditions of the mergers are qualified by reference to the respective merger agreements. Please read the applicable merger agreement carefully for a more complete understanding of the applicable merger.

Simmons Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends that Simmons Shareholders Vote FOR the Community First Merger Proposal, the Liberty Merger Proposal, the Simmons Director Proposal and any Other Proposals Presented at Simmons Special Meeting (page 60)

Simmons board of directors has determined that the mergers, the merger agreements and the transactions contemplated by each of the merger agreements are in the best interests of Simmons and its shareholders and has unanimously approved and adopted the merger agreements. Simmons board of directors unanimously recommends that Simmons shareholders vote **FOR** the Community First merger proposal, **FOR** the Liberty merger proposal, **FOR** the Simmons director proposal, and **FOR** any other proposals presented at the Simmons special meeting. For the factors considered by Simmons board of directors in reaching its decision to approve and adopt the merger agreements, see The Community First Merger Simmons Reasons for the Community First Merger; Recommendation of Simmons Board of Directors and The Liberty Merger Simmons Reasons for the Liberty Merger; Recommendation of Simmons Board of Directors.

Community First s Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends that Community First Shareholders Vote FOR the Community First Merger Proposal and any Other Proposal Presented at the Community First Special Meeting (page 64)

Community First s board of directors has determined that the Community First merger, the Community First merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the Community First merger agreement are in the best interests of Community First and its shareholders and has unanimously approved and adopted the Community First merger agreement. Community First s board of directors unanimously recommends that Community First shareholders vote **FOR** the Community First merger proposal and **FOR** any other proposal presented at the Community First special meeting. For the factors considered by Community First s board of directors in reaching its decision to approve and adopt the Community First merger agreement, see The Community First Merger Community First s Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of Community First s Board of Directors.

Liberty s Board of Directors Unanimously Recommends that Liberty Shareholders Vote FOR the Liberty Merger Proposal and any Other Proposal Presented at the Liberty Special Meeting (page 68)

Liberty's board of directors has determined that the Liberty merger, the Liberty merger agreement and the transactions contemplated by the Liberty merger agreement are in the best interests of Liberty and its shareholders and has approved and adopted the Liberty merger agreement. Liberty's board of directors unanimously recommends that Liberty shareholders vote **FOR** the Liberty merger proposal and **FOR** any

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other proposal presented at the Liberty special meeting. For the factors considered by Liberty's board of directors in reaching its decision to approve and adopt the Liberty merger agreement, see [The Liberty Merger](#) Liberty's Reasons for the Merger; Recommendation of Liberty's Board of Directors.

Opinion of Simmons' Financial Advisor (pages 99 and 133 and Annexes C and D)

Community First Merger. In connection with the Community First merger, Sterne, Agee & Leach, Inc., Simmons' financial advisor, which we refer to as Sterne Agee, delivered to Simmons' board of directors a written opinion, dated May 6, 2014, as to the fairness to Simmons, from a financial point of view and as of the date of the opinion, of the Community First merger consideration provided for in the Community First merger. The full text of the written opinion, dated May 6, 2014, of Sterne Agee, which sets forth, among other things, the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken, is attached as Annex C to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. **Sterne Agee's written opinion is addressed to the Simmons board of directors, is directed only to the Community First merger consideration in the Community First merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any Simmons shareholder as to how such shareholder should vote with respect to the Community First merger or any other matter.**

Liberty Merger. In connection with the Liberty merger, Sterne Agee, Simmons' financial advisor, delivered to Simmons' board of directors a written opinion, dated May 27, 2014, as to the fairness to Simmons, from a financial point of view and as of the date of the opinion, of the Liberty merger consideration provided for in the Liberty merger. The full text of the written opinion, dated May 27, 2014, of Sterne Agee, which sets forth, among other things, the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken, is attached as Annex D to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. **Sterne Agee's written opinion is addressed to the Simmons board of directors, is directed only to the Liberty merger consideration in the Liberty merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any Simmons shareholder as to how such shareholder should vote with respect to the Liberty merger or any other matter.**

For further information, see [The Community First Merger Opinion of Simmons' Financial Advisor](#) and [The Liberty Merger Opinion of Simmons' Financial Advisor](#).

Opinion of Community First's Financial Advisor (page 84 and Annex E)

In connection with the Community First merger, Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc., which acted as Community First's financial advisor, delivered to the Community First board of directors a written opinion, dated May 6, 2014, as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Community First exchange ratio. The full text of KBW's written opinion is attached as Annex E to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You should read the entire opinion for a discussion of, among other things, the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken by KBW in rendering its opinion. **KBW's written opinion is addressed to the Community First board of directors, is directed only to the Community First exchange ratio in the Community First merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any Community First shareholder as to how such shareholder should vote with respect to the Community First merger or any other matter.**

For further information, see [The Community First Merger Opinion of Community First's Financial Advisor](#).

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Opinion of Liberty's Financial Advisor (page 120 and Annex F)

In connection with the Liberty merger, KBW, which separately acted as Liberty's financial advisor, delivered to the Liberty board of directors a written opinion, dated May 27, 2014, as to the fairness, from a financial point of view, of the Liberty exchange ratio. The full text of KBW's written opinion is attached as Annex F to this joint proxy statement/prospectus. You should read the entire opinion for a discussion of, among other things, the assumptions made, procedures followed, matters considered and limitations on the review undertaken by KBW in rendering its opinion. **KBW's written opinion is addressed to the Liberty board of directors, is directed only to the Liberty exchange ratio in the Liberty merger and does not constitute a recommendation to any Liberty shareholder as to how such shareholder should vote with respect to the Liberty merger or any other matter.**

For further information, see "The Liberty Merger" Opinion of Liberty's Financial Advisor.

What the Holder of the Community First Series C Preferred Stock Will Receive (page 172)

At the effective time of the Community First merger, the holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock will be entitled to receive shares of the Simmons Series A preferred stock.

What Holders of Community First Restricted Stock Will Receive (page 154)

At the effective time of the Community First merger, each share of Community First restricted stock, that is not Community First double trigger restricted stock, issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Community First merger will vest at the effective time of the Community First merger and will be entitled to be exchanged for the Community First merger consideration in the same manner as unrestricted shares of Community First common stock. Each share of Community First double trigger restricted stock will be exchanged for the Community First merger consideration but the shares of Simmons common stock received as Community First merger consideration shall not vest at the effective time of the Community First merger but instead shall vest or be forfeited pursuant to the terms of the Community First stock plan under which they were granted (taking into account that the consummation of the Community First merger and its related transactions will constitute the first trigger for the Community First double trigger restricted stock).

What Holders of Liberty Stock Options Will Receive (page 155)

Each option to purchase shares of Liberty common stock outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Liberty merger will be converted into an option to purchase Simmons common stock on the same terms and conditions as were applicable prior to the Liberty merger, except that (1) the number of shares of Simmons common stock subject to the new option will be equal to the product of the number of shares of Liberty common stock subject to the existing option and the Liberty exchange ratio and (2) the exercise price per share of Simmons common stock under the new option will be equal to the exercise price per share of Liberty common stock of the existing option divided by the Liberty exchange ratio.

Lock-up Agreements (page 162)

The execution of lock-up agreements by the Christopher R. Kirkland Revocable Trust and Joe Porter, shareholders of Community First, and Burchfield Limited Partnership, Gary E. Metzger and Garry L. or Gay Lynn Robinson, shareholders of Liberty, in substantially the form attached to the Community First merger agreement and Liberty merger agreement, respectively, are conditions to the closing of the Community First merger and Liberty merger, respectively. The Community First form of lock-up agreement requires that each of

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the Community First shareholders executing the agreement agree to not sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of 50,000 of the Simmons common stock held by such person for a period of two years from the effective time of the Community First merger, subject to certain exceptions. The Liberty form of lock-up agreement requires that each of the Liberty shareholders executing the agreement agree to not sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of 20,000 of the Simmons common stock held by such person for a period of two years from the effective time of the Liberty merger, subject to certain exceptions.

Simmons Will Hold its Special Meeting on _____, 2014 (page 60)

The special meeting of Simmons shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at _____ local time, at _____. At the special meeting, Simmons shareholders will be asked to:

approve the Community First merger proposal;

approve the Liberty merger proposal;

approve the Simmons director proposal;

approve the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate; and

approve the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate

Only holders of record of Simmons common stock at the close of business on _____, 2014, which we refer to as the Simmons record date, will be entitled to vote at the Simmons special meeting. Each share of Simmons common stock is entitled to one vote on each proposal to be considered at the Simmons special meeting. As of the Simmons record date, there were _____ Simmons shares of Simmons common stock entitled to vote at the Simmons special meeting. As of the Simmons record date, the directors and executive officers of Simmons and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately _____ Simmons shares of Simmons common stock representing approximately _____ % of the shares of Simmons common stock outstanding on that date.

To approve the Community First merger proposal, a majority of the shares of Simmons common stock outstanding and entitled to vote thereon must be voted in favor of such proposal. To approve the Liberty merger proposal, a majority of the shares of Simmons common stock outstanding and entitled to vote thereon must be voted in favor of such proposal. To approve the Simmons director proposal, a majority of the shares of Simmons common stock cast on the Simmons director proposal must be voted in favor of such proposal. To approve each of the Simmons/Community First adjournment proposal and the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal, a majority of the shares of Simmons common stock cast on each proposal must be voted in favor of such proposal. If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to either submit a proxy or vote by telephone or the internet or in person at the Simmons special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the Community First merger proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the merger proposals. If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, with respect to the Simmons director proposal, the Simmons/Community First

adjournment proposal or the Simmons/Liberty adjournment proposal, it will have no effect on such proposals.

Community First Will Hold its Special Meeting on _____, 2014 (page 64)

The special meeting of Community First shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at _____ local time, at 100 Reelfoot Avenue, Union City, Tennessee 38261. At the Community First special meeting, Community First shareholders will be asked to:

approve the Community First merger proposal; and

approve the Community First adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

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Only holders of record of Community First common stock at the close of business on _____, 2014 will be entitled to vote at the Community First special meeting. Each share of Community First common stock is entitled to one vote on each proposal to be considered at the Community First special meeting. As of the record date, there were 363,918.017 shares of Community First common stock entitled to vote at the Community First special meeting. As of the Community First record date, the directors and executive officers of Community First and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately 130,901.241 shares of Community First common stock representing approximately 35.97% of the shares of Community First common stock outstanding on that date.

To approve the Community First merger proposal, a majority of the shares of Community First common stock outstanding and entitled to vote thereon must be voted in favor of such proposal. To approve the Community First adjournment proposal, a majority of the shares of Community First common stock represented at the special meeting must be voted in favor of the proposal. If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the Community First special meeting or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the Community First merger proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal. If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, with respect to the Community First adjournment proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote **AGAINST** the proposal. If, however, you are a street name holder and fail to submit a proxy card entirely or vote in person at the Community First special meeting, it will have no effect on such proposal.

In addition to the approval of the holders of Community First common stock, the United States Department of the Treasury, or the U.S. Treasury, as the sole holder of the Community First Series C preferred stock, must consent to the Community First merger and the exchange of the Community First Series C preferred stock for the Simmons Series A preferred stock.

Liberty Will Hold its Special Meeting on _____, 2014 (page 68)

The special meeting of Liberty shareholders will be held on _____, 2014, at _____ local time, at 5400 Highland Springs Boulevard, Springfield, Missouri 65809. At the Liberty special meeting, Liberty shareholders will be asked to:

approve the Liberty merger proposal; and

approve the Liberty adjournment proposal, if necessary or appropriate.

Only holders of record of Liberty common stock at the close of business on _____, 2014 will be entitled to vote at the Liberty special meeting. Each share of Liberty common stock is entitled to one vote on each proposal to be considered at the Liberty special meeting. As of the record date, there were _____ shares of Liberty common stock entitled to vote at the Liberty special meeting. As of the Liberty record date, the directors and executive officers of Liberty and their affiliates beneficially owned and were entitled to vote approximately _____ shares of Liberty common stock representing approximately _____% of the shares of Liberty common stock outstanding on that date.

To approve the Liberty merger proposal, two-thirds of the outstanding shares of Liberty common stock and entitled to vote thereon must be voted in favor of such proposal. To approve the Liberty adjournment proposal, a majority of the shares of Liberty common stock represented at the special meeting must be voted in favor of the proposal. If you mark **ABSTAIN** on your proxy card, fail to submit a proxy or vote in person at the Liberty special meeting or fail to instruct

your bank or broker how to vote with respect to the Liberty merger proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal. If you mark ABSTAIN on your proxy card, or fail to instruct your bank or broker how to vote, with respect to the Liberty adjournment proposal, it will have the same effect as a vote AGAINST the proposal. If, however, you are a street name holder and fail to submit a proxy card entirely or vote in person at the Liberty special meeting, it will have no effect on such proposal.

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The Mergers Will Be Tax-Free to Holders of Community First Common Stock and the Holders of Liberty Common Stock as to the Shares of Simmons Common Stock They Receive (page 168)

The mergers are intended to qualify as a reorganization within the meaning of Section 368(a) of the Code and it is a condition to the respective obligations of Simmons and Community First to complete the Community First merger, and it is a condition to the respective obligations of Simmons and Liberty to complete the Liberty merger, that each of Simmons, Community First and Liberty receives a legal opinion to that effect. Accordingly, a Community First or Liberty shareholder generally will recognize gain, but not loss, in an amount equal to the lesser of (1) the amount of gain realized (i.e., the excess of the sum of the amount of cash and the fair market value of the Simmons common stock received pursuant to the mergers over that holder's adjusted tax basis in its shares of Community First common stock or Liberty common stock surrendered) and (2) the amount of cash received pursuant to the mergers. Further, a Community First shareholder and a Liberty shareholder generally will recognize gain or loss with respect to cash received instead of fractional shares of Simmons common stock that the Community First shareholder or Liberty shareholder would otherwise be entitled to receive.

The U.S. federal income tax consequences described above may not apply to all holders of Community First common stock and Liberty common stock. Your tax consequences will depend on your individual situation. Accordingly, we strongly urge you to consult your independent tax advisor for a full understanding of the particular tax consequences of the merger to you. For further information, see United States Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Mergers.

Interests of Community First's Directors and Executive Officers in the Community First Merger (page 107)

Community First shareholders should be aware that some of Community First's directors and executive officers have interests in the Community First merger and have arrangements that are different from, or in addition to, those of Community First shareholders generally. Community First's board of directors was aware of these interests and considered these interests, among other matters, when making its decision to adopt the Community First merger agreement, and in recommending that Community First shareholders vote in favor of approving the Community First merger agreement.

While there are no employment or other agreements being offered to employees or directors of Community First, two directors will be appointed to the Simmons board of directors, most of the officers and other employees of Community First expect to be retained after the Community First merger, and such employees will then participate in the employee benefit plans of Simmons and receive credit for prior service. Also, currently, certain officers of Community First have restricted stock which vests either upon a change in control and/or continued service for two years after a change in control. Upon completion of the Community First merger, 2,555 shares of Community First common stock will vest and another 3,635 (pre-conversion number) shares will vest if the holders continue to serve two years thereafter. Based on the Community First exchange ratio, the 2,555 shares of Community First common stock that will vest upon completion of the Community First merger, will be converted into 45,728 shares of Simmons common stock, and the 3,635 shares of Community First common stock that will vest upon both completion of the Community First merger and two years of service with Simmons following the Community First merger by the holders of such restricted stock, will be converted into 65,057 shares of Simmons common stock.

Finally, Simmons has agreed to maintain a policy of directors' and officers' liability insurance coverage for the benefit of Community First's directors and officers for six years following completion of the Community First merger as long as the premium to be paid on an annual basis is not more than 200% of the current annual premium paid by Community First for such insurance.

For a more complete description of these interests, see "The Community First Merger" Interests of Community First's Directors and Executive Officers in the Community First Merger.

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Interests of Liberty s Directors and Executive Officers in the Liberty Merger (page 141)

Liberty shareholders should be aware that some of Liberty s directors and executive officers have interests in the Liberty merger and have arrangements that are different from, or in addition to, those of Liberty shareholders generally. Liberty s board of directors was aware of these interests and considered these interests, among other matters, when making its decision to adopt the Liberty merger agreement, and in recommending that Liberty shareholders vote in favor of approving the Liberty merger agreement.

Pursuant to the existing employment agreements with Gary Metzger, as Chief Executive Officer of Liberty Bank, and Garry Robinson, as President and Chief Operating Officer of Liberty Bank, Mr. Metzger and Mr. Robinson will each be paid a shareholder value bonus 30 days following the Liberty merger if the consideration to be received by Liberty shareholders in the Liberty merger exceeds \$36.33 per share. The value of the Liberty merger consideration will be determined based on the average closing price for Simmons common stock for the 10 consecutive trading days ending on and including the date of the Liberty merger. As an illustration only, using the average closing sales price of Simmons common stock for the 10 consecutive trading days ending on September 25, 2014 (the last practicable trading day before the date of this joint proxy statement/prospectus) of \$40.08 as a substitute for the average closing price for Simmons common stock for the 10-day period prior to the date of the Liberty merger, Mr. Metzger would receive a bonus of \$258,750 and Mr. Robinson would receive a bonus of \$172,500 under their respective employment agreements. Because the market value of the Liberty merger consideration will fluctuate with the market price of Simmons common stock, the ultimate shareholder value bonus to be paid to Mr. Metzger and Mr. Robinson, if any, will not be known until the closing of the Liberty merger. In addition, the Liberty merger agreement provides that Simmons board of directors will take all steps necessary to add one member to its board of directors selected by the Liberty board of directors. Also, most of the officers and other employees of Liberty expect to be retained after the Liberty merger, and such employees will then participate in the employee benefit plans of Simmons and receive credit for prior service. Finally, Simmons has agreed to maintain a policy of directors and officers liability insurance coverage for the benefit of Liberty s directors and officers for six years following completion of the Liberty merger as long as the premium to be paid on an annualized basis is not more than 300% of the current annual premium paid by Liberty for such insurance.

For a more complete description of these interests, see The Liberty Merger Interests of Liberty s Directors and Executive Officers in the Liberty Merger.

Simmons Shareholders Who Do Not Vote in Favor of the Community First Merger Agreement or the Liberty Merger Agreement May Be Entitled To Assert Dissenters Rights (page 146)

Simmons shareholders who do not vote in favor of the approval of the Community First merger agreement or the Liberty merger agreement (including by failing to vote or marking ABSTAIN on their proxy card) and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters rights under Subchapter 13 of the ABCA, provided they take the steps required to perfect their rights thereunder. These procedural steps include, among others: (1) delivering to Simmons, before the shareholder vote is taken for the Community First merger or Liberty merger, respectively, at the Simmons special meeting, written notice of intent to demand payment for the shares of Simmons common stock if the Community First merger or Liberty merger are effected, (2) not voting her, his or its shares in favor of the Community First merger or Liberty merger, and (3) timely filing a payment demand after the Community First merger or Liberty merger is effected. For more information, see The Mergers Simmons Shareholders Dissenters Rights in the Community First Merger and Liberty Merger.

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Community First Shareholders Who Do Not Vote in Favor of the Community First Merger Agreement May Be Entitled To Assert Dissenters' Rights (page 110)

Community First shareholders who do not vote in favor of the approval of the Community First merger agreement (including by failing to vote or marking ABSTAIN on their proxy card) and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights under Chapter 23 of the TBCA, provided they take the steps required to perfect their rights under Sections 48-23-101 to 48-23-302 of the TBCA. These procedural steps include, among others: (1) delivering to Community First, before the shareholder vote is taken for the Community First merger at the Community First special meeting, written notice of intent to demand payment for the shares of Community First common stock if the Community First merger is effected, (2) not voting her, his or its shares in favor of the Community First merger, and (3) timely filing a demand for payment as required by Chapter 23 of the TBCA after the Community First merger is effected. For more information, see The Community First Merger Dissenters' Rights in the Community First Merger.

Liberty Shareholders Who Do Not Vote in Favor of the Liberty Merger Agreement May Be Entitled To Assert Dissenters' Rights (page 143)

Liberty shareholders who do not vote in favor of the approval of the Liberty merger agreement (including by failing to vote or marking ABSTAIN on their proxy card) and follow certain procedural steps will be entitled to dissenters' rights under Section 351.455 of the GBCM, provided they take the steps required to perfect their rights thereunder. These procedural steps include, among others: (1) delivering to Liberty, prior to or at the special meeting of Liberty's shareholders, written objection to the Liberty merger, (2) not voting her, his or its shares in favor of the Liberty merger, and (3) timely filing a payment demand after the Liberty merger is effected. For more information, see The Liberty Merger Dissenters' Rights in the Liberty Merger.

Conditions that Must Be Satisfied or Waived for the Mergers To Occur (page 162)

Community First Merger. Currently, Simmons and Community First expect to complete the Community First merger in the fourth quarter of 2014. As more fully described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and in the Community First merger agreement, the completion of the Community First merger depends on a number of conditions being satisfied or, where legally permissible, waived. These conditions include (1) approval of the Community First merger proposal by Community First's and Simmons shareholders, (2) authorization for listing on the NASDAQ Global Select Market of the shares of Simmons common stock to be issued in the Community First merger, (3) receipt of required regulatory approvals without materially adverse conditions or requirements, (4) effectiveness of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part, (5) absence of any order, injunction, decree, law, rule, regulation, or other legal restraint preventing the completion of the Community First merger or making the completion of the Community First merger illegal, (6) subject to the materiality standards provided in the Community First merger agreement, the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Simmons and Community First, (7) performance in all material respects by each of Simmons and Community First of its obligations under the Community First merger agreement, (8) receipt by each of Simmons and Community First of an opinion from Simmons' counsel as to certain tax matters, (9) absence of litigation against Simmons or Community First by any governmental agency seeking to prevent consummation of the Community First merger, (10) completion of Phase I environmental audits of real property owned by Community First that reflect no material problems under environmental laws to Simmons' satisfaction, (11) execution of lock-up agreements by the Christopher R. Kirkland Revocable Trust and Joe Porter as shareholders of Community First, (12) receipt of all necessary consents and approvals for Simmons to assume the obligations of Community First for the trust preferred securities issued by certain financing trusts of Community First, (13) receipt of all necessary consents and approvals to allow Simmons to exchange Simmons Series A preferred stock for the outstanding shares of Community First Series C preferred stock, (14) receipt by each of Simmons and Community First of a fairness opinion from their respective financial advisors,

and

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(15) receipt by each of Simmons and Community First of a legal opinion from their respective counterpart s counsel.

Neither Simmons nor Community First can be certain when, or if, the conditions to the Community First merger will be satisfied or waived, or that the Community First merger will be completed.

Liberty Merger. Currently, Simmons and Liberty expect to complete the Liberty merger in the fourth quarter of 2014. As more fully described in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and in the Liberty merger agreement, the completion of the Liberty merger depends on a number of conditions being satisfied or, where legally permissible, waived. These conditions include (1) approval of the Liberty merger proposal by Liberty s shareholders and Simmons shareholders, (2) authorization for listing on the NASDAQ Global Select Market of the shares of Simmons common stock to be issued in the Liberty merger, (3) receipt of required regulatory approvals without materially adverse conditions or requirements, (4) effectiveness of the registration statement of which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part, (5) absence of any order, injunction, decree, law, rule, regulation, or other legal restraint preventing the completion of the merger or making the completion of the Liberty merger illegal, (6) subject to the materiality standards provided in the Liberty merger agreement, the accuracy of the representations and warranties of Simmons and Liberty, (7) performance in all material respects by each of Simmons and Liberty of its obligations under the Liberty merger agreement, (8) receipt by each of Simmons and Liberty of an opinion from Simmons counsel as to certain tax matters, (9) absence of litigation against Simmons or Liberty by any governmental agency seeking to prevent consummation of the Liberty merger, (10) determination of any Phase I environmental audits of real property owned by Liberty that reflect no material problems under environmental laws to Simmons satisfaction, (11) execution of lock-up agreements by Burchfield Limited Partnership, Gary E. Metzger and Garry L. or Gay Lynn Robinson as shareholders of Liberty, (12) receipt of all necessary consents and approvals for Simmons to assume the obligations of Liberty for the trust preferred securities issued by certain financing trusts of Liberty, and (13) receipt by each of Simmons and Liberty of a legal opinion from their respective counterpart s counsel.

Neither Simmons nor Liberty can be certain when, or if, the conditions to the Liberty merger will be satisfied or waived, or that the Liberty merger will be completed.

For more information, see The Merger Agreements Conditions to Consummate the Mergers.

Termination of the Community First Merger Agreement (page 163)

The Community First merger agreement can be terminated at any time prior to completion of the Community First merger in the following circumstances:

by mutual consent of Simmons and Community First, if authorized by the board of directors of each company;

by either Simmons or Community First if the Community First merger has not been completed on or before December 31, 2014, which we refer to as the termination date, unless the failure of the Community First merger to be completed by such date is due to the failure of the party seeking to terminate the Community First merger agreement to perform or observe its covenants and agreements under the Community First merger agreement; however, the termination date may be extended to not later than February 28, 2015, by either Simmons or Community First, if the Community First merger has not been consummated due to the failure to obtain required regulatory approvals or that the registration statement for which this joint proxy

statement/prospectus is a part is not effective;

by either Simmons or Community First if there is a material breach of any of the agreements or any of the representations or warranties set forth in the Community First merger agreement on the part of the other party and such material breach is not cured or not curable within 60 days following written notice to the party committing such breach;

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if any approval of the shareholders of Simmons or Community First required for completion of the Community First merger has not been obtained upon a vote taken at a duly held meeting of shareholders of either party or at any adjournment or postponement thereof;

by Community First if the average closing price of Simmons common stock declines below \$28.30 and underperforms an index of banking companies by more than 20% over a designated measurement period unless Simmons agrees to increase the Community First merger consideration in the form of a cash payment that results in the aggregate Community First merger consideration (including both shares of Simmons common stock and cash) being equal to the minimum merger consideration (which is an amount equal to the product of \$28.30 multiplied by the Community First exchange ratio);

by Community First if, prior to approval of the Community First merger proposal by the Community First shareholders, Community First's board of directors determines in good faith, after taking into account the advice of its counsel, that in light of a competing proposal or other circumstances, termination of the Community First merger agreement is required for Community First's board of directors to comply with their fiduciary duties to Community First shareholders, provided that in advance of, or concurrently with, such termination, Community First pays to Simmons a termination fee of \$10 million; and

by either Simmons or Community First, if counsel to Simmons notifies the parties that it will not be able to deliver to them the tax opinion that is required as a condition to consummation of the Community First merger.

For more information, see The Merger Agreements Termination of the Merger Agreements.

Termination of the Liberty Merger Agreement (page 163)

The Liberty merger agreement can be terminated at any time prior to completion of the Liberty merger in the following circumstances:

by mutual consent of Simmons and Liberty, if authorized by the board of directors of each company;

by either Simmons or Liberty if the Liberty merger has not been completed on or before December 31, 2014, which we refer to as the termination date, unless the failure of the Liberty merger to be completed by such date is due to the failure of the party seeking to terminate the Liberty merger agreement to perform or observe its covenants and agreements under the Liberty merger agreement; however, the termination date may be extended to not later than April 30, 2015, by either Simmons or Liberty, if the Liberty merger has not been consummated due to the failure to obtain required regulatory approvals or that the registration statement for which this joint proxy statement/prospectus is a part is not effective;

by either Simmons or Liberty if there is a material breach of any of the agreements or any of the representations or warranties set forth in the Liberty merger agreement on the part of the other party and such material breach is not cured or not curable within 45 days following written notice to the party

committing such breach;

if any approval of the shareholders of Simmons or Liberty required for completion of the Liberty merger has not been obtained upon a vote taken at a duly held meeting of shareholders of either party or at any adjournment or postponement thereof;

by Liberty if the average closing price of Simmons common stock declines below \$29.80 and underperforms an index of banking companies by more than 20% over a designated measurement period unless Simmons agrees to increase the Liberty merger consideration in the form of a cash payment that results in the aggregate Liberty merger consideration (including both shares of Simmons

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common stock and cash) being equal to the minimum merger consideration (which is an amount equal to the product of \$29.80 multiplied by the Liberty exchange ratio);

by Liberty if, prior to approval of the Liberty merger proposal by the Liberty shareholders, Liberty's board of directors determines in good faith, after taking into account the advice of its counsel, that in light of a competing proposal or other circumstances, termination of the Liberty merger agreement is required for Liberty's board of directors to comply with their fiduciary duties to Liberty shareholders, provided that in advance of or concurrently with such termination, Liberty pays to Simmons a termination fee of \$8 million; and

by either Simmons or Liberty, if counsel to Simmons notifies the parties that it will not be able to deliver to them the tax opinion that is required as a condition to consummation of the Liberty merger.

For more information, see The Merger Agreements Termination of the Merger Agreements.

Termination Fee for the Community First Merger (page 165)

If the Community First merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances, Community First may be required to pay to Simmons a termination fee equal to \$10 million. This termination fee could discourage other companies from seeking to acquire or merge with Community First.

Termination Fee for the Liberty Merger (page 165)

If the Liberty merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances, Liberty may be required to pay to Simmons a termination fee equal to \$8 million. This termination fee could discourage other companies from seeking to acquire or merge with Liberty.

Walkaway Counteroffers (page 164)

Pursuant to each merger agreement, the boards of directors of Community First and Liberty will have the right to terminate their respective merger agreements if the average closing price of Simmons common stock for a trading period ending prior to the effective date of the applicable merger decreases below a certain price and decreases more than the average of closing prices for an index of banking stocks for the same trading period. If the board of directors of Community First or Liberty elects to terminate its respective merger agreement, then Simmons will have the right, which we refer to as the walkaway counteroffer, to increase the merger consideration to be paid to the Community First shareholders or Liberty shareholders, as applicable, by paying an amount of cash that will result in the Community First or Liberty shareholders receiving the minimum merger consideration under the applicable merger agreement.

Community First Merger. For the Community First merger, the Community First board of directors will have the right to terminate the Community First merger agreement if (1) the average closing price of Simmons common stock is less than \$28.30 and (2) the percentage change between \$35.37 (the average closing price of Simmons common stock for the 20 consecutive trading days ending on March 12, 2014) and the average closing price of Simmons common stock is not equal to at least 80% of the difference between the percentage change between \$38.43 (the average closing price of the PowerShares KBW Regional Banking Portfolio, or KBWR, for the 20 consecutive trading days ending on March 12, 2014) and the average closing price of KBWR. If the Community First board of directors elects to terminate the Community First merger agreement on this basis, then Simmons may elect to make its walkaway

counteroffer and pay as part of the Community First merger consideration, an aggregate cash payment that results in the aggregate Community First merger consideration (including both shares of Simmons common stock and cash) being equal to the product (which we refer to as the Community First minimum merger consideration) of (x) \$28.30 and (y) the Community First exchange ratio. Such aggregate amount of cash will be paid pro rata for each share of Community First common stock.

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Liberty Merger. For the Liberty merger, the Liberty board of directors will have the right to terminate the Liberty merger agreement if (1) the average closing price of Simmons common stock is less than \$29.80 and (2) the difference between the percentage change of (A) \$40.06 (the KBWR for the 20 consecutive trading days ending on March 31, 2014) and the average closing price of KBWR and (B) the percentage change of \$37.24 (the average closing price of Simmons common stock for the 20 consecutive trading days ending on March 31, 2014) and the average closing price of Simmons common stock, is greater than 20%. If the Liberty board of directors elects to terminate the Liberty merger agreement on this basis, then Simmons may elect to make its walkaway counteroffer and pay as part of the Liberty merger consideration, an aggregate cash payment that results in the aggregate Liberty merger consideration (including both shares of Simmons common stock and cash) being equal to the product (which we refer to as the Liberty minimum merger consideration) of (x) \$29.80 and (y) the Liberty exchange ratio. Such aggregate amount of cash will be paid pro rata for each share of Liberty common stock.

The average closing price of Simmons common stock will be equal to the average of the closing price per share of Simmons common stock on the NASDAQ Global Select Market for the 20 consecutive trading days ending on and including the 10th trading day before the effective date of the applicable merger. The average closing price of KBWR will be equal to the average closing price of the KBWR for the 20 consecutive trading days ending on and including the 10th trading day before the effective date of the applicable merger.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Community First Merger (page 150)

Subject to the terms of the Community First merger agreement, both Simmons and Community First have agreed to use their reasonable best efforts to obtain all Community First regulatory approvals necessary or advisable to complete the transactions contemplated by the Community First merger agreement. These approvals include approvals from, among others, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the Federal Reserve Board, and the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions, or the TDFI. Simmons and Community First have filed applications and notifications to obtain the required regulatory approvals.

Although neither Simmons nor Community First knows of any reason why these regulatory approvals cannot be obtained in a timely manner, Simmons and Community First cannot be certain when or if they will be obtained. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the necessary regulatory approvals will be received in time to effect the mergers in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Regulatory Approvals Required for the Liberty Merger (page 150)

Subject to the terms of the Liberty merger agreement, both Simmons and Liberty have agreed to use their reasonable best efforts to obtain all regulatory approvals necessary or advisable to complete the transactions contemplated by the Liberty merger agreement. These approvals include approvals from, among others, the Federal Reserve Board and the Missouri Division of Finance, or the MDF. Simmons and Liberty have filed applications and notifications to obtain the required regulatory approvals.

Although neither Simmons nor Liberty knows of any reason why these regulatory approvals cannot be obtained in a timely manner, Simmons and Liberty cannot be certain when or if they will be obtained. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the necessary regulatory approvals will be received in time to effect the mergers in the fourth quarter of 2014.

The Rights of Community First and Liberty Shareholders Will Change as a Result of the Mergers (pages 176 and 189)

The rights of Community First and Liberty shareholders will change as a result of the mergers due to differences in the governing documents and states of incorporation for Simmons, Community First and Liberty. The rights of Community First shareholders are governed by Tennessee law and by Community First's articles of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended to date, and the rights of Liberty shareholders are governed by Missouri law and by Liberty's articles of incorporation and bylaws, each as amended to date. Upon the

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completion of the mergers, Community First and Liberty shareholders will become shareholders of Simmons, as the continuing legal entity in the mergers, and the rights of Community First and Liberty shareholders will therefore be governed by Arkansas law and Simmons' articles of incorporation and bylaws.

See "Comparison of Shareholders' Rights of Simmons and Community First" and "Comparison of Shareholders' Rights of Simmons and Liberty" for a description of the material differences in shareholders' rights between Simmons and Community First and Simmons and Liberty.

Risk Factors (page 50)

You should consider all the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this joint proxy statement/prospectus in deciding how to vote for the proposals presented in the joint proxy statement/prospectus. In particular, you should consider the factors described under "Risk Factors."

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The following table sets forth highlights from Simmons' consolidated financial data as of and for the six months ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 and as of and for each of the five years ended December 31, 2013. Results from past periods are not necessarily indicative of results that may be expected for any future period. The results of operations for the six months ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations for the full year or any other interim period. Simmons' management prepared the unaudited information on the same basis as it prepared Simmons' audited consolidated financial statements. In the opinion of Simmons' management, this information reflects all adjustments necessary for a fair presentation of this data for those dates. You should read this information in conjunction with Simmons' consolidated financial statements and related notes included in Simmons' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 and its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2014, each of which is incorporated by reference in this joint proxy statement/prospectus and from which this information is derived. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

dollars and shares in thousands, except (share data)	As of or for the Six Months Ended June 30,		Years Ended December 31,				
	2014 (Unaudited)	2013	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Income statement data:							
Interest income	\$ 81,972	\$ 59,657	\$ 130,850	\$ 113,517	\$ 108,660	\$ 101,949	\$ 97,700
Provision for loan losses	2,510	1,953	4,118	4,140	11,676	14,129	10,300
Interest income after provision for loan losses	79,462	57,704	126,732	109,377	96,984	87,820	87,400
Non-interest income	24,577	22,586	40,616	48,371	53,465	77,874	52,700
Non-interest expense	84,382	62,231	134,812	117,733	114,650	111,263	104,700
Income before taxes	19,657	18,059	32,536	40,015	35,799	54,431	35,400
Provision for income taxes	5,396	5,546	9,305	12,331	10,425	17,314	10,100
Income	\$ 14,261	\$ 12,513	\$ 23,231	\$ 27,684	\$ 25,374	\$ 37,117	\$ 25,200
Share data:							
Basic earnings	\$ 0.88	\$ 0.76	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.64	\$ 1.47	\$ 2.16	\$ 1.70
Diluted earnings	0.87	0.76	1.42	1.64	1.47	2.15	1.70
Diluted core earnings (non-GAAP) ⁽¹⁾	1.02	0.76	1.69	1.59	1.45	1.51	1.70
Book value	25.36	24.67	24.89	24.55	23.70	23.01	21.70
Adjustable book value (non-GAAP) ⁽²⁾	19.69	20.74	19.10	20.66	20.09	19.36	18.00
Dividends	0.44	0.42	0.84	0.80	0.76	0.76	0.70
Basic average common shares outstanding	16,294	16,465	16,339	16,909	17,309	17,204	14,300
Diluted average common shares outstanding	16,337	16,469	16,352	16,911	17,318	17,265	14,400

Balance sheet data at period end:

Assets	\$ 4,325,841	\$ 3,421,769	\$ 4,383,100	\$ 3,527,489	\$ 3,320,129	\$ 3,316,432	\$ 3,093,331
Investment securities	1,070,299	732,995	957,965	687,483	697,656	613,662	646,900
Loans	2,389,333	1,877,631	2,404,935	1,922,119	1,737,844	1,915,064	1,874,900
Allowance for loan losses	27,530	27,398	27,442	27,882	30,108	26,416	25,000
Goodwill and other intangible assets	92,623	64,092	93,878	64,365	62,184	63,068	62,300
Non-interest bearing deposits	838,543	565,433	718,438	576,655	532,259	428,750	363,100
Deposits	3,641,725	2,813,119	3,697,567	2,874,163	2,650,397	2,608,769	2,432,100
Long-term debt	115,602	77,659	117,090	89,441	89,898	133,394	128,800
Subordinated debt and trust preferred	20,620	20,620	20,620	20,620	30,930	30,930	30,900
Stockholders' equity	414,135	401,850	403,832	406,062	407,911	397,371	371,200
Eligible stockholders' equity (non-GAAP) ⁽²⁾	321,512	337,758	309,954	341,697	345,727	334,303	308,800

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	As of or for the Six Months Ended June 30,	Years Ended December 31,
(Dollars and shares in thousands, except per share data)	2014	2013 2012 2011 2010 2009
Capital ratios at period end:	(Unaudited)	
Stockholders eq		