

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

FORM 10-Q

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

For the Quarterly Period Ended March 31, 2014

OR

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

For the Transition Period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 001-35095

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Georgia

(State of Incorporation)

58-1807304

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

125 Highway 515 East
Blairsville, Georgia

Address of Principal
Executive Offices

30512

(Zip Code)

(706) 781-2265

(Telephone Number)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

YES NO

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

YES NO

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 definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller Reporting Company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act).

YES NO

Common stock, par value \$1 per share 50,012,974 shares voting and 10,080,787 shares non-voting outstanding as of April 30, 2014.

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Part I – Financial Information
Item 1 – Financial Statements

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Consolidated Statement of Income (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
<i>(in thousands, except per share data)</i>		
Interest revenue:		
Loans, including fees	\$ 47,688	\$ 50,935
Investment securities, including tax exempt of \$188 and \$212	11,607	9,944
Deposits in banks and short-term investments	843	870
Total interest revenue	60,138	61,749
Interest expense:		
Deposits:		
NOW	440	454
Money market	563	562
Savings	20	36
Time	1,771	3,291
Total deposit interest expense	2,794	4,343
Short-term borrowings	840	516
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	58	19
Long-term debt	2,634	2,662
Total interest expense	6,326	7,540
Net interest revenue	53,812	54,209
Provision for credit losses	2,500	11,000
Net interest revenue after provision for credit losses	51,312	43,209
Fee revenue:		
Service charges and fees	7,898	7,403
Mortgage loan and other related fees	1,354	2,655
Brokerage fees	1,177	767
Securities gains, net	217	116
Other	1,530	1,970
Total fee revenue	12,176	12,911
Total revenue	63,488	56,120
Operating expenses:		
Salaries and employee benefits	24,396	23,592
Communications and equipment	3,239	3,046
Occupancy	3,378	3,367
Advertising and public relations	626	938
Postage, printing and supplies	776	863
Professional fees	1,427	2,366
Foreclosed property	116	2,333
FDIC assessments and other regulatory charges	1,353	2,505
Amortization of intangibles	387	705
Other	3,352	4,055
Total operating expenses	39,050	43,770
Net income before income taxes	24,438	12,350
Income tax expense	9,038	585
Net income	15,400	11,765
Preferred stock dividends and discount accretion	439	3,052
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 14,961	\$ 8,713
Earnings per common share		
Basic	\$.25	\$.15
Diluted	.25	.15
Weighted average common shares outstanding		
Basic	60,059	58,081
Diluted	60,061	58,081

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income (Unaudited)

<i>(in thousands)</i>	Three Months Ended March 31,					
	2014			2013		
	Before-tax Amount	Tax (Expense) Benefit	Net of Tax Amount	Before-tax Amount	Tax (Expense) Benefit	Net of Tax Amount
Net income	24,438	(9,038)	15,400	12,350	(585)	11,765
Other comprehensive income:						
Unrealized gains on available-for-sale securities:						
Unrealized holding gains arising during period	3,869	(1,441)	2,428	1,641	(621)	1,020
Reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income	(217)	92	(125)	(116)	45	(71)
Valuation allowance for the change in deferred taxes arising from unrealized gains and losses on available-for-sale securities	—	—	—	—	576	576
Net unrealized gains	<u>3,652</u>	<u>(1,349)</u>	<u>2,303</u>	<u>1,525</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,525</u>
Amortization of losses (gains) included in net income on available-for-sale securities transferred to held-to-maturity	330	(123)	207	(319)	124	(195)
Valuation allowance for the change in deferred taxes arising from the amortization of gains and losses included in net income on available-for-sale securities transferred to held-to-maturity	—	—	—	—	(124)	(124)
Net unrealized gains (losses)	<u>330</u>	<u>(123)</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>(319)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(319)</u>
Amortization of gains included in net income on terminated derivative financial instruments that were previously accounted for as cash flow hedges	97	(38)	59	(538)	209	(329)
Unrealized (losses) gains on derivative financial instruments accounted for as cash flow hedges	(2,832)	1,102	(1,730)	430	(167)	263
Valuation allowance for the change in deferred taxes arising from unrealized gains and losses and amortization of gains included in net income on cash flow hedges	—	—	—	—	(42)	(42)
Net unrealized losses	<u>(2,735)</u>	<u>1,064</u>	<u>(1,671)</u>	<u>(108)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(108)</u>
Net actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension plan	296	(115)	181	(415)	161	(254)
Amortization of prior service cost and actuarial losses included in net periodic pension cost for defined benefit pension plan	91	(35)	56	132	(51)	81
Valuation allowance for the change in deferred taxes arising from reclassification of unamortized prior service cost and actuarial losses and amortization of prior service cost and actuarial losses	—	—	—	—	(110)	(110)
Net defined benefit pension plan activity	<u>387</u>	<u>(150)</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>(283)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>(283)</u>
Total other comprehensive income	<u>1,634</u>	<u>(558)</u>	<u>1,076</u>	<u>815</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>815</u>
Comprehensive income	<u><u>26,072</u></u>	<u><u>(9,596)</u></u>	<u><u>16,476</u></u>	<u><u>13,165</u></u>	<u><u>(585)</u></u>	<u><u>12,580</u></u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Consolidated Balance Sheet (Unaudited)

<i>(in thousands, except share and per share data)</i>	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2013
ASSETS			
Cash and due from banks	\$ 52,813	\$ 71,230	\$ 57,638
Interest-bearing deposits in banks	110,529	119,669	107,390
Short-term investments	49,999	37,999	82,000
Cash and cash equivalents	213,341	228,898	247,028
Securities available for sale	1,837,676	1,832,217	1,909,426
Securities held to maturity (fair value \$473,136, \$485,585 and \$247,087)	464,697	479,742	231,087
Mortgage loans held for sale	10,933	10,319	18,290
Loans, net of unearned income	4,355,708	4,329,266	4,193,560
Less allowance for loan losses	(75,223)	(76,762)	(105,753)
Loans, net	4,280,485	4,252,504	4,087,807
Assets covered by loss sharing agreements with the FDIC	21,353	22,882	42,096
Premises and equipment, net	161,540	163,589	168,036
Bank owned life insurance	80,790	80,670	82,114
Accrued interest receivable	18,572	19,598	18,302
Intangible assets	3,093	3,480	4,805
Foreclosed property	5,594	4,221	16,734
Net deferred tax asset	243,683	258,518	—
Derivative financial instruments	21,563	23,833	601
Other assets	34,917	44,948	23,042
Total assets	\$ 7,398,237	\$ 7,425,419	\$ 6,849,368
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY			
Liabilities:			
Deposits:			
Demand	\$ 1,471,781	\$ 1,388,512	\$ 1,298,425
NOW	1,392,863	1,427,939	1,281,454
Money market	1,235,429	1,227,575	1,165,836
Savings	270,910	251,125	243,347
Time:			
Less than \$100,000	833,188	892,961	1,019,396
Greater than \$100,000	572,889	588,689	685,174
Brokered	470,481	424,704	332,220
Total deposits	6,247,541	6,201,505	6,025,852
Short-term borrowings	123,075	53,241	51,999
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	50,125	120,125	125
Long-term debt	129,865	129,865	124,825
Derivative financial instruments	42,309	46,232	14,556
Unsettled securities purchases	63,999	29,562	—
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	37,593	49,174	39,793
Total liabilities	6,694,507	6,629,704	6,257,150
Shareholders' equity:			
Preferred stock, \$1 par value; 10,000,000 shares authorized;			
Series A; \$10 stated value; 0, 0 and 21,700 shares issued and outstanding	—	—	217
Series B; \$1,000 stated value; 0, 105,000 and 180,000 shares issued and outstanding	—	105,000	178,937
Series D; \$1,000 stated value; 0, 16,613 and 16,613 shares issued and outstanding	—	16,613	16,613
Common stock, \$1 par value; 100,000,000 shares authorized;			
50,011,094, 46,243,345 and 43,063,761 shares issued and outstanding	50,011	46,243	43,064
Common stock, non-voting, \$1 par value; 26,000,000 shares authorized;			
10,080,787, 13,188,206 and 14,703,636 shares issued and outstanding	10,081	13,188	14,704
Common stock issuable; 237,763, 241,832 and 133,469 shares	3,840	3,930	2,726
Capital surplus	1,091,696	1,078,676	1,059,222
Accumulated deficit	(433,130)	(448,091)	(700,440)
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(18,768)	(19,844)	(22,825)
Total shareholders' equity	703,730	795,715	592,218
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 7,398,237	\$ 7,425,419	\$ 6,849,368

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

issued at market (640,000 shares)			640				11,566			12,206								
Common stock issued to dividend reinvestment plan and to employee benefit plans (11,837 shares)			12				197			209								
Conversion of non-voting common stock to voting (3,107,419 shares)			3,107	(3,107)						—								
Amortization of stock options and restricted stock awards							1,120			1,120								
Vesting of restricted stock, net of shares surrendered to cover payroll taxes (1,096 shares issued, 0 shares deferred)			1				(2)			(1)								
Deferred compensation plan, net, including dividend equivalents							57			57								
Shares issued from deferred compensation plan (7,397 shares)			8	(147)			139			—								
Preferred stock dividends:																		
Series B								(159)		(159)								
Series D								(280)		(280)								
Balance, March 31, 2014	<u>\$</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>50,011</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>10,081</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>3,840</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,091,696</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>(433,130)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>(18,768)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>703,730</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2014	2013
<i>(in thousands)</i>		
Operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 15,400	\$ 11,765
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation, amortization and accretion	4,927	7,505
Provision for credit losses	2,500	11,000
Stock based compensation	1,120	626
Deferred income tax expense	9,776	—
Securities gains, net	(217)	(116)
Net (gains) losses on sales of foreclosed property	(244)	1,146
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Other assets and accrued interest receivable	6,607	7,915
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	(12,230)	3,225
Mortgage loans held for sale	(614)	10,531
Net cash provided by operating activities	27,025	53,597
Investing activities:		
Investment securities held-to-maturity:		
Proceeds from maturities and calls	15,007	17,501
Purchases	—	(4,993)
Investment securities available-for-sale:		
Proceeds from sales	153,316	15,751
Proceeds from maturities and calls	56,757	132,211
Purchases	(173,024)	(219,349)
Net increase in loans	(34,027)	(36,224)
Funds collected from FDIC under loss sharing agreements	1,623	2,452
Proceeds from sales of premises and equipment	509	550
Purchases of premises and equipment	(618)	(2,001)
Proceeds from sale of other real estate	2,417	5,726
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	21,960	(88,376)
Financing activities:		
Net change in deposits	46,036	73,712
Net change in short-term borrowings	69,834	(575)
Proceeds from Federal Home Loan Bank advances	355,000	185,000
Repayment of Federal Home Loan Bank advances	(425,000)	(225,000)
Proceeds from issuance of common stock for dividend reinvestment and employee benefit plans	209	189
Retirement of preferred stock	(121,613)	—
Issuance of common stock	12,206	—
Cash dividends on preferred stock	(1,214)	(2,668)
Net cash (used in) provided by financing activities	(64,542)	30,658
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(15,557)	(4,121)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	228,898	251,149
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 213,341	\$ 247,028
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the period for:		
Interest	\$ 7,449	\$ 8,025
Income taxes	1,321	1,659
Unsettled securities purchases	34,437	—
Transfers of loans to foreclosed property	4,367	6,288

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Note 1 – Accounting Policies

The accounting and financial reporting policies of United Community Banks, Inc. (“United”) and its subsidiaries conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”) and general banking industry practices. The accompanying interim consolidated financial statements have not been audited. All material intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated. A more detailed description of United’s accounting policies is included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

In management’s opinion, all accounting adjustments necessary to accurately reflect the financial position and results of operations on the accompanying financial statements have been made. These adjustments are normal and recurring accruals considered necessary for a fair and accurate presentation. The results for interim periods are not necessarily indicative of results for the full year or any other interim periods.

Reclassifications

Certain 2013 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2014 presentation. During the fourth quarter of 2013, United reclassified hedge ineffectiveness gains and losses from other fee revenue to net interest revenue. The impact of the reclassification has been reflected in all periods and was not material to any period.

Note 2 – Accounting Standards Updates and Recently Adopted Standards

In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) No. 2014-08, *Reporting Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Disposals of Components of an Entity*. This ASU limits the definition of discontinued operations to disposals of components of an entity that represent strategic shifts that have a major effect on an entity’s operations and financial results. It also requires expanded disclosures for discontinued operations. The standard is effective for disposals that occur within annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014, and interim periods within those years. This guidance is not expected to have a material impact on United’s financial position or results of operations.

Note 3 – Balance Sheet Offsetting

United enters into reverse repurchase agreements in order to invest short-term funds. In addition, United enters into repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements with the same counterparty in transactions commonly referred to as collateral swaps that are subject to master netting agreements under which the balances are netted in the balance sheet in accordance with ASC 210-20, *Offsetting*.

The following table presents a summary of amounts outstanding under reverse repurchase agreements and derivative financial instruments including those entered into in connection with the same counterparty under master netting agreements as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 (*in thousands*).

March 31, 2014	Gross Amounts of Recognized Assets	Gross Amounts Offset on the Balance Sheet	Net Asset Balance	Gross Amounts not Offset in the Balance Sheet		Net Amount
				Financial Instruments	Collateral Received	
Repurchase agreements / reverse repurchase agreements	\$ 397,000	\$ (350,000)	\$ 47,000	\$ —	\$ (51,243)	\$ —
Derivatives	21,563	—	21,563	(3,896)	(704)	16,963
Total	\$ 418,563	\$ (350,000)	\$ 68,563	\$ (3,896)	\$ (51,947)	\$ 16,963

Weighted average interest rate of reverse repurchase agreements 1.09%

	Gross Amounts of Recognized Liabilities	Gross Amounts Offset on the Balance Sheet	Net Liability Balance	Gross Amounts not Offset in the Balance Sheet		Net Amount
				Financial Instruments	Collateral Pledged	
Repurchase agreements / reverse repurchase agreements	\$ 350,000	\$ (350,000)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Derivatives	42,309	—	42,309	(3,896)	(35,754)	2,659
Total	\$ 392,309	\$ (350,000)	\$ 42,309	\$ (3,896)	\$ (35,754)	\$ 2,659

Weighted average interest rate of repurchase agreements .28%

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2013	Gross Amounts of Recognized Assets	Gross Amounts Offset on the Balance Sheet	Net Asset Balance	Gross Amounts not Offset in the Balance Sheet		Net Amount
				Financial Instruments	Collateral Received	
Repurchase agreements / reverse repurchase agreements	\$ 385,000	\$ (350,000)	\$ 35,000	\$ —	\$ (38,982)	\$ —
Derivatives	23,833	—	23,833	(4,378)	(2,912)	16,543
Total	\$ 408,833	\$ (350,000)	\$ 58,833	\$ (4,378)	\$ (41,894)	\$ 16,543

Weighted average interest rate of reverse repurchase agreements 1.09%

	Gross Amounts of Recognized Liabilities	Gross Amounts Offset on the Balance Sheet	Net Liability Balance	Gross Amounts not Offset in the Balance Sheet		Net Amount
				Financial Instruments	Collateral Pledged	
Repurchase agreements / reverse repurchase agreements	\$ 350,000	\$ (350,000)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Derivatives	46,232	—	46,232	(4,378)	(38,145)	3,709
Total	\$ 396,232	\$ (350,000)	\$ 46,232	\$ (4,378)	\$ (38,145)	\$ 3,709

Weighted average interest rate of repurchase agreements .27%

March 31, 2013	Gross Amounts of Recognized Assets	Gross Amounts Offset on the Balance Sheet	Net Asset Balance	Gross Amounts not Offset in the Balance Sheet		Net Amount
				Financial Instruments	Collateral Received	
Repurchase agreements / reverse repurchase agreements	\$ 332,000	\$ (250,000)	\$ 82,000	\$ —	\$ (87,470)	\$ —
Derivatives	602	—	602	(57)	—	545
Total	\$ 332,602	\$ (250,000)	\$ 82,602	\$ (57)	\$ (87,470)	\$ 545

Weighted average interest rate of reverse repurchase agreements 1.28%

	Gross Amounts of Recognized Liabilities	Gross Amounts Offset on the Balance Sheet	Net Liability Balance	Gross Amounts not Offset in the Balance Sheet		Net Amount
				Financial Instruments	Collateral Pledged	
Repurchase agreements / reverse repurchase agreements	\$ 250,000	\$ (250,000)	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
Derivatives	14,556	—	14,556	(57)	(14,585)	—
Total	\$ 264,556	\$ (250,000)	\$ 14,556	\$ (57)	\$ (14,585)	\$ —

Weighted average interest rate of repurchase agreements .37%

Note 4 – Securities

Realized gains and losses are derived using the specific identification method for determining the cost of securities sold. The following table summarizes securities sales activity for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 (*in thousands*).

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
Proceeds from sales	\$ 153,316	\$ 15,751
Gross gains on sales	\$ 410	\$ 116
Gross losses on sales	(193)	—

Net gains on sales of securities	\$	217	\$	116
Income tax expense attributable to sales	\$	92	\$	45

Securities with a carrying value of \$1.48 billion, \$1.53 billion and \$1.25 billion were pledged to secure public deposits and other secured borrowings at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, respectively. Substantial borrowing capacity remains available under borrowing arrangements with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta (“FHLB”) with currently pledged securities.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

In the fourth quarter of 2013, securities available-for-sale with a fair value of \$301 million were transferred to held-to-maturity. The securities were transferred at their fair value on the date of transfer. The unrealized loss of \$8.31 million on the transferred securities is being amortized into interest revenue as an adjustment to the yield on those securities over the remaining life of the transferred securities.

The cost basis, gross unrealized gains and losses and fair value of securities held-to-maturity at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 are as follows (*in thousands*).

<u>As of March 31, 2014</u>	<u>Amortized Cost</u>	<u>Gross Unrealized Gains</u>	<u>Gross Unrealized Losses</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
State and political subdivisions	\$ 51,257	\$ 3,430	\$ 13	\$ 54,674
Mortgage-backed securities ⁽¹⁾	413,440	6,877	1,855	418,462
Total	\$ 464,697	\$ 10,307	\$ 1,868	\$ 473,136
<u>As of December 31, 2013</u>				
State and political subdivisions	\$ 51,733	\$ 2,718	\$ 42	\$ 54,409
Mortgage-backed securities ⁽¹⁾	428,009	6,690	3,523	431,176
Total	\$ 479,742	\$ 9,408	\$ 3,565	\$ 485,585
<u>As of March 31, 2013</u>				
State and political subdivisions	\$ 51,768	\$ 5,663	\$ —	\$ 57,431
Mortgage-backed securities ⁽¹⁾	179,319	10,388	51	189,656
Total	\$ 231,087	\$ 16,051	\$ 51	\$ 247,087

⁽¹⁾ All are residential type mortgage-backed securities

The following table summarizes held-to-maturity securities in an unrealized loss position as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 (*in thousands*).

	<u>Less than 12 Months</u>		<u>12 Months or More</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Loss</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Loss</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Loss</u>
<u>As of March 31, 2014</u>						
State and political subdivisions	\$ 1,628	\$ 13	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,628	\$ 13
Mortgage-backed securities	200,284	1,721	1,644	134	201,928	1,855
Total unrealized loss position	\$ 201,912	\$ 1,734	\$ 1,644	\$ 134	\$ 203,556	\$ 1,868
<u>As of December 31, 2013</u>						
State and political subdivisions	\$ 1,595	\$ 42	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,595	\$ 42
Mortgage-backed securities	259,870	3,523	—	—	259,870	3,523
Total unrealized loss position	\$ 261,465	\$ 3,565	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 261,465	\$ 3,565
<u>As of March 31, 2013</u>						
Mortgage-backed securities	\$ 4,929	\$ 51	\$ —	\$ —	4,929	51
Total unrealized loss position	\$ 4,929	\$ 51	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 4,929	\$ 51

Management evaluates securities for other-than-temporary impairment at least on a quarterly basis, and more frequently when economic or market concerns warrant such evaluation. Consideration is given to the length of time and the extent to which the fair value has been less than cost, the financial condition and near-term prospects of the issuer, among other factors. In analyzing an issuer's financial condition, management considers whether the securities are issued by the federal government or its agencies, whether downgrades by bond rating agencies have occurred, and industry analysts' reports. No impairment charges were recognized during the three months ended March 31, 2014 or 2013.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

The cost basis, unrealized gains and losses, and fair value of securities available-for-sale at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 are presented below (*in thousands*).

<u>As of March 31, 2014</u>	<u>Amortized Cost</u>	<u>Gross Unrealized Gains</u>	<u>Gross Unrealized Losses</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
State and political subdivisions	\$ 22,244	\$ 842	\$ 80	\$ 23,006
Mortgage-backed securities ⁽¹⁾	1,126,227	13,213	11,328	1,128,112
Corporate bonds	255,238	1,616	4,930	251,924
Asset-backed securities	429,492	3,003	433	432,062
Other	2,572	—	—	2,572
Total	\$ 1,835,773	\$ 18,674	\$ 16,771	\$ 1,837,676

<u>As of December 31, 2013</u>				
State and political subdivisions	\$ 22,558	\$ 823	\$ 139	\$ 23,242
Mortgage-backed securities ⁽¹⁾	1,145,800	13,296	13,749	1,145,347
Corporate bonds	255,316	1,304	6,324	250,296
Asset-backed securities	409,086	2,535	988	410,633
Other	2,699	—	—	2,699
Total	\$ 1,835,459	\$ 17,958	\$ 21,200	\$ 1,832,217

<u>As of March 31, 2013</u>				
State and political subdivisions	\$ 22,711	\$ 1,330	\$ 4	\$ 24,037
Mortgage-backed securities ⁽¹⁾	1,450,645	21,210	3,544	1,468,311
Corporate bonds	190,843	2,035	4,084	188,794
Asset-backed securities	223,827	2,420	377	225,870
Other	2,414	—	—	2,414
Total	\$ 1,890,440	\$ 26,995	\$ 8,009	\$ 1,909,426

⁽¹⁾ All are residential type mortgage-backed securities

The following table summarizes available-for-sale securities in an unrealized loss position as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 (*in thousands*).

<u>As of March 31, 2014</u>	<u>Less than 12 Months</u>		<u>12 Months or More</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Loss</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Loss</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Loss</u>
State and political subdivisions	\$ 3,595	\$ 80	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,595	\$ 80
Mortgage-backed securities	342,886	3,817	186,290	7,511	529,176	11,328
Corporate bonds	82,337	2,393	75,320	2,537	157,657	4,930
Asset-backed securities	136,076	433	—	—	136,076	433
Total unrealized loss position	\$ 564,894	\$ 6,723	\$ 261,610	\$ 10,048	\$ 826,504	\$ 16,771

<u>As of December 31, 2013</u>						
State and political subdivisions	\$ 4,539	\$ 139	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 4,539	\$ 139
Mortgage-backed securities	334,996	6,480	175,865	7,269	510,861	13,749
Corporate bonds	137,318	4,494	54,130	1,830	191,448	6,324
Asset-backed securities	164,933	722	22,370	266	187,303	988
Total unrealized loss position	\$ 641,786	\$ 11,835	\$ 252,365	\$ 9,365	\$ 894,151	\$ 21,200

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As of March 31, 2013	Less than 12 Months		12 Months or More		Total	
	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss	Fair Value	Unrealized Loss
State and political subdivisions	\$ 1,185	\$ 2	\$ 10	\$ 2	\$ 1,195	\$ 4
Mortgage-backed securities	399,263	3,544	—	—	399,263	3,544
Corporate bonds	21,323	145	77,007	3,939	98,330	4,084
Asset-backed securities	72,064	377	—	—	72,064	377
Total unrealized loss position	<u>\$ 493,835</u>	<u>\$ 4,068</u>	<u>\$ 77,017</u>	<u>\$ 3,941</u>	<u>\$ 570,852</u>	<u>\$ 8,009</u>

At March 31, 2014, there were 113 available-for-sale securities and 35 held-to-maturity securities that were in an unrealized loss position. United does not intend to sell nor believes it will be required to sell securities in an unrealized loss position prior to the recovery of their amortized cost basis. Unrealized losses at March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 were primarily attributable to changes in interest rates. Unrealized losses at March 31, 2013 were primarily related to changes in interest rates; however, the unrealized losses in corporate bonds also reflect downgrades in the underlying securities ratings since the time of acquisition. The bonds remain above investment grade and have recovered much of their initial market value loss. Therefore, United does not consider them to be impaired.

The amortized cost and fair value of held-to-maturity and available-for-sale securities at March 31, 2014, by contractual maturity, are presented in the following table (*in thousands*).

	Available-for-Sale		Held-to-Maturity	
	Amortized Cost	Fair Value	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
State and political subdivisions:				
Within 1 year	\$ 6,290	\$ 6,404	\$ 763	\$ 759
1 to 5 years	12,496	13,043	15,850	16,992
5 to 10 years	2,610	2,667	22,698	24,262
More than 10 years	848	892	11,946	12,661
	<u>22,244</u>	<u>23,006</u>	<u>51,257</u>	<u>54,674</u>
Corporate bonds:				
1 to 5 years	38,316	38,592	—	—
5 to 10 years	206,144	203,053	—	—
More than 10 years	10,778	10,279	—	—
	<u>255,238</u>	<u>251,924</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Asset-backed securities:				
Within 1 year	9,980	9,975	—	—
1 to 5 years	71,360	72,443	—	—
5 to 10 years	317,888	319,417	—	—
More than 10 years	30,264	30,227	—	—
	<u>429,492</u>	<u>432,062</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Other:				
More than 10 years	2,572	2,572	—	—
	<u>2,572</u>	<u>2,572</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total securities other than mortgage-backed securities:				
Within 1 year	16,270	16,379	763	759
1 to 5 years	122,172	124,078	15,850	16,992
5 to 10 years	526,642	525,137	22,698	24,262
More than 10 years	44,462	43,970	11,946	12,661
Mortgage-backed securities	<u>1,126,227</u>	<u>1,128,112</u>	<u>413,440</u>	<u>418,462</u>
	<u>\$ 1,835,773</u>	<u>\$ 1,837,676</u>	<u>\$ 464,697</u>	<u>\$ 473,136</u>

Expected maturities may differ from contractual maturities because issuers and borrowers may have the right to call or prepay obligations with or without call or prepayment penalties.

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Note 5 – Loans and Allowance for Loan Losses

Major classifications of loans as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, are summarized as follows (*in thousands*).

	<u>March 31, 2014</u>	<u>December 31, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2013</u>
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 1,765,621	\$ 1,756,710	\$ 1,804,030
Commercial & industrial	495,178	471,961	453,764
Commercial construction	148,454	148,903	152,410
Total commercial	2,409,253	2,377,574	2,410,204
Residential mortgage	866,615	875,077	849,802
Home equity lines of credit	446,705	440,887	396,173
Residential construction	317,749	328,579	371,733
Consumer installment	106,991	111,045	110,796
Indirect auto	208,395	196,104	54,852
Total loans	4,355,708	4,329,266	4,193,560
Less allowance for loan losses	(75,223)	(76,762)	(105,753)
Loans, net	<u>\$ 4,280,485</u>	<u>\$ 4,252,504</u>	<u>\$ 4,087,807</u>

At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, loans with a carrying value of \$2.07 billion, \$1.77 billion and \$1.94 billion, respectively, were pledged as collateral to secure FHLB advances and other contingent funding sources.

During the second quarter of 2013, United executed a plan to accelerate the disposition of classified assets including performing classified loans, nonperforming loans and foreclosed properties. The purpose of the accelerated classified asset disposition plan was to resolve legacy credit problems remaining from the recent financial crisis and to accelerate the improvement of United's credit measures toward pre-crisis levels. The classified asset sales included individual note and foreclosed property sales and a large bulk sale of classified assets to a single investor. The bulk sale included performing and nonperforming classified loans and foreclosed properties. The assets were divided into four separate pools that were bid separately by potential buyers. A single purchaser was the high bidder for each of the four pools. The table below shows the allocation among impaired loans, loans that were not considered impaired and foreclosed properties, including United's recorded investment in those assets, the sales proceeds and the resulting net charge-offs of assets sold in the bulk sale transaction (*in thousands*).

	<u>Recorded Investment</u>	<u>Net Sales Proceeds</u>	<u>Net Charge-Off</u>
Loans considered impaired	\$ 96,829	\$ 56,298	\$ (40,531)
Loans not considered impaired	25,687	15,227	(10,460)
Foreclosed properties	8,398	5,933	(2,465)
Total assets sold	<u>\$ 130,914</u>	<u>\$ 77,458</u>	<u>\$ (53,456)</u>

The loans considered impaired in the table above were assigned specific reserves of \$6.86 million in the most recent analysis of the allowance for loan losses prior to the sale. Because the assets were sold at liquidation prices in a bulk transaction with no recourse, the sales price was generally lower than the appraised value of the foreclosed properties and loan collateral. Although the classified asset sales increased charge-offs during the second quarter of 2013, they accomplished management's goal of moving classified asset levels toward the pre-crisis range.

The allowance for loan losses represents management's estimate of probable incurred losses in the loan portfolio as of the end of the period. In 2013, United established an allowance for unfunded commitments separate from the allowance for loan losses due to significant growth in unfunded loan commitments. The allowance for unfunded commitments is included in other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet. Combined, the allowance for loan losses and allowance for unfunded commitments are referred to as the allowance for credit losses.

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The following table presents the balance and activity in the allowance for credit losses by portfolio segment for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 (*in thousands*).

Three Months Ended March 31, 2014	Beginning Balance	Charge-Offs	Recoveries	Allocation of Unallocated	Provision	Ending Balance
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 24,338	\$ (572)	\$ 89	\$ 1,966	\$ 5,397	\$ 31,218
Commercial & industrial	6,527	(963)	541	318	(2,176)	4,247
Commercial construction	3,669	—	—	388	(80)	3,977
Residential mortgage	15,446	(1,581)	66	1,452	584	15,967
Home equity lines of credit	5,528	(1,003)	10	391	1,194	6,120
Residential construction	12,532	(304)	93	1,728	(1,868)	12,181
Consumer installment	1,353	(676)	327	—	(287)	717
Indirect auto	1,126	(77)	11	—	(264)	796
Unallocated	6,243	—	—	(6,243)	—	—
Total allowance for loan losses	76,762	(5,176)	1,137	—	2,500	75,223
Allowance for unfunded commitments	2,165	—	—	—	—	2,165
Total allowance for credit losses	<u>\$ 78,927</u>	<u>\$ (5,176)</u>	<u>\$ 1,137</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 2,500</u>	<u>\$ 77,388</u>

Three Months Ended March 31, 2013	Beginning Balance	Charge-Offs	Recoveries	Allocation of Unallocated	Provision	Ending Balance
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 27,847	\$ (5,454)	\$ 211	\$ —	\$ 7,804	\$ 30,408
Commercial & industrial	5,537	(1,823)	322	—	1,590	5,626
Commercial construction	8,389	(45)	49	—	(285)	8,108
Residential mortgage	19,117	(1,797)	162	—	1,741	19,223
Home equity lines of credit	7,525	(559)	47	—	692	7,705
Residential construction	26,662	(2,982)	9	—	(363)	23,326
Consumer installment	2,527	(665)	181	—	(263)	1,780
Indirect auto	220	(42)	2	—	132	312
Unallocated	9,313	—	—	—	(48)	9,265
Total allowance for loan losses	107,137	(13,367)	983	—	11,000	105,753
Allowance for unfunded commitments	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total allowance for credit losses	<u>\$ 107,137</u>	<u>\$ (13,367)</u>	<u>\$ 983</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 11,000</u>	<u>\$ 105,753</u>

The following table represents the recorded investment in loans by portfolio segment and the balance of the allowance for loan losses assigned to each segment based on the method of evaluating the loans for impairment as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 (*in thousands*).

	Allowance for Loan Losses								
	March 31, 2014			December 31, 2013			March 31, 2013		
	Individually evaluated for impairment	Collectively evaluated for impairment	Ending Balance	Individually evaluated for impairment	Collectively evaluated for impairment	Ending Balance	Individually evaluated for impairment	Collectively evaluated for impairment	Ending Balance
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 3,259	\$ 27,959	\$ 31,218	\$ 2,013	\$ 22,325	\$ 24,338	\$ 5,089	\$ 25,319	\$ 30,408
Commercial & industrial	253	3,994	4,247	66	6,461	6,527	1,026	4,600	5,626
Commercial construction	469	3,508	3,977	112	3,557	3,669	2,093	6,015	8,108
Residential mortgage	3,079	12,888	15,967	2,914	12,532	15,446	1,804	17,419	19,223
Home equity lines of credit	67	6,053	6,120	5	5,523	5,528	—	7,705	7,705
Residential construction	1,253	10,928	12,181	688	11,844	12,532	1,945	21,381	23,326
Consumer installment	19	698	717	224	1,129	1,353	14	1,766	1,780
Indirect auto	—	796	796	—	1,126	1,126	—	312	312
Unallocated	—	—	—	—	6,243	6,243	—	9,265	9,265
Total allowance for loan losses	8,399	66,824	75,223	6,022	70,740	76,762	11,971	93,782	105,753
Allowance for unfunded commitments	—	2,165	2,165	—	2,165	2,165	—	—	—
Total allowance for credit losses	<u>\$ 8,399</u>	<u>\$ 68,989</u>	<u>\$ 77,388</u>	<u>\$ 6,022</u>	<u>\$ 72,905</u>	<u>\$ 78,927</u>	<u>\$ 11,971</u>	<u>\$ 93,782</u>	<u>\$ 105,753</u>

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	Loans Outstanding								
	March 31, 2014			December 31, 2013			March 31, 2013		
	Individually evaluated for impairment	Collectively evaluated for impairment	Ending Balance	Individually evaluated for impairment	Collectively evaluated for impairment	Ending Balance	Individually evaluated for impairment	Collectively evaluated for impairment	Ending Balance
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 55,006	\$ 1,710,615	\$ 1,765,621	\$ 60,208	\$ 1,696,502	\$ 1,756,710	\$ 86,978	\$ 1,717,052	\$ 1,804,030
Commercial & industrial	4,167	491,011	495,178	4,217	467,744	471,961	50,347	403,417	453,764
Commercial construction	11,390	137,064	148,454	13,715	135,188	148,903	38,970	113,440	152,410
Residential mortgage	21,303	845,312	866,615	20,167	854,910	875,077	21,916	827,886	849,802
Home equity lines of credit	505	446,200	446,705	505	440,382	440,887	240	395,933	396,173
Residential construction	12,409	305,340	317,749	14,808	313,771	328,579	31,936	339,797	371,733
Consumer installment	340	106,651	106,991	999	110,046	111,045	407	110,389	110,796
Indirect auto	—	208,395	208,395	—	196,104	196,104	—	54,852	54,852
Total loans	\$ 105,120	\$ 4,250,588	\$ 4,355,708	\$ 114,619	\$ 4,214,647	\$ 4,329,266	\$ 230,794	\$ 3,962,766	\$ 4,193,560

United considers all substandard loan relationships that are on nonaccrual with a balance of \$500,000 or greater and all troubled debt restructurings (“TDRs”) to be individually impaired. In addition, United reviews all accruing substandard loan relationships greater than \$2 million to determine if the loan is individually impaired. A loan is considered individually impaired when, based on current events and circumstances, it is probable that all amounts due, according to the contractual terms of the loan, will not be collected. All TDRs are considered individually impaired regardless of accrual status. Impairment is measured based on the present value of expected future cash flows, discounted at the loan’s effective interest rate, the loan’s observable market price, or the fair value of the collateral if the loan is collateral dependent. A specific reserve is established for individually impaired loans for the amount of calculated impairment. Interest payments received on individually impaired nonaccrual loans are applied as a reduction of the outstanding principal balance. For impaired loans not on nonaccrual status, interest is accrued according to the terms of the loan agreement. Loans are evaluated for individual impairment quarterly and specific reserves are established in the allowance for loan losses for any measured specific impairment on individually impaired loans.

Each quarter, United’s management prepares an analysis of the allowance for credit losses to determine the appropriate balance that measures and quantifies the amount of probable incurred loss in the loan portfolio. The allowance is comprised of specific reserves on individually impaired loans, which are determined as described above and general reserves which are determined based on historical loss experience as adjusted for current trends and economic conditions multiplied by a loss emergence period factor. United uses eight quarters of historical loss experience weighted toward the most recent four quarters to determine the loss factors to be used in the reserve calculation for loans evaluated in the aggregate. Eight quarters has been determined to be an appropriate time period as it is recent enough to be relevant to current conditions and covers a length of time sufficient to minimize distortions caused by nonrecurring and unusual activity that might otherwise influence a shorter time period. In previous periods, the weighted average was calculated by multiplying each quarter’s annualized historical net charge-off rate by 1 through 8, with 8 representing the most recent quarter and 1 representing the oldest quarter. United adopted this method of weighting quarterly loss rates to capture the rapidly deteriorating credit conditions in its loss factors during the financial crisis. Now that credit conditions have begun to stabilize, management concluded in the first quarter of 2014 that it was appropriate to apply a more level weighting to capture the full range and impacts of credit losses experienced during the most recent economic and credit cycle. Therefore in the first quarter of 2014, United applied different weighting factors to the eight quarters of losses. For the four most recent quarters, United applied a weighting factor of 1.75. For the four oldest quarters, United applied a weighting of 1.00 for each quarterly loss factor. Management believes the current weightings are more appropriate to measure the unconfirmed losses incurred within the loan portfolio.

Also, beginning in the first quarter of 2014, United updated its measurement of the loss emergence period in the calculation of the allowance for credit losses. The rapidly deteriorating credit conditions during the peak of the credit cycle shortened the length of time between management’s estimation of the incurrence of a loss and its recognition as a charge off. In most cases, the loss emergence period was within a twelve month period which made the use of annualized loss factors appropriate for measuring the amount of incurred yet unconfirmed credit losses within the loan portfolio. As United has moved out beyond the peak of the financial crisis, management has observed that the loss emergence period has extended. United calculates the loss emergence period for each pool of loans based on the average length of time between the date a loan first exceeds 30 days past due and the date the loan is charged off.

The updates to the weightings of the eight quarters of loss history and the update to our estimation of the loss emergence period did not have a material effect on the total allowance for loan losses or the provision for loan losses for the first quarter of 2014. These updates resulted in the full allocation of the previously unallocated portion of the allowance for loan losses.

On junior lien home equity loans, United has limited ability to monitor the delinquency status of the first lien unless the first lien is also held by United. As a result, United applies the weighted average historical loss factor for this category and appropriately adjusts it to reflect the increased risk of loss from these credits.

Management carefully reviews the resulting loss factors for each category of the loan portfolio and evaluates whether qualitative adjustments are necessary to take into consideration recent credit trends such as increases or decreases in past due, nonaccrual, criticized and classified loans, acceleration or delays in timing of recognition of losses that may affect historical loss emergence periods, and other macro environmental factors such as changes in unemployment rates, lease vacancy rates and trends in property values and absorption rates.

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United's management believes that its method of determining the balance of the allowance for loan losses provides a reasonable and reliable basis for measuring and reporting losses that are inherent in the loan portfolio as of the reporting date.

When a loan officer determines that a loan is uncollectible, he or she is responsible for recommending that the loan be charged off. Full or partial charge-offs may also be recommended by the Collections Department, the Special Assets Department and the Foreclosure / OREO department. Nonaccrual real estate loans that are collateral dependent are generally charged down to 80% of the appraised value of the underlying collateral at the time they are placed on nonaccrual status.

A committee consisting of the Chief Risk Officer, Senior Risk Officer and the Senior Credit Officers meets monthly to review charge-offs that have occurred during the previous month.

Closed-end retail loans (installment and residential mortgage loans) and open-end (revolving) retail loans past due 90 cumulative days are charged off unless the loan is secured and in process of collection (within the next 90 days).

The following table presents loans individually evaluated for impairment by class of loans as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 (*in thousands*).

	March 31, 2014			December 31, 2013			March 31, 2013		
	Unpaid Principal Balance	Recorded Investment	Allowance for Loan Losses Allocated	Unpaid Principal Balance	Recorded Investment	Allowance for Loan Losses Allocated	Unpaid Principal Balance	Recorded Investment	Allowance for Loan Losses Allocated
With no related allowance recorded:									
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 24,716	\$ 17,850	\$ —	\$ 30,361	\$ 24,205	\$ —	\$ 50,386	\$ 37,202	\$ —
Commercial & industrial	2,417	1,851	—	2,252	2,252	—	73,196	46,895	—
Commercial construction	390	390	—	974	974	—	23,486	16,703	—
Total commercial	27,523	20,091	—	33,587	27,431	—	147,068	100,800	—
Residential mortgage	7,292	5,364	—	4,496	3,634	—	7,522	6,066	—
Home equity lines of credit	—	—	—	—	—	—	240	240	—
Residential construction	6,474	5,174	—	9,462	7,807	—	19,026	15,223	—
Consumer installment	82	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indirect auto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total with no related allowance recorded	41,371	30,711	—	47,545	38,872	—	173,856	122,329	—
With an allowance recorded:									
Commercial (secured by real estate)	39,377	37,156	3,259	36,085	36,003	2,013	52,363	49,777	5,089
Commercial & industrial	2,598	2,316	253	2,248	1,965	66	3,562	3,451	1,026
Commercial construction	11,079	11,000	469	12,821	12,741	112	23,150	22,267	2,093
Total commercial	53,054	50,472	3,981	51,154	50,709	2,191	79,075	75,495	8,208
Residential mortgage	16,688	15,939	3,079	17,119	16,533	2,914	16,104	15,850	1,804
Home equity lines of credit	505	505	67	505	505	5	—	—	—
Residential construction	8,615	7,235	1,253	8,469	7,001	688	17,244	16,713	1,945
Consumer installment	360	258	19	999	999	224	420	407	14
Indirect auto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total with an allowance recorded	79,222	74,409	8,399	78,246	75,747	6,022	112,843	108,465	11,971
Total	\$ 120,593	\$ 105,120	\$ 8,399	\$ 125,791	\$ 114,619	\$ 6,022	\$ 286,699	\$ 230,794	\$ 11,971

There were no loans more than 90 days past due and still accruing interest at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 or March 31, 2013. Nonaccrual loans include both homogeneous loans that are collectively evaluated for impairment and individually evaluated impaired loans. United's policy is to place loans on nonaccrual status when, in the opinion of management, the principal and interest on a loan is not likely to be repaid in accordance with the loan terms or when the loan becomes 90 days past due and is not well secured and in the process of collection. When a loan is classified on nonaccrual status, interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current interest revenue. Principal and interest payments received on a nonaccrual loan are applied to reduce outstanding principal.

The gross additional interest income that would have been earned if the loans classified as nonaccrual had performed in accordance with the original terms was approximately \$460,000, and \$1.14 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively. The gross additional interest income that would have been earned in for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 had performing TDRs performed in accordance with the original terms is immaterial.

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The average balances of impaired loans and income recognized on impaired loans while they were considered impaired is presented below for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 (*in thousands*).

	Three Months Ended March 31,					
	2014			2013		
	Average Balance	Interest Revenue Recognized During Impairment	Cash Basis Interest Revenue Received	Average Balance	Interest Revenue Recognized During Impairment	Cash Basis Interest Revenue Received
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 54,969	\$ 670	\$ 713	\$ 91,631	\$ 946	\$ 1,000
Commercial & industrial	4,560	53	51	43,694	156	629
Commercial construction	12,714	112	135	39,208	151	232
Total commercial	72,243	835	899	174,533	1,253	1,861
Residential mortgage	21,321	229	238	19,912	238	220
Home equity lines of credit	505	5	6	502	3	3
Residential construction	13,037	145	150	40,592	326	428
Consumer installment	448	6	9	276	6	6
Indirect auto	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 107,554</u>	<u>\$ 1,220</u>	<u>\$ 1,302</u>	<u>\$ 235,815</u>	<u>\$ 1,826</u>	<u>\$ 2,518</u>

The following table presents the recorded investment (unpaid principal less amounts charged off) in nonaccrual loans by loan class as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 (*in thousands*).

	Nonaccrual Loans		
	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2013
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 5,146	\$ 8,340	\$ 17,304
Commercial & industrial	822	427	29,545
Commercial construction	479	361	22,359
Total commercial	6,447	9,128	69,208
Residential mortgage	13,307	11,730	10,901
Home equity lines of credit	1,106	1,448	916
Residential construction	3,805	4,264	14,592
Consumer installment	291	249	389
Indirect auto	294	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 25,250</u>	<u>\$ 26,819</u>	<u>\$ 96,006</u>
Balance as a percentage of unpaid principal	65.8%	65.3%	66.3%

The following table presents the aging of the recorded investment in past due loans as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 by class of loans (*in thousands*).

As of March 31, 2014	Loans Past Due				Loans Not Past Due	
	30 - 59 Days	60 - 89 Days	> 90 Days	Total	Past Due	Total
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 2,310	\$ 1,446	\$ 1,865	\$ 5,621	\$ 1,760,000	\$ 1,765,621
Commercial & industrial	1,468	231	589	2,288	492,890	495,178
Commercial construction	313	46	366	725	147,729	148,454
Total commercial	4,091	1,723	2,820	8,634	2,400,619	2,409,253
Residential mortgage	7,295	3,520	4,806	15,621	850,994	866,615
Home equity lines of credit	1,554	551	502	2,607	444,098	446,705
Residential construction	1,440	30	782	2,252	315,497	317,749
Consumer installment	677	495	60	1,232	105,759	106,991
Indirect auto	263	179	137	579	207,816	208,395
Total loans	<u>\$ 15,320</u>	<u>\$ 6,498</u>	<u>\$ 9,107</u>	<u>\$ 30,925</u>	<u>\$ 4,324,783</u>	<u>\$ 4,355,708</u>

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	Loans Past Due				Loans Not	
	30 - 59 Days	60 - 89 Days	> 90 Days	Total	Past Due	Total
As of December 31, 2013						
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 5,724	\$ 2,797	\$ 2,547	\$ 11,068	\$ 1,745,642	\$ 1,756,710
Commercial & industrial	2,349	223	88	2,660	469,301	471,961
Commercial construction	94	190	235	519	148,384	148,903
Total commercial	8,167	3,210	2,870	14,247	2,363,327	2,377,574
Residential mortgage	9,011	2,832	4,140	15,983	859,094	875,077
Home equity lines of credit	2,056	430	941	3,427	437,460	440,887
Residential construction	1,335	588	1,375	3,298	325,281	328,579
Consumer installment	1,058	358	24	1,440	109,605	111,045
Indirect auto	185	65	42	292	195,812	196,104
Total loans	<u>\$ 21,812</u>	<u>\$ 7,483</u>	<u>\$ 9,392</u>	<u>\$ 38,687</u>	<u>\$ 4,290,579</u>	<u>\$ 4,329,266</u>
As of March 31, 2013						
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 7,402	\$ 2,304	\$ 5,750	\$ 15,456	\$ 1,788,574	\$ 1,804,030
Commercial & industrial	1,485	419	219	2,123	451,641	453,764
Commercial construction	856	—	5,530	6,386	146,024	152,410
Total commercial	9,743	2,723	11,499	23,965	2,386,239	2,410,204
Residential mortgage	10,293	2,395	4,014	16,702	833,100	849,802
Home equity lines of credit	1,606	272	145	2,023	394,150	396,173
Residential construction	2,310	2,371	2,373	7,054	364,679	371,733
Consumer installment	672	100	109	881	109,915	110,796
Indirect auto	10	52	—	62	54,790	54,852
Total loans	<u>\$ 24,634</u>	<u>\$ 7,913</u>	<u>\$ 18,140</u>	<u>\$ 50,687</u>	<u>\$ 4,142,873</u>	<u>\$ 4,193,560</u>

As of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and March 31, 2013, \$8.25 million, \$5.64 million and \$8.12 million, respectively, of specific reserves were allocated to customers whose loan terms have been modified in TDRs. United committed to lend additional amounts totaling up to \$12,000, \$6,000 and \$613,000 as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, respectively, to customers with outstanding loans that are classified as TDRs.

The modification of the terms of the TDRs included one or a combination of the following: a reduction of the stated interest rate of the loan or an extension of the amortization period that would not otherwise be considered in the current market for new debt with similar risk characteristics; a permanent reduction of the principal amount; a restructuring of the borrower's debt into an A/B note structure where the A note would fall within the borrower's ability to pay and the remainder would be included in the B note, or a mandated bankruptcy restructuring.

The following table presents information on TDRs including the number of loan contracts restructured and the pre- and post-modification recorded investment (*dollars in thousands*).

	March 31, 2014			December 31, 2013			March 31, 2013		
	Number of Contracts	Pre-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Number of Contracts	Pre-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Number of Contracts	Pre-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment
Commercial (sec by RE)	78	\$ 45,130	\$ 40,959	77	\$ 44,964	\$ 40,667	97	\$ 80,618	\$ 74,675
Commercial & industrial	35	3,574	3,292	36	3,527	3,245	41	8,944	8,834
Commercial construction	14	11,678	11,598	13	13,122	13,042	25	36,491	32,614
Total commercial	127	60,382	55,849	126	61,613	56,954	163	126,053	116,123
Residential mortgage	148	21,163	19,657	133	20,117	18,852	119	19,661	18,783
Home equity lines of credit	3	505	505	3	505	505	1	240	240
Residential construction	52	10,400	9,518	57	12,459	10,452	71	25,651	23,345
Consumer installment	26	442	340	26	203	203	46	282	269
Indirect auto	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total loans	<u>356</u>	<u>92,892</u>	<u>85,869</u>	<u>345</u>	<u>94,897</u>	<u>\$ 86,966</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>171,887</u>	<u>158,760</u>

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Loans modified under the terms of a TDR during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 are presented in the table below. In addition, the following table presents loans modified under the terms of a TDR that became 90 days or more delinquent during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, that were initially restructured within one year prior to becoming delinquent (*dollars in thousands*).

New Troubled Debt Restructurings for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2014	Number of Contracts	Pre-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Troubled Debt Restructurings Modified Within the Previous Twelve Months that Have Subsequently Defaulted During the Three Months Ended March 31, 2014	
				Number of Contracts	Recorded Investment
Commercial (secured by real estate)	4	\$ 1,138	\$ 1,138	1	\$ 104
Commercial & industrial	1	224	224	2	54
Commercial construction	1	231	231	—	—
Total commercial	6	1,593	1,593	3	158
Residential mortgage	14	1,132	1,132	4	452
Home equity lines of credit	—	—	—	—	—
Residential construction	—	—	—	—	—
Consumer installment	2	142	142	—	—
Indirect auto	—	—	—	—	—
Total loans	22	\$ 2,867	\$ 2,867	7	\$ 610

New Troubled Debt Restructurings for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2013	Number of Contracts	Pre-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Post-Modification Outstanding Recorded Investment	Troubled Debt Restructurings Modified Within the Previous Twelve Months that Have Subsequently Defaulted During the Three Months Ended March 31, 2013	
				Number of Contracts	Recorded Investment
Commercial (secured by real estate)	8	\$ 3,568	\$ 3,568	1	\$ 432
Commercial & industrial	9	815	709	1	35
Commercial construction	—	—	—	2	1,454
Total commercial	17	4,383	4,277	4	1,921
Residential mortgage	11	2,115	2,115	1	68
Home equity lines of credit	—	—	—	—	—
Residential construction	5	784	655	2	117
Consumer installment	4	21	21	3	20
Indirect auto	—	—	—	—	—
Total loans	37	\$ 7,303	\$ 7,068	10	\$ 2,126

Collateral dependent TDRs that subsequently default and are placed on nonaccrual are charged down to the fair value of the collateral consistent with United's policy for nonaccrual loans. Impairment on TDRs that are not collateral dependent continues to be measured on discounted cash flows regardless of whether the loan has subsequently defaulted.

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As of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, and based on the most recent analysis performed, the risk category of loans by class of loans is as follows (*in thousands*).

	Pass	Watch	Substandard		Doubtful / Loss	Total
			Performing	Nonaccrual		
As of March 31, 2014						
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 1,637,299	\$ 38,851	\$ 84,325	\$ 5,146	\$ —	\$ 1,765,621
Commercial & industrial	481,310	4,905	8,141	822	—	495,178
Commercial construction	138,560	4,134	5,281	479	—	148,454
Total commercial	2,257,169	47,890	97,747	6,447	—	2,409,253
Residential mortgage	799,145	10,591	43,572	13,307	—	866,615
Home equity lines of credit	437,908	29	7,662	1,106	—	446,705
Residential construction	292,032	8,935	12,977	3,805	—	317,749
Consumer installment	104,379	11	2,310	291	—	106,991
Indirect auto	207,504	—	597	294	—	208,395
Total loans	\$ 4,098,137	\$ 67,456	\$ 164,865	\$ 25,250	\$ —	\$ 4,355,708
As of December 31, 2013						
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 1,630,521	\$ 40,124	\$ 77,725	\$ 8,340	\$ —	\$ 1,756,710
Commercial & industrial	456,563	5,382	9,589	427	—	471,961
Commercial construction	120,852	10,932	16,758	361	—	148,903
Total commercial	2,207,936	56,438	104,072	9,128	—	2,377,574
Residential mortgage	793,381	25,944	44,022	11,730	—	875,077
Home equity lines of credit	426,052	5,420	7,967	1,448	—	440,887
Residential construction	298,685	11,526	14,104	4,264	—	328,579
Consumer installment	107,029	1,229	2,538	249	—	111,045
Indirect auto	196,104	—	—	—	—	196,104
Total loans	\$ 4,029,187	\$ 100,557	\$ 172,703	\$ 26,819	\$ —	\$ 4,329,266
As of March 31, 2013						
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 1,593,193	\$ 65,413	\$ 128,120	\$ 17,304	\$ —	\$ 1,804,030
Commercial & industrial	397,124	6,775	20,320	29,545	—	453,764
Commercial construction	104,413	7,176	18,462	22,359	—	152,410
Total commercial	2,094,730	79,364	166,902	69,208	—	2,410,204
Residential mortgage	758,185	26,722	53,994	10,901	—	849,802
Home equity lines of credit	381,064	4,084	10,109	916	—	396,173
Residential construction	296,029	23,230	37,882	14,592	—	371,733
Consumer installment	106,725	888	2,794	389	—	110,796
Indirect auto	54,852	—	—	—	—	54,852
Total loans	\$ 3,691,585	\$ 134,288	\$ 271,681	\$ 96,006	\$ —	\$ 4,193,560

Risk Ratings

United categorizes commercial loans into risk categories based on relevant information about the ability of borrowers to service their debt such as: current financial information, historical payment experience, credit documentation, public information, and current industry and economic trends, among other factors. United analyzes loans individually by classifying the loans as to credit risk. This analysis is performed on a continuous basis. United uses the following definitions for its risk ratings:

Watch. Loans in this category are presently protected from apparent loss; however, weaknesses exist that could cause future impairment, including the deterioration of financial ratios, past due status and questionable management capabilities. These loans require more than the ordinary amount of supervision. Collateral values generally afford adequate coverage, but may not be immediately marketable.

Substandard. These loans are inadequately protected by the current net worth and paying capacity of the obligor or by the collateral pledged. Specific and well-defined weaknesses exist that may include poor liquidity and deterioration of financial ratios. The loan may be past due and related deposit accounts experiencing overdrafts. There is the distinct possibility that United will sustain some loss if deficiencies are not corrected. If possible, immediate corrective action is taken.

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Doubtful. Specific weaknesses characterized as Substandard that are severe enough to make collection in full highly questionable and improbable. There is no reliable secondary source of full repayment.

Loss. Loans categorized as Loss have the same characteristics as Doubtful; however, probability of loss is certain. Loans classified as Loss are charged off.

Consumer Purpose Loans. Beginning in the first quarter of 2014, United began to apply a pass / fail grading system to all consumer purpose loans. Under the pass / fail grading system, consumer purpose loans meeting the criteria of substandard are classified as “fail” and all other loans are classified as “pass”. For reporting purposes, consumer purpose loans classified as “fail” are reported in the performing substandard or nonaccrual columns and all other consumer purpose loans are reported in the “pass” column. The first quarter grading change resulted in decreases in loans categorized as “watch” for the consumer installment, residential mortgage and home equity lines of credit loan classifications. Loan balances reported in the “watch” column for residential mortgage in the first quarter are generally commercial purpose loans secured by the borrower’s residence.

Loans not meeting the criteria above that are analyzed individually as part of the above described process are considered to be pass rated loans.

Note 6 – Foreclosed Property

Major classifications of foreclosed properties at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 are summarized as follows (*in thousands*).

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2013
Commercial real estate	\$ 3,336	\$ 1,287	\$ 6,658
Commercial construction	—	—	3,027
Total commercial	3,336	1,287	9,685
Residential mortgage	2,599	3,380	3,768
Residential construction	700	736	8,260
Total foreclosed property	6,635	5,403	21,713
Less valuation allowance	(1,041)	(1,182)	(4,979)
Foreclosed property, net	\$ 5,594	\$ 4,221	\$ 16,734
Balance as a percentage of original loan unpaid principal	53.9%	44.5%	45.0%

In the second quarter of 2013, United completed the accelerated sales of classified assets including performing and nonperforming classified loans and foreclosed properties. The classified asset sales resulted in a much lower balance of foreclosed property at March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

Activity in the valuation allowance for foreclosed property for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 is presented in the following table (*in thousands*).

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 1,182	\$ 6,954
Additions charged to expense	277	1,041
Disposals	(418)	(3,016)
Balance at end of period	\$ 1,041	\$ 4,979

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Expenses related to foreclosed property for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 is presented in the following table (*in thousands*).

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2014	2013
Net (gain)/loss on sales	\$ (521)	\$ 105
Provision for unrealized losses	277	1,041
Operating expenses	360	1,187
Total foreclosed property expense	<u>\$ 116</u>	<u>\$ 2,333</u>

Note 7 – Reclassifications Out of Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income

The following table presents the details regarding amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive income for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 (*in thousands*).

Details about Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income Components	Amounts Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income For the three months ended		Affected Line Item in the Statement Where Net Income is Presented
	March 31,		
	2014	2013	
Realized gains on sales of available-for-sale securities:			
	\$ 217	\$ 116	Securities gains, net
	(92)	(45)	Tax expense
	<u>\$ 125</u>	<u>\$ 71</u>	Net of tax
Amortization of (losses) gains included in net income on available-for-sale securities transferred to held to maturity:			
	\$ (330)	\$ 319	Investment securities interest revenue
	123	(124)	Tax benefit (expense)
	<u>\$ (207)</u>	<u>\$ 195</u>	Net of tax
Gains included in net income on derivative financial instruments accounted for as cash flow hedges:			
Effective portion of interest rate contracts	\$ —	\$ 537	Loan interest revenue
Effective portion of interest rate contracts	\$ (97)	\$ —	Brokered deposit interest expense
Ineffective portion of interest rate contracts	—	1	Loan interest revenue
	(97)	538	Total before tax
	38	(209)	Tax or benefit (expense)
	<u>\$ (59)</u>	<u>\$ 329</u>	Net of tax
Amortization of prior service cost and actuarial losses included in net periodic pension cost for defined benefit pension plan			
Prior service cost	\$ (91)	\$ (90)	Salaries and employee benefits expense
Actuarial losses	—	(42)	Salaries and employee benefits expense
	(91)	(132)	Total before tax
	35	51	Tax benefit
	<u>\$ (56)</u>	<u>\$ (81)</u>	Net of tax
Total reclassifications for the period	<u>\$ (197)</u>	<u>\$ 514</u>	Net of tax

Amounts shown above in parentheses reduce earnings

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Note 8 – Earnings Per Share

United is required to report on the face of the consolidated statement of income, earnings per common share with and without the dilutive effects of potential common stock issuances from instruments such as options, convertible securities and warrants. Basic earnings per common share is based on the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period while the effects of potential common shares outstanding during the period are included in diluted earnings per common share.

During the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, United accrued dividends on preferred stock, including accretion of discounts, as shown in the following table (*in thousands*).

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2014	2013
Series A - 6% fixed	\$ —	\$ 3
Series B - 5% fixed until December 6, 2013, 9% thereafter	159	2,630
Series D - LIBOR plus 9.6875%, resets quarterly	280	419
Total preferred stock dividends	<u>\$ 439</u>	<u>\$ 3,052</u>

All preferred stock dividends are payable quarterly.

Series B preferred stock was issued at a discount. Dividend amounts shown include discount accretion for each period.

The preferred stock dividends were subtracted from net income in order to arrive at net income available to common shareholders. There were no dilutive securities outstanding for the three months ended March 31, 2013.

The following table sets forth the computation of basic and diluted earnings per share for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 (*in thousands, except per share data*).

	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2014	2013
Net income available to common shareholders	<u>\$ 14,961</u>	<u>\$ 8,713</u>
Weighted average shares outstanding:		
Basic	60,059	58,081
Effect of dilutive securities		
Convertible securities	—	—
Stock options	2	—
Warrants	—	—
Diluted	<u>60,061</u>	<u>58,081</u>
Net income per common share:		
Basic	<u>\$.25</u>	<u>\$.15</u>
Diluted	<u>\$.25</u>	<u>\$.15</u>

At March 31, 2014, United had the following potentially dilutive stock options and warrants outstanding: a warrant to purchase 219,909 common shares at \$61.40 per share originally issued to the U.S. Treasury; 348,860 common shares issuable upon exercise of stock options granted to employees with a weighted average exercise price of \$98.02; 1.10 million shares issuable upon completion of vesting of restricted stock awards; and warrants to purchase common stock equivalent junior preferred stock that would be convertible into 1,411,765 common shares exercisable at \$21.25 per share granted to Fletcher International Ltd. ("Fletcher") in connection with a 2010 asset purchase and sale agreement. Pursuant to a settlement agreement with Fletcher, United has agreed to repurchase the warrant and resolve all claims between the parties. The settlement agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby have been approved by the bankruptcy court but remain subject to an appeal.

At March 31, 2013, United had the following potentially dilutive stock options and warrants outstanding: a warrant to purchase 219,909 common shares at \$61.40 per share originally issued to the U.S. Treasury; 129,670 common shares issuable upon exercise of warrants attached to trust preferred securities with an exercise price of \$100 per share; 476,311 common shares issuable upon exercise of stock options granted to employees with a weighted average exercise price of \$97.85; 497,800 shares issuable upon completion of vesting of restricted stock awards; warrants to purchase common stock equivalent junior preferred stock that would be convertible into 1,411,765 common shares exercisable at \$21.25 per share granted to Fletcher in connection with a 2010 asset purchase and sale agreement; and 1,551,126 common shares issuable upon exercise of warrants granted in connection with United's tax benefits preservation plan, exercisable at \$12.50 per share.

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Note 9 – Derivatives and Hedging Activities

Risk Management Objective of Using Derivatives

United is exposed to certain risks arising from both its business operations and economic conditions. United principally manages its exposures to a wide variety of business and operational risks through management of its core business activities. United manages interest rate risk primarily by managing the amount, sources, and duration of its investment securities portfolio and wholesale funding and through the use of derivative financial instruments. Specifically, United enters into derivative financial instruments to manage exposures that arise from business activities that result in the receipt or payment of future known and uncertain cash amounts, the value of which are determined by interest rates. United's derivative financial instruments are used to manage differences in the amount, timing, and duration of United's known or expected cash receipts and its known or expected cash payments principally related to United's loans, investment securities, wholesale borrowings and deposits.

In conjunction with the Financial Accounting Standards Board's fair value measurement guidance, United made an accounting policy election to measure the credit risk of its derivative financial instruments that are subject to master netting agreements on a gross basis.

The table below presents the fair value of United's derivative financial instruments as well as their classification on the consolidated balance sheet as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 (*in thousands*).

Derivatives designated as hedging instruments under ASC 815

	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value		
		March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2013
Interest Rate Products				
Cash flow hedge of money market deposits	Other assets	\$ 2,971	\$ 4,782	\$ —
Fair value hedge of corporate bonds	Other assets	2,655	3,939	21
		<u>\$ 5,626</u>	<u>\$ 8,721</u>	<u>\$ 21</u>
Cash flow hedge of short-term debt	Other liabilities	\$ 3,650	\$ 3,368	\$ 4,614
Cash flow hedge of money market deposits	Other liabilities	678	—	3,694
Fair value hedge of brokered CD's	Other liabilities	14,119	19,970	5,384
Fair value hedge of corporate bonds	Other liabilities	2,729	2,308	272
		<u>\$ 21,176</u>	<u>\$ 25,646</u>	<u>\$ 13,964</u>

Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments under ASC 815

	Balance Sheet Location	Fair Value		
		March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2013
Interest Rate Products				
Customer swap positions	Other assets	\$ 1,359	\$ 898	\$ 617
Dealer offsets to customer swap positions	Other assets	825	1,347	36
Bifurcated embedded derivatives	Other assets	13,753	12,867	—
		<u>\$ 15,937</u>	<u>\$ 15,112</u>	<u>\$ 653</u>
Customer swap positions	Other liabilities	\$ 825	\$ 1,347	\$ 36
Dealer offsets to customer swap positions	Other liabilities	1,377	915	627
Dealer offsets to bifurcated embedded derivatives	Other liabilities	18,931	18,324	—
		<u>\$ 21,133</u>	<u>\$ 20,586</u>	<u>\$ 663</u>

Derivative contracts that are not accounted for as hedging instruments under ASC 815, *Derivatives and Hedging*, and are described as "customer derivatives," are between United and certain commercial loan customers with offsetting positions to dealers under a back-to-back swap program. United also has three interest rate swap contracts that are not designated as hedging instruments but are economic hedges of market linked brokered certificates of deposit. The market linked brokered certificates of deposit contain embedded derivatives that are bifurcated from the host instruments and marked to market through earnings. The marks on the market linked swaps and the bifurcated embedded derivatives tend to move in opposite directions with changes in 90-day LIBOR and therefore provide an effective economic hedge.

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Cash Flow Hedges of Interest Rate Risk

United's objectives in using interest rate derivatives are to add stability to net interest revenue and to manage its exposure to interest rate movements. To accomplish this objective, United primarily uses interest rate swaps as part of its interest rate risk management strategy. At March 31, 2014, United's interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges involved the payment of fixed-rate amounts to a counterparty in exchange for United receiving variable-rate payments over the life of the agreements without exchange of the underlying notional amount. United's current cash flow hedges are for the purpose of converting variable rate deposits and wholesale borrowings to a fixed rate to protect United in a rising rate environment. The swaps are forward starting with \$100 million in notional becoming effective in the first quarter of 2014 and the rest becoming effective later in 2014 and in 2015. United had three swap contracts outstanding with a total notional amount of \$200 million that were designated as cash flow hedges of three-month brokered deposits or other LIBOR based floating rate wholesale borrowings and three swap contracts outstanding with a total notional amount of \$375 million that were designated as cash flow hedges of indexed money market accounts at March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013. At March 31, 2013, United had three swap contracts outstanding with a notional amount of \$200 million that were designated as cash flow hedges of future issuances of three-month brokered deposits or other LIBOR based floating-rate wholesale borrowings and two swap contracts outstanding with a total notional amount of \$200 million that were designated as cash flow hedges of indexed money market accounts.

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives designated and that qualify as cash flow hedges is recorded in accumulated other comprehensive income and is subsequently reclassified into earnings in the period that the hedged forecasted transaction affects earnings. Amounts reported in accumulated other comprehensive income related to derivatives will be reclassified to interest expense when the swaps become effective, as interest payments are made on United's LIBOR based, variable-rate wholesale borrowings and indexed deposit accounts. United's active cash flow hedges of floating rate liabilities began to become effective in the first quarter of 2014. United recognized \$35,000 in hedge ineffectiveness gains in deposit interest expense on active cash flow hedges during the first quarter of 2014. No such hedge ineffectiveness gains or losses were recognized on active cash flow hedges during the first quarter of 2013. United expects that \$5.02 million will be reclassified as an increase to deposit interest expense over the next twelve months related to these cash flow hedges.

During the three months ended March 31, 2013, United accelerated the reclassification of \$1,000 in gains from terminated positions, as a result of the forecasted transactions becoming probable not to occur. These amounts are recognized in loan interest revenue as hedge ineffectiveness. At March 31, 2014, there were no remaining unamortized balances from terminated positions.

Fair Value Hedges of Interest Rate Risk

United is exposed to changes in the fair value of certain of its fixed rate investments and obligations due to changes in interest rates. United uses interest rate swaps to manage its exposure to changes in fair value on these instruments attributable to changes in interest rates. Interest rate swaps designated as fair value hedges of brokered deposits involve the receipt of fixed-rate amounts from a counterparty in exchange for United making variable rate payments over the life of the agreements without the exchange of the underlying notional amount. Interest rate swaps designated as fair value hedges of fixed rate investments involve the receipt of variable-rate amounts from a counterparty in exchange for United making fixed rate payments over the life of the instrument without the exchange of the underlying notional amount. At March 31, 2014, United had 24 interest rate swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$285 million that were designated as fair value hedges of interest rate risk. Eight of the interest rate swaps outstanding at March 31, 2014 with an aggregate notional amount of \$86 million were receive-variable / pay-fixed swaps that were used for the purpose of hedging changes in the fair value of corporate bonds resulting from changes in interest rates. The other 16 were pay-variable / receive-fixed swaps hedging changes in the fair value of fixed rate brokered time deposits resulting from changes in interest rates. At March 31, 2013, United had 18 interest rate swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$220 million that were designated as fair value hedges. Two of the interest rate swaps with an aggregate notional amount of \$21 million were receive-variable / pay-fixed swaps that were used for the purpose of hedging changes in the fair value of corporate bonds resulting from changes in interest rates. The other 16 were pay-variable / receive-fixed swaps hedging changes in fair value of fixed rate brokered time deposits resulting from changes in interest rates.

For derivatives designated and that qualify as fair value hedges, the gain or loss on the derivative as well as the offsetting loss or gain on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recognized in earnings. United includes the gain or loss on the hedged items in the same income statement line item as the offsetting loss or gain on the related derivatives. During the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 United recognized net losses of \$389,000 and net losses of \$86,000, respectively, related to ineffectiveness of the fair value hedging relationships. United also recognized net reductions of interest expense of \$1.21 million and \$1.06 million, respectively, for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 related to United's fair value hedges of brokered time deposits, which include net settlements on the derivatives. United recognized reductions of interest revenue on securities during the first quarter of 2014 and 2013 in the amounts of \$530,000 and \$12,000, respectively, related to United's fair value hedges of corporate bonds.

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Tabular Disclosure of the Effect of Derivative Instruments on the Income Statement

The tables below present the effect of United's derivative financial instruments on the consolidated statement of operations for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013.

Derivatives in Fair Value Hedging Relationships (in thousands).

	Location of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative		Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Hedged Item	
		2014	2013	2014	2013
		Three Months Ended March 31,			
Fair value hedges of brokered CD's	Interest expense	\$ 5,853	\$ (1,844)	\$ (6,034)	\$ 1,779
Fair value hedges of corporate bonds	Interest revenue	(1,704)	(232)	1,496	211
		<u>\$ 4,149</u>	<u>\$ (2,076)</u>	<u>\$ (4,538)</u>	<u>\$ 1,990</u>

In certain cases, the estate of deceased brokered certificate of deposit holders may put the certificate of deposit back to the issuing bank at par upon the death of the holder. When these death puts occur, a gain or loss is recognized for the difference between the fair value and the par amount of the deposits put back. The change in the fair value of brokered time deposits that are being hedged in fair value hedging relationships reported in the table above includes gains and losses from death puts and such gains and losses are included in the amount of reported ineffectiveness gains or losses.

Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships (in thousands).

	Amount of Gain (Loss) Recognized in Other Comprehensive Income on Derivative (Effective Portion)		Gain (Loss) Reclassified from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income into Income (Effective Portion)		Gain (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative (Ineffective Portion)			
	2014	2013	Location	2014	2013	Location	2014	2013
	Three Months Ended March 31,							
			Interest revenue	\$ —	\$ 539			
			Interest Expense	(97)	—			
Interest rate swaps	<u>\$ (2,833)</u>	<u>\$ 430</u>	Total	<u>\$ (97)</u>	<u>\$ 539</u>	Interest expense	<u>\$ (35)</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

Credit-Risk-Related Contingent Features

United manages its credit exposure on derivatives transactions by entering into a bilateral credit support agreement with each counterparty. The credit support agreements require collateralization of exposures beyond specified minimum threshold amounts. The details of these agreements, including the minimum thresholds, vary by counterparty. As of March 31, 2014, collateral totaling \$35.8 million was pledged toward derivatives in a liability position.

United's agreements with each of its derivative counterparties contain a provision where if either party defaults on any of its indebtedness, then it could also be declared in default on its derivative obligations. The agreements with derivatives counterparties also include provisions that if not met, could result in United being declared in default. United has agreements with certain of its derivative counterparties that contain a provision where if United fails to maintain its status as a well-capitalized institution or is subject to a prompt corrective action directive, the counterparty could terminate the derivative positions and United would be required to settle its obligations under the agreements.

Note 10 – Stock-Based Compensation

United has an equity compensation plan that allows for grants of incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards (also referred to as "nonvested stock" awards), stock awards, performance share awards or stock appreciation rights. Options granted under the plan can have an exercise price no less than the fair market value of the underlying stock at the date of grant. The general terms of the plan include a vesting period (usually four years) with an exercisable period not to exceed ten years. Certain options, restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards provide for accelerated vesting if there is a change in control (as defined in the plan). As of March 31, 2014, 525,800 additional awards could be granted under the plan. Through March 31, 2014, incentive stock options, nonqualified stock options, restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards, base salary stock grants and performance share awards have been granted under the plan.

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The following table shows stock option activity for the first three months of 2014.

Options	Shares	Weighted- Average Exercise Price	Weighted- Average Remaining Contractual Term (Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value (\$000)
Outstanding at December 31, 2013	350,772	\$ 97.87		
Expired	(1,912)	69.61		
Outstanding at March 31, 2014	<u>348,860</u>	98.02	3.1	\$ 104
Exercisable at March 31, 2014	<u>338,785</u>	100.55	2.9	42

No stock options were granted during the three months ended March 31, 2014 or 2013. Most of United's outstanding stock options were granted prior to the economic downturn during which time United's stock price decreased sharply. The lower stock price has rendered most of United's outstanding options severely out of the money and potentially worthless to the grantee. Therefore, historical exercise patterns do not provide a reasonable basis for determining the expected life of new option grants. United therefore uses the formula provided by the SEC in Staff Accounting Bulletin No. 107 to determine the expected life of options.

United recognized no compensation expense related to stock options in the three months ended March 31, 2014. Compensation expense relating to stock options of \$64,000 was included in earnings for the three months ended March 31, 2013. The amount of compensation expense was determined based on the fair value of the options at the time of grant, multiplied by the number of options granted that were expected to vest, which was then amortized over the vesting period. The forfeiture rate for new options issued is estimated to be approximately 3% per year. No options were exercised during the first three months of 2014 or 2013.

The table below presents restricted stock activity for the first three months of 2014.

Restricted Stock	Shares	Weighted- Average Grant- Date Fair Value
Outstanding at December 31, 2013	1,073,676	\$ 13.73
Granted	25,750	19.14
Exercised	(1,667)	10.77
Cancelled	(833)	13.16
Outstanding at March 31, 2014	<u>1,096,926</u>	13.86
Vested at March 31, 2014	<u>22,462</u>	10.11

Compensation expense for restricted stock is based on the fair value of restricted stock awards at the time of grant, which is equal to the value of United's common stock on the date of grant. The value of restricted stock grants that are expected to vest is amortized into expense over the vesting period. For the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, compensation expense of \$1.10 million and \$445,000, respectively, was recognized related to restricted stock awards. In addition, for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, \$25,000 and \$17,000, respectively, was recognized in other operating expense for restricted stock units granted to members of United's board of directors. The total intrinsic value of restricted stock was \$21.4 million at March 31, 2014.

As of March 31, 2014, there was \$11.9 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested stock options and restricted stock awards granted under the plan. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 3.32 years. The aggregate grant date fair value of options and restricted stock awards that vested during the three months ended March 31, 2014, was \$20,000.

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Note 11 – Common and Preferred Stock Issued / Common Stock Issuable

United sponsors a Dividend Reinvestment and Share Purchase Plan (“DRIP”) that allows participants who already own United’s common stock to purchase additional shares directly from United. The DRIP also allows participants to automatically reinvest their quarterly dividends in additional shares of common stock without a commission. The DRIP is currently suspended and no shares were issued in 2013 or the first quarter of 2014.

United’s 401(k) retirement plan regularly purchases shares of United’s common stock directly from United. In addition, United has an Employee Stock Purchase Program that allows eligible employees to purchase shares of common stock at a 5% discount, with no commission charges. For the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, United issued 11,837 and 18,170 shares, respectively, and increased capital by \$209,000 and \$189,000, respectively, through these programs.

United offers its common stock as an investment option in its deferred compensation plan. United also allows for the deferral of restricted stock awards. The common stock component of the deferred compensation plan is accounted for as an equity instrument and is reflected in the consolidated financial statements as common stock issuable. The deferred compensation plan does not allow for diversification once an election is made to invest in United stock and settlement must be accomplished in shares at the time the deferral period is completed. At March 31, 2014 and 2013, 237,763 and 133,469 shares, respectively, were issuable under the deferred compensation plan.

Note 12 – Income Taxes

The income tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was \$9.04 million which represents an effective tax rate of 37.0%. The income tax provision for the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$585,000 which represents an effective tax rate of 4.7%. The first quarter 2013 tax provision was lower due to the full valuation allowance in United’s net deferred tax asset, most of which was reversed in the second quarter of 2013. At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, the valuation allowance on deferred tax assets was \$4.08 million, \$4.10 million and \$271 million, respectively. Management assesses the valuation allowance recorded against deferred tax assets at each reporting period. The determination of whether a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets is appropriate is subject to considerable judgment and requires an evaluation of all the positive and negative evidence.

In the second quarter of 2013, United reversed \$272 million of its valuation allowance on its net deferred tax asset. United established a full valuation allowance on its net deferred tax asset in 2010 due to the realization of significant losses and uncertainty about United’s future earnings forecasts.

United evaluated the need for a valuation allowance again at March 31, 2014. Based on the assessment of all the positive and negative evidence, management concluded that it is more likely than not that nearly all of the net deferred tax asset will be realized based upon future taxable income. The remaining valuation allowance of \$4.08 million is related to specific state income tax credits that have short carryforward periods and are expected to expire unused. The positive evidence considered by management in arriving at the conclusion that a full valuation allowance is not necessary included consecutive profitable quarters beginning with the fourth quarter of 2011, United’s strong pre-crisis earnings history and growth in pre-tax, pre-credit earnings, which demonstrate demand for United’s products and services, and United’s significant improvement in credit measures, which improve both the sustainability of profitability and management’s ability to forecast future credit losses. The negative evidence previously considered by management included a three-year cumulative loss position and informal memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with the banking regulatory agencies. The MOUs were terminated in the fourth quarter of 2013 and first quarter of 2014 and United exited the three-year cumulative loss position in the first quarter of 2014, based on a rolling twelve quarters.

The valuation allowance could fluctuate in future periods based on the assessment of the positive and negative evidence. Management’s conclusion at March 31, 2014 that it was more likely than not that the net deferred tax assets of \$244 million will be realized is based upon management’s estimate of future taxable income. Management’s estimate of future taxable income is based on internal forecasts that consider historical performance, various internal estimates and assumptions, as well as certain external data all of which management believes to be reasonable although inherently subject to significant judgment. If actual results differ significantly from the current estimates of future taxable income, even if caused by adverse macro-economic conditions, the valuation allowance may need to be increased for some or all of the deferred tax asset. Such an increase to the deferred tax asset valuation allowance could have a material adverse effect on United’s financial condition and results of operations.

United is subject to income taxation in the United States and various state jurisdictions. United’s federal and state income tax returns are filed on a consolidated basis. Currently, no years for which United filed a federal income tax return are under examination by the IRS, and there are no state tax examinations currently in progress. United is no longer subject to income tax examinations from state and local income tax authorities for years before 2010. Although United is unable to determine the ultimate outcome of future examinations, United believes that the liability recorded for uncertain tax positions is appropriate.

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At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, unrecognized income tax benefits totaled \$4.59 million, \$4.50 million and \$5.20 million, respectively. In the first quarter of 2014, United adopted the provisions of ASU 2013-11, *Presentations of an Unrecognized Tax Benefit when a Net Operating Loss Carryforward, a Similar Tax Loss, or a Tax Credit Carryforward exists*. ASU 2013-11 requires unrecognized tax benefits to be presented as a reduction of a deferred tax asset unless certain conditions are present. Prior to adoption, unrecognized tax benefits were presented as a component of the current tax liability payable. Upon adoption, United reclassified \$4.59 million in unrecognized tax benefits from other liabilities to its net deferred tax asset. The reclassification resulted in decreases in United's net deferred tax asset and other liabilities.

Note 13 – Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value

Fair value measurements are determined based on the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. As a basis for considering market participant assumptions in fair value measurements, United uses a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between market participant assumptions based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity (observable inputs that are classified within Levels 1 and 2 of the hierarchy) and the reporting entity's own assumptions about market participant assumptions (unobservable inputs classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy).

Fair Value Hierarchy

Level 1 Valuation is based upon quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that United has the ability to access.

Level 2 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, as well as inputs that are observable for the asset or liability (other than quoted prices), such as interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals.

Level 3 Valuation is generated from model-based techniques that use at least one significant assumption based on unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, which are typically based on an entity's own assumptions, as there is little, if any, related market activity. In instances where the determination of the fair value measurement is based on inputs from different levels of the fair value hierarchy, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the entire fair value measurement falls is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. United's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and considers factors specific to the asset or liability.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities recorded at fair value.

Securities Available-for-Sale

Investment securities available-for-sale are recorded at fair value on a recurring basis. Fair value measurement is based upon quoted prices, if available. If quoted prices are not available, fair values are measured using independent pricing models or other model-based valuation techniques such as the present value of future cash flows, adjusted for the security's credit rating, prepayment assumptions and other factors such as credit loss assumptions. Level 1 securities include those traded on an active exchange, such as the New York Stock Exchange, U.S. Treasury securities that are traded by dealers or brokers in active over-the-counter markets and money market funds. Level 2 securities include mortgage-backed securities issued by government sponsored entities, municipal bonds, corporate debt securities and asset-backed securities and are valued based on observable inputs that are observable in the market and can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the securities. Securities classified as Level 3 are valued based on estimates obtained from broker-dealers.

Deferred Compensation Plan Assets and Liabilities

Included in other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheet are assets related to employee deferred compensation plans. The assets associated with these plans are invested in mutual funds and classified as Level 1. Deferred compensation liabilities, also classified as Level 1, are carried at the fair value of the obligation to the employee, which mirrors the fair value of the invested assets and is included in other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet.

Mortgage Loans Held for Sale

Mortgage loans held for sale are carried at the lower of cost or market value. The fair value of mortgage loans held for sale is based on what secondary markets are currently offering for portfolios with similar characteristics.

Loans

United does not record loans at fair value on a recurring basis. However, from time to time, a loan is considered impaired and an allowance for loan losses is established. Loans for which it is probable that payment of interest and principal will not be made in accordance with the contractual terms of the loan agreement are considered impaired. Once a loan is identified as individually impaired, management measures impairment based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at the loan's effective interest rate, except that as a practical expedient, a creditor may measure impairment based on a loan's observable market price, or the fair value of the collateral if repayment of the loan is dependent upon the sale of the underlying collateral. Those impaired loans not requiring an allowance represent loans for which the fair value of the expected repayments or collateral exceed the recorded investments in such loans. Impaired loans where an allowance is established based on the fair value of collateral require classification in the fair value hierarchy. When the fair value of the collateral is based on an observable market price or a current appraised value, United records the impaired loan as nonrecurring Level 2. When an appraised value is not available or management determines the fair value of the collateral is further impaired below the appraised value and there is no observable market price, United records the impaired loan as nonrecurring Level 3.

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Foreclosed Assets

Foreclosed assets are adjusted to fair value, less cost to sell, upon transfer of the loans to foreclosed assets. Subsequently, foreclosed assets are carried at the lower of carrying value or fair value. Fair value is based upon independent market prices, appraised values of the collateral or management's estimation of the value of the collateral. When the fair value of the collateral is based on an observable market price or a current appraised value, United records the foreclosed asset as nonrecurring Level 2. When an appraised value is not available or management determines the fair value of the collateral is further impaired below the appraised value and there is no observable market price, United records the foreclosed asset as nonrecurring Level 3.

Derivative Financial Instruments

United uses interest rate swaps and interest rate floors to manage its interest rate risk. The valuation of these instruments is determined using widely accepted valuation techniques including discounted cash flow analysis on the expected cash flows of each derivative. This analysis reflects the contractual terms of the derivatives, including the period to maturity, and uses observable market-based inputs, including interest rate curves and implied volatilities. The fair values of interest rate swaps are determined using the market standard methodology of netting the discounted future fixed cash receipts and the discounted expected variable cash payments. The variable cash payments are based on an expectation of future interest rates (forward curves) derived from observable market interest rate curves.

The fair values of interest rate options are determined using the market standard methodology of discounting the future expected cash receipts that would occur if variable interest rates fell below the strike rate of the floors. The variable interest rates used in the calculation of projected receipts on the floor are based on an expectation of future interest rates derived from observable market interest rate curves and volatilities. To comply with the provisions of ASC 820, United incorporates credit valuation adjustments to appropriately reflect both its own nonperformance risk and the respective counterparty's nonperformance risk in the fair value measurements. In adjusting the fair value of its derivative contracts for the effect of nonperformance risk, United has considered the effect of netting and any applicable credit enhancements, such as collateral postings, thresholds, mutual puts, and guarantees.

Although United has determined that the majority of the inputs used to value its derivatives fall within Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy, the credit valuation adjustments associated with its derivatives utilize Level 3 inputs, such as estimates of current credit spreads to evaluate the likelihood of default by itself and its counterparties. However, as of September 30, 2013, United had assessed the significance of the effect of the credit valuation adjustments on the overall valuation of its derivative positions and has determined that the credit valuation adjustments are not significant to the overall valuation of its derivatives. As a result, United has determined that its derivative valuations in their entirety are classified in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

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Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Recurring Basis

The table below presents United's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, aggregated by the level in the fair value hierarchy within which those measurements fall (*in thousands*).

March 31, 2014	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Securities available for sale:				
State and political subdivisions	\$ —	\$ 23,006	\$ —	\$ 23,006
Mortgage-backed securities	—	1,128,112	—	1,128,112
Corporate bonds	—	251,574	350	251,924
Asset-backed securities	—	432,062	—	432,062
Other	—	2,572	—	2,572
Deferred compensation plan assets	3,468	—	—	3,468
Derivative financial instruments	—	21,563	—	21,563
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,468</u>	<u>\$ 1,858,889</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>	<u>\$ 1,862,707</u>
Liabilities:				
Deferred compensation plan liability	\$ 3,468	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,468
Brokered certificates of deposit	—	177,726	—	177,726
Derivative financial instruments	—	42,309	—	42,309
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 3,468</u>	<u>\$ 220,035</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 223,503</u>

December 31, 2013	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Securities available for sale:				
State and political subdivisions	\$ —	\$ 23,242	\$ —	\$ 23,242
Mortgage-backed securities	—	1,145,347	—	1,145,347
Corporate bonds	—	249,946	350	250,296
Asset-backed securities	—	410,633	—	410,633
Other	—	2,699	—	2,699
Deferred compensation plan assets	3,496	—	—	3,496
Derivative financial instruments	—	23,833	—	23,833
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,496</u>	<u>\$ 1,855,700</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>	<u>\$ 1,859,546</u>
Liabilities:				
Deferred compensation plan liability	\$ 3,496	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,496
Brokered certificates of deposit	—	173,657	—	173,657
Derivative financial instruments	—	46,233	—	46,233
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 3,496</u>	<u>\$ 219,890</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 223,386</u>

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March 31, 2013	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:				
Securities available for sale:				
State and political subdivisions	\$ —	\$ 24,037	\$ —	\$ 24,037
Mortgage-backed securities	—	1,468,311	—	1,468,311
Corporate bonds	—	188,444	350	188,794
Asset-backed securities	—	225,870	—	225,870
Other	—	2,414	—	2,414
Deferred compensation plan assets	3,037	—	—	3,037
Derivative financial instruments	—	602	—	602
Total assets	<u>\$ 3,037</u>	<u>\$ 1,909,678</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>	<u>\$ 1,913,065</u>
Liabilities:				
Deferred compensation plan liability	\$ 3,037	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 3,037
Brokered certificates of deposit	—	194,415	—	194,415
Derivative financial instruments	—	14,556	—	14,556
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 3,037</u>	<u>\$ 208,971</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 212,008</u>

The following table shows a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances for assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs that are classified as Level 3 values (*in thousands*).

Securities Available for Sale	Securities Available for Sale	
	Three Months Ended	
	March 31,	
	2014	2013
Balance at beginning of period	\$ 350	\$ 350
Amounts included in earnings	—	—
Paydowns	—	—
Balance at end of period	<u>\$ 350</u>	<u>\$ 350</u>

At March 31, 2014, United had two securities that have Level 3 valuations. They are trust preferred securities in community banks that have shown deteriorating financial condition during the financial crisis, and both are currently deferring interest payments. Since both investments are not actively traded, there is no recent trade activity upon which to assess value. The values assigned to the investments are based on sales price estimates from brokers. Both investments have a par amount of \$1 million. One was considered impaired in 2010 and was written down to \$50,000 with a \$950,000 impairment charge to earnings. The other is carried at its original cost basis of \$1 million with a \$700,000 negative mark to fair value through other comprehensive income. United does not consider this investment to be other-than-temporarily impaired, as the community bank was recapitalized by a private equity investment that management believes will result in full payment at maturity.

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Assets and Liabilities Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis

United may be required, from time to time, to measure certain assets at fair value on a nonrecurring basis. These include assets that are measured at the lower of cost or market that were recognized at fair value below cost at the end of the period. The table below presents United's assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, aggregated by the level in the fair value hierarchy within which those measurements fall (*in thousands*).

March 31, 2014	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Loans	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 79,918	\$ 79,918
Foreclosed properties	—	—	3,120	3,120
Total	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 83,038	\$ 83,038
December 31, 2013				
Assets				
Loans	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 82,798	\$ 82,798
Foreclosed properties	—	—	3,747	3,747
Total	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 86,545	\$ 86,545
March 31, 2013				
Assets				
Loans	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 170,767	\$ 170,767
Foreclosed properties	—	—	14,716	14,716
Total	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 185,483	\$ 185,483

Loans that are reported above as being measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis are generally impaired loans that have either been partially charged off or have specific reserves assigned to them. Nonaccrual impaired loans that are collateral dependent are generally written down to 80% of appraised value which considers the estimated costs to sell. Specific reserves are established for impaired loans based on appraised value of collateral or discounted cash flows. Foreclosed properties that are included above as measured at fair value on a nonrecurring basis are those properties that resulted from a loan that had been charged down or have been written down subsequent to foreclosure. Foreclosed properties are generally recorded at the lower of 80% of appraised value or 90% of the asking price which considers the estimated cost to sell.

Assets and Liabilities Not Measured at Fair Value

For financial instruments that have quoted market prices, those quotes are used to determine fair value. Financial instruments that have no defined maturity, have a remaining maturity of 180 days or less, or reprice frequently to a market rate, are assumed to have a fair value that approximates the reported book value, after taking into consideration any applicable credit risk. If no market quotes are available, financial instruments are valued by discounting the expected cash flows using an estimated current market interest rate for the financial instrument. For off-balance sheet derivative instruments, fair value is estimated as the amount that United would receive or pay to terminate the contracts at the reporting date, taking into account the current unrealized gains or losses on open contracts.

The short maturity of United's assets and liabilities results in having a significant number of financial instruments whose fair value equals or closely approximates carrying value. Such financial instruments are reported in the following balance sheet captions: cash and cash equivalents, mortgage loans held for sale and short-term borrowings. The fair value of securities available-for-sale equals the balance sheet value. Due to the short-term settlement of accrued interest receivable and payable, the carrying amount closely approximates fair value.

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on relevant market information and information about the financial instrument. These estimates do not reflect the premium or discount on any particular financial instrument that could result from the sale of United's entire holdings. Because no ready market exists for a significant portion of United's financial instruments, fair value estimates are based on many judgments. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgment and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect the estimates.

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Fair value estimates are based on existing on and off-balance sheet financial instruments without attempting to estimate the value of anticipated future business and the value of assets and liabilities that are not considered financial instruments. Significant assets and liabilities that are not considered financial instruments include the mortgage banking operation, brokerage network, deferred income taxes, premises and equipment and goodwill. In addition, the tax ramifications related to the realization of the unrealized gains and losses can have a significant effect on fair value estimates and have not been considered in the estimates.

Off-balance sheet financial instruments (commitments to extend credit and standby letters of credit) are generally short-term and at variable rates. Therefore, both the carrying amount and the estimated fair value associated with these instruments are immaterial.

The carrying amount and fair values for other financial instruments that are not measured at fair value on a recurring basis in United's balance sheet at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and March 31, 2013 are as follows (*in thousands*).

March 31, 2014	Carrying Amount	Fair Value Level			
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets:					
Securities held to maturity	\$ 464,697	\$ —	\$ 473,136	\$ —	\$ 473,136
Loans, net	4,280,485	—	—	4,201,255	4,201,255
Mortgage loans held for sale	10,933	—	11,121	—	11,121
Liabilities:					
Deposits	6,247,541	—	6,238,927	—	6,238,927
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	50,125	—	50,125	—	50,125
Long-term debt	129,865	—	—	130,636	130,636
December 31, 2013					
Assets:					
Securities held to maturity	\$ 479,742	\$ —	\$ 485,585	\$ —	\$ 485,585
Loans, net	4,252,504	—	—	4,165,591	4,165,591
Mortgage loans held for sale	10,319	—	10,529	—	10,529
Liabilities:					
Deposits	6,201,505	—	6,204,815	—	6,204,815
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	120,125	—	120,125	—	120,125
Long-term debt	129,865	—	—	130,262	130,262
March 31, 2013					
Assets:					
Securities held to maturity	\$ 231,087	\$ —	\$ 247,087	\$ —	\$ 247,087
Loans, net	4,087,807	—	—	3,980,932	3,980,932
Mortgage loans held for sale	18,290	—	18,803	—	18,803
Liabilities:					
Deposits	6,025,852	—	6,034,103	—	6,034,103
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	125	—	125	—	125
Long-term debt	124,825	—	—	123,402	123,402

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

Note 14 – Commitments and Contingencies

United and the Bank are parties to financial instruments with off-balance sheet risk in the normal course of business to meet the financing needs of their customers. These financial instruments include commitments to extend credit and letters of credit. These instruments involve, to varying degrees, elements of credit risk in excess of the amount recognized in the balance sheet. The contract amounts of these instruments reflect the extent of involvement the Bank has in particular classes of financial instruments. The exposure to credit loss in the event of nonperformance by the other party to the financial instrument for commitments to extend credit and letters of credit written is represented by the contractual amount of these instruments. United uses the same credit policies in making commitments and conditional obligations as it uses for underwriting on-balance sheet instruments. In most cases, collateral or other security is required to support financial instruments with credit risk.

The following table summarizes, as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, the contractual amount of off-balance sheet instruments (*in thousands*):

	<u>March 31, 2014</u>	<u>December 31, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2013</u>
Financial instruments whose contract amounts represent credit risk:			
Commitments to extend credit	\$ 720,891	\$ 747,170	\$ 565,685
Letters of credit	19,960	19,846	12,818

United, in the normal course of business, is subject to various pending and threatened lawsuits in which claims for monetary damages are asserted. Although it is not possible to predict the outcome of these lawsuits, or the range of any possible loss, management, after consultation with legal counsel, does not anticipate that the ultimate aggregate liability, if any, arising from these lawsuits will have a material adverse effect on United's financial position or results of operations.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Forward-looking Statements

This Form 10-Q contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, (the "Exchange Act"), about United and its subsidiaries. These forward-looking statements are intended to be covered by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are not statements of historical fact, and can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "believes", "expects", "may", "will", "could", "should", "projects", "plans", "goal", "targets", "potential", "estimates", "pro forma", "seeks", "intends", or "anticipates", the negative thereof or comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements include discussions of strategy, financial projections, guidance and estimates (including their underlying assumptions), statements regarding plans, objectives, expectations or consequences of various transactions or events, and statements about the future performance, operations, products and services of United and its subsidiaries. We caution our shareholders and other readers not to place undue reliance on such statements.

Our businesses and operations are and will be subject to a variety of risks, uncertainties and other factors. Consequently, actual results and experiences may differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Such risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results and experiences to differ from those projected include, but are not limited to, the risk factors set forth in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013 as well as the following factors:

- the condition of the general business and economic environment;
- the results of our most recent internal credit stress test may not accurately predict the impact on our financial condition if the economy were to deteriorate;
- our ability to maintain profitability;
- our ability to fully realize our deferred tax asset balances, including net operating loss carry-forwards;
- the risk that we may be required to increase the valuation allowance on our deferred tax asset in future periods;
- the condition of the banking system and financial markets;
- our ability to raise capital as may be necessary;
- our ability to maintain liquidity or access other sources of funding;
- changes in the cost and availability of funding;
- the success of the local economies in which we operate;
- our lack of geographic diversification;
- our concentrations of residential and commercial construction and development loans and commercial real estate loans are subject to unique risks that could adversely affect our earnings;
- changes in prevailing interest rates may negatively affect our net income and the value of our assets;
- our accounting and reporting policies;
- if our allowance for loan losses is not sufficient to cover actual loan losses;
- losses due to fraudulent and negligent conduct of our loan customers, third party service providers or employees;
- our reliance on third parties to provide key components of our business infrastructure;
- competition from financial institutions and other financial service providers;
- risks with respect to future expansion and acquisitions;
- if the conditions in the stock market, the public debt market and other capital markets deteriorate;
- the impact of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 and related regulations;
- changes in laws and regulations or failures to comply with such laws and regulations;
- changes in regulatory capital requirements;
- the costs and effects of litigation, examinations, investigations, or similar matters, or adverse facts and developments related thereto, including possible dilution;
- regulatory or judicial proceedings, board resolutions, informal memorandums of understanding or formal enforcement actions imposed by regulators that may occur; and
- changes in tax laws, regulations and interpretations or challenges to our income tax provision.

Additional information with respect to factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by such forward-looking statements may also be included in other reports that United files with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). United cautions that the foregoing list of factors is not exclusive and not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. United does not intend to update any forward-looking statement, whether written or oral, relating to the matters discussed in this Form 10-Q.

Overview

The following discussion is intended to provide insight into the results of operations and financial condition of United Community Banks, Inc. (“United”) and its subsidiaries and should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes.

United is a bank holding company registered with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 that was incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia in 1987 and commenced operations in 1988. At March 31, 2014, United had total consolidated assets of \$7.40 billion and total loans of \$4.36 billion (excluding the loans acquired from Southern Community Bank (“SCB”) that are covered by loss sharing agreements). United also had total deposits of \$6.25 billion and shareholders’ equity of \$704 million.

United’s activities are primarily conducted by its wholly-owned Georgia banking subsidiary, United Community Bank (the “Bank”). The Bank’s operations are conducted under a community bank model that operates 28 “community banks” with local bank presidents and boards in north Georgia, the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Georgia metropolitan statistical area, the Gainesville, Georgia metropolitan statistical area, coastal Georgia, western North Carolina, east Tennessee and the Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin, South Carolina metropolitan statistical area.

Included in management’s discussion and analysis are certain non-GAAP (accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”)) performance measures. United’s management believes that non-GAAP performance measures are useful in analyzing United’s financial performance trends and therefore this section will refer to non-GAAP performance measures. A reconciliation of these non-GAAP performance measures to GAAP performance measures is included in the table on page 40.

United reported net income of \$15.4 million for the first quarter of 2014. This compared to net income of \$11.8 million for the first quarter of 2013. Diluted earnings per common share was \$.25 for the first quarter of 2014, compared to diluted earnings per common share of \$.15 for the first quarter of 2013. The increase in net income reflected a lower provision for credit losses and lower operating expenses. The increase in earnings per share also reflected a significant decrease in preferred stock dividends following the redemption of all of United’s preferred stock.

Taxable equivalent net interest revenue was \$54.2 million for the first quarter of 2014, compared to \$54.6 million for the same period of 2013. The decrease in net interest revenue was primarily the result of continued lower yields on the loan portfolio, which were due to loan pricing competition. Net interest margin decreased from 3.37% for the three months ended March 31, 2013 to 3.21% for the same period in 2014.

United’s provision for loan losses was \$2.50 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, compared to \$11.0 million for the same period in 2013. Net charge-offs for the first quarter of 2014 were \$4.04 million, compared to \$12.4 million for the first quarter of 2013. The lower level of charge-offs and provision for loan losses in 2014 are the result of the accelerated disposition of classified assets in the second quarter of 2013 and generally improving credit conditions.

As of March 31, 2014, United’s allowance for loan losses was \$75.2 million, or 1.73% of loans, compared to \$106 million, or 2.52% of loans, at March 31, 2013. Nonperforming assets of \$30.8 million, which excludes assets that are covered by loss sharing agreements with the FDIC, decreased to .42% of total assets at March 31, 2014 from 1.65% as of March 31, 2013, mostly due to the second quarter 2013 classified asset sales. During the first quarter of 2014, \$9.30 million in loans were placed on nonaccrual compared with \$9.67 million in the first quarter of 2013.

Fee revenue of \$12.2 million decreased \$735,000, or 6%, from the first quarter of 2013. The quarterly decrease was due primarily to a \$1.30 million, or 49% decrease in mortgage loan and related fees and a \$195,000 decrease in customer derivative fees. Mortgage refinancing activity continued to decline with rising long-term interest rates. These revenue decreases were offset by a \$410,000, or 53% increase in brokerage fees and a \$495,000, or 7% increase in service charges and fees.

For the first quarter of 2014, operating expenses of \$39.1 million were down \$4.72 million from the first quarter of 2013. The decrease was primarily related to a decrease of \$2.22 million in foreclosed property expense, driven by decreased volume due to the classified asset sales in the second quarter of 2013. In addition, lower workout and collection costs and lower costs of operating our ATM network, resulted in lower other expense for the first quarter of 2014 compared to the same period in 2013. Professional fees decreased \$939,000 from the first quarter of 2013, and FDIC assessments and regulatory charges decreased \$1.15 million from the same period a year ago. Management continues its efforts to reduce costs and improve operating efficiency.

Recent Developments

On March 25, 2014, the Company completed the sale of 640,000 shares of common stock and received approximately \$12.2 million in net proceeds after discounts and expenses. The proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes, including the repurchase of the warrant originally issued to Fletcher International, Ltd. (“Fletcher”) and resolution of all other claims in connection with the settlement agreement with the Chapter 11 Trustee for Fletcher.

On January 10, 2014, United redeemed the remaining \$105 million of its Series B Preferred Stock. The Series B Preferred Stock was originally issued to the U.S. Department of the Treasury under the Troubled Asset Relief Program Capital Purchase Program. The redemption price for shares of the Series B Preferred Stock was the stated liquidation value of \$1,000 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends that had been earned thereon to, but not including, the redemption date.

On March 3, 2014, United redeemed all of its \$16.6 million in outstanding Series D Preferred Stock at its par value. Following the redemption, United no longer has any preferred stock outstanding.

Critical Accounting Policies

The accounting and reporting policies of United are in accordance with GAAP and conform to general practices within the banking industry. The more critical accounting and reporting policies include United's accounting for the allowance for loan losses, fair value measurements, and income taxes which involve the use of estimates and require significant judgments to be made by management. Different assumptions in the application of these policies could result in material changes in United's consolidated financial position or consolidated results of operations. See "Asset Quality and Risk Elements" herein for additional discussion of United's accounting methodologies related to the allowance for loan losses.

GAAP Reconciliation and Explanation

This Form 10-Q contains non-GAAP financial measures, which are performance measures determined by methods other than in accordance with GAAP. Such non-GAAP financial measures include, among others the following: taxable equivalent interest revenue, taxable equivalent net interest revenue, tangible book value per share, tangible equity to assets, tangible common equity to assets and tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets. Management uses these non-GAAP financial measures because it believes they are useful for evaluating our operations and performance over periods of time, as well as in managing and evaluating our business and in discussions about our operations and performance. Management believes these non-GAAP financial measures provide users of our financial information with a meaningful measure for assessing our financial results and credit trends, as well as comparison to financial results for prior periods. These non-GAAP financial measures should not be considered as a substitute for operating results determined in accordance with GAAP and may not be comparable to other similarly titled financial measures used by other companies. A reconciliation of these operating performance measures to GAAP performance measures is included in on the table on page 40.

Table 1 - Financial Highlights
Selected Financial Information

<i>(in thousands, except per share data; taxable equivalent)</i>	2014		2013			First Quarter 2014-2013 Change
	First Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Third Quarter	Second Quarter	First Quarter	
INCOME SUMMARY						
Interest revenue	\$ 60,495	\$ 61,695	\$ 61,426	\$ 62,088	\$ 62,114	
Interest expense	6,326	5,816	7,169	7,157	7,540	
Net interest revenue	54,169	55,879	54,257	54,931	54,574	(1) %
Provision for credit losses	2,500	3,000	3,000	48,500	11,000	
Fee revenue	12,176	13,519	14,225	15,943	12,911	(6)
Total revenue	63,845	66,398	65,482	22,374	56,485	
Operating expenses	39,050	41,614	40,097	48,823	43,770	(11)
Income (loss) before income taxes	24,795	24,784	25,385	(26,449)	12,715	95
Income tax expense (benefit)	9,395	8,873	9,885	(256,413)	950	
Net income	15,400	15,911	15,500	229,964	11,765	31
Preferred dividends and discount accretion	439	2,912	3,059	3,055	3,052	
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 14,961	\$ 12,999	\$ 12,441	\$ 226,909	\$ 8,713	72
PERFORMANCE MEASURES						
Per common share:						
Diluted income	\$.25	\$.22	\$.21	\$ 3.90	\$.15	67
Book value	11.66	11.30	10.99	10.90	6.85	70
Tangible book value ⁽²⁾	11.63	11.26	10.95	10.82	6.76	72
Key performance ratios:						
Return on common equity ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	8.64%	7.52%	7.38%	197.22%	8.51%	
Return on assets ⁽³⁾	.85	.86	.86	13.34	.70	
Net interest margin ⁽³⁾	3.21	3.26	3.26	3.33	3.37	
Efficiency ratio	59.05	60.02	58.55	68.89	64.97	
Equity to assets	9.52	11.62	11.80	11.57 ⁽⁴⁾	8.60	
Tangible equity to assets ⁽²⁾	9.50	11.59	11.76	11.53 ⁽⁴⁾	8.53	
Tangible common equity to assets ⁽²⁾	9.22	8.99	9.02	8.79 ⁽⁴⁾	5.66	
Tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets ⁽²⁾	13.57	13.17	13.34	13.16	8.45	
ASSET QUALITY *						
Non-performing loans	\$ 25,250	\$ 26,819	\$ 26,088	\$ 27,864	\$ 96,006	
Foreclosed properties	5,594	4,221	4,467	3,936	16,734	
Total non-performing assets (NPAs)	30,844	31,040	30,555	31,800	112,740	
Allowance for loan losses	75,223	76,762	80,372	81,845	105,753	
Net charge-offs	4,039	4,445	4,473	72,408	12,384	
Allowance for loan losses to loans	1.73%	1.77%	1.88%	1.95%	2.52%	
Net charge-offs to average loans ⁽³⁾	.38	.41	.42	6.87	1.21	
NPAs to loans and foreclosed properties	.71	.72	.72	.76	2.68	
NPAs to total assets	.42	.42	.42	.44	1.65	
AVERAGE BALANCES (\$ in millions)						
Loans	\$ 4,356	\$ 4,315	\$ 4,250	\$ 4,253	\$ 4,197	4
Investment securities	2,320	2,280	2,178	2,161	2,141	8
Earning assets	6,827	6,823	6,615	6,608	6,547	4
Total assets	7,384	7,370	7,170	6,915	6,834	8
Deposits	6,197	6,190	5,987	5,983	5,946	4
Shareholders' equity	703	856	846	636	588	20
Common shares - basic (thousands)	60,059	59,923	59,100	58,141	58,081	
Common shares - diluted (thousands)	60,061	59,925	59,202	58,141	58,081	
AT PERIOD END (\$ in millions)						
Loans *	\$ 4,356	\$ 4,329	\$ 4,267	\$ 4,189	\$ 4,194	4
Investment securities	2,302	2,312	2,169	2,152	2,141	8
Total assets	7,398	7,425	7,243	7,163	6,849	8
Deposits	6,248	6,202	6,113	6,012	6,026	4
Shareholders' equity	704	796	852	829	592	19
Common shares outstanding (thousands)	60,092	59,432	59,412	57,831	57,767	

(1) Net income available to common shareholders, which is net of preferred stock dividends, divided by average realized common equity, which excludes accumulated other comprehensive income (loss). (2) Excludes effect of acquisition related intangibles and associated amortization. (3) Annualized. (4) Calculated as of period-end.

* Excludes loans and foreclosed properties covered by loss sharing agreements with the FDIC.

Table 1 Continued - Non-GAAP Performance Measures Reconciliation
Selected Financial Information

<i>(in thousands, except per share data; taxable equivalent)</i>	2014		2013		
	First Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Third Quarter	Second Quarter	First Quarter
Interest revenue reconciliation					
Interest revenue - taxable equivalent	\$ 60,495	\$ 61,695	\$ 61,426	\$ 62,088	\$ 62,114
Taxable equivalent adjustment	(357)	(380)	(370)	(368)	(365)
Interest revenue (GAAP)	<u>\$ 60,138</u>	<u>\$ 61,315</u>	<u>\$ 61,056</u>	<u>\$ 61,720</u>	<u>\$ 61,749</u>
Net interest revenue reconciliation					
Net interest revenue - taxable equivalent	\$ 54,169	\$ 55,879	\$ 54,257	\$ 54,931	\$ 54,574
Taxable equivalent adjustment	(357)	(380)	(370)	(368)	(365)
Net interest revenue (GAAP)	<u>\$ 53,812</u>	<u>\$ 55,499</u>	<u>\$ 53,887</u>	<u>\$ 54,563</u>	<u>\$ 54,209</u>
Total revenue reconciliation					
Total operating revenue	\$ 63,845	\$ 66,398	\$ 65,482	\$ 22,374	\$ 56,485
Taxable equivalent adjustment	(357)	(380)	(370)	(368)	(365)
Total revenue (GAAP)	<u>\$ 63,488</u>	<u>\$ 66,018</u>	<u>\$ 65,112</u>	<u>\$ 22,006</u>	<u>\$ 56,120</u>
Income (loss) before taxes reconciliation					
Income (loss) before taxes	\$ 24,795	\$ 24,784	\$ 25,385	\$ (26,449)	\$ 12,715
Taxable equivalent adjustment	(357)	(380)	(370)	(368)	(365)
Income (loss) before taxes (GAAP)	<u>\$ 24,438</u>	<u>\$ 24,404</u>	<u>\$ 25,015</u>	<u>\$ (26,817)</u>	<u>\$ 12,350</u>
Income tax expense (benefit) reconciliation					
Income tax expense (benefit)	\$ 9,395	\$ 8,873	\$ 9,885	\$ (256,413)	\$ 950
Taxable equivalent adjustment	(357)	(380)	(370)	(368)	(365)
Income tax expense (benefit) (GAAP)	<u>\$ 9,038</u>	<u>\$ 8,493</u>	<u>\$ 9,515</u>	<u>\$ (256,781)</u>	<u>\$ 585</u>
Book value per common share reconciliation					
Tangible book value per common share	\$ 11.63	\$ 11.26	\$ 10.95	\$ 10.82	\$ 6.76
Effect of goodwill and other intangibles	.03	.04	.04	.08	.09
Book value per common share (GAAP)	<u>\$ 11.66</u>	<u>\$ 11.30</u>	<u>\$ 10.99</u>	<u>\$ 10.90</u>	<u>\$ 6.85</u>
Average equity to assets reconciliation					
Tangible common equity to assets	9.22%	8.99%	9.02%	8.79%	5.66%
Effect of preferred equity	.28	2.60	2.74	2.74	2.87
Tangible equity to assets	9.50	11.59	11.76	11.53	8.53
Effect of goodwill and other intangibles	.02	.03	.04	.04	.07
Equity to assets (GAAP)	<u>9.52%</u>	<u>11.62%</u>	<u>11.80%</u>	<u>11.57%</u>	<u>8.60%</u>
Tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets reconciliation					
Tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets	13.57%	13.17%	13.34%	13.16%	8.45%
Effect of other comprehensive income	.36	.39	.49	.29	.49
Effect of deferred tax limitation	(3.91)	(4.25)	(4.72)	(4.99)	—
Effect of trust preferred	1.03	1.04	1.09	1.11	1.15
Effect of preferred equity	—	2.38	4.01	4.11	4.22
Tier I capital ratio (Regulatory)	<u>11.05%</u>	<u>12.73%</u>	<u>14.21%</u>	<u>13.68%</u>	<u>14.31%</u>

Results of Operations

United reported net income of \$15.4 million for the first quarter of 2014. This compared to net income of \$11.8 million for the same period in 2013. For the first quarter of 2014, diluted earnings per common share was \$.25 compared to \$.15 for the first quarter of 2013.

Net Interest Revenue (Taxable Equivalent)

Net interest revenue (the difference between the interest earned on assets and the interest paid on deposits and borrowed funds) is the single largest component of total revenue. United actively manages this revenue source to provide optimal levels of revenue while balancing interest rate, credit and liquidity risks. Taxable equivalent net interest revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was \$54.2 million, down \$405,000, or 1%, from the first quarter of 2013. The decrease in net interest revenue for the first quarter of 2014 compared to the first quarter of 2013 was mostly due to lower yields on the loan portfolio offset partially by higher investment securities interest revenue and lower deposit costs. United continues to focus on loan and deposit pricing in an effort to maintain a steady level of net interest revenue.

While average loans increased \$159 million, or 4%, from the first quarter of last year, the yield on loans decreased 47 basis points, reflecting the continuing effect of the low interest rate environment and competition for a limited number of quality lending opportunities. Although residential real estate loans increased primarily as the result of the promotion of a new home equity line product beginning in mid-2012 and the introduction of a new low-cost mortgage product in early 2013, the low introductory rate on these products also contributed to the lower yield on average loans. United discontinued the introductory rates on these products in late 2013.

Average interest-earning assets for the first quarter of 2014 increased \$280 million, or 4%, from the same period in 2013, due primarily to the increase in loans and securities. Average investment securities for the first quarter of 2014 increased \$180 million from a year ago consistent with general growth in the balance sheet as management has maintained the investment portfolio at approximately 31 percent of total assets over the last year. The average yield on the investment portfolio increased 14 basis points from a year ago. Early in the first quarter management sold approximately \$100 million in low-yielding variable-rate CMO's to fund a portion of the dividend paid from the bank to the holding company. The proceeds from the dividend were used to redeem preferred stock. Later in the quarter, accumulating liquidity resulting from strong core deposit growth led management to purchase higher yielding CLO's and fixed rate securities. These transactions, along with slowing prepayment activity in United's mortgage backed securities, which were mostly purchased at a premium, increased the overall yield in the investment portfolio. The higher investment securities yields did not completely offset the decline in loan yields, which drove the average yield on interest-earning assets for the first quarter of 2014 to 3.58%, down 26 basis points from 3.84% in the first quarter of 2013. The yield on other interest-earning assets increased 42 basis points although the average balance declined from the first quarter of 2013. United utilizes reverse repurchase agreements including collateral swap transactions where the company enters into a repurchase agreement and reverse repurchase agreement simultaneously with the same counterparty subject to a master netting agreement. In these transactions, the offsetting balances are netted on the balance sheet.

Average interest-bearing liabilities increased \$230 million, or 5%, from the first quarter of 2013. Much of the increase in interest-bearing liabilities was a result of funding the redemption of United's preferred stock. United redeemed all \$196 million in preferred stock in a series of transactions beginning late in the fourth quarter and extending to early March. Average noninterest bearing deposits increased \$159 million from the first quarter of 2013 to the first quarter of 2014. The average cost of interest-bearing liabilities for the first quarter of 2014 was .50% compared to .62% for the same period of 2013, reflecting United's concerted efforts to reduce deposit pricing. Also contributing to the overall lower rate on interest-bearing liabilities was a shift in the mix of deposits away from more expensive time deposits toward lower-rate transaction deposits. United was able to reduce the effective rate on brokered deposits in the first quarter of 2014 to a negative .23% by swapping the fixed rates on longer-term brokered time deposits to LIBOR minus a spread.

The banking industry uses two ratios to measure relative profitability of net interest revenue. The net interest spread measures the difference between the average yield on interest-earning assets and the average rate paid on interest-bearing liabilities. The interest rate spread eliminates the effect of non-interest-bearing deposits and gives a direct perspective on the effect of market interest rate movements. The net interest margin is an indication of the profitability of a company's balance sheet, and is defined as net interest revenue as a percent of average total interest-earning assets, which includes the positive effect of funding a portion of interest-earning assets with customers' non-interest-bearing deposits and stockholders' equity.

For the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, the net interest spread was 3.08% and 3.22%, respectively, while the net interest margin was 3.21% and 3.37%, respectively. The decline in both ratios is due to lower yields on loans, which were not completely offset by the decrease in rates paid for deposits and other interest bearing liabilities.

The following table shows the relationship between interest revenue and expense, and the average amounts of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013.

Table 2 - Average Consolidated Balance Sheets and Net Interest Analysis

For the Three Months Ended March 31,

	2014			2013		
	Average Balance	Interest	Avg. Rate	Average Balance	Interest	Avg. Rate
<i>(dollars in thousands, taxable equivalent)</i>						
Assets:						
Interest-earning assets:						
Loans, net of unearned income ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	\$ 4,355,572	\$ 47,868	4.46%	\$ 4,196,757	\$ 51,000	4.93%
Taxable securities ⁽³⁾	2,300,316	11,419	1.99	2,119,085	9,732	1.84
Tax-exempt securities ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	20,173	308	6.11	21,733	347	6.39
Federal funds sold and other interest-earning assets	150,841	900	2.39	209,674	1,035	1.97
Total interest-earning assets	6,826,902	60,495	3.58	6,547,249	62,114	3.84
Non-interest-earning assets:						
Allowance for loan losses	(77,491)			(110,941)		
Cash and due from banks	62,054			64,294		
Premises and equipment	162,788			169,280		
Other assets ⁽³⁾	410,175			164,250		
Total assets	\$ 7,384,428			\$ 6,834,132		
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity:						
Interest-bearing liabilities:						
Interest-bearing deposits:						
NOW	\$ 1,416,119	440	.13	\$ 1,303,308	454	.14
Money market	1,376,993	563	.17	1,257,409	562	.18
Savings	259,548	20	.03	234,110	36	.06
Time less than \$100,000	877,695	1,013	.47	1,039,707	1,749	.68
Time greater than \$100,000	578,190	918	.64	694,553	1,477	.86
Brokered time deposits	287,979	(160)	(.23)	175,128	65	.15
Total interest-bearing deposits	4,796,524	2,794	.24	4,704,215	4,343	.37
Federal funds purchased and other borrowings	112,583	840	3.03	72,157	516	2.90
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	125,069	58	.19	33,069	19	.23
Long-term debt	129,865	2,634	8.23	124,816	2,662	8.65
Total borrowed funds	367,517	3,532	3.90	230,042	3,197	5.64
Total interest-bearing liabilities	5,164,041	6,326	.50	4,934,257	7,540	.62
Non-interest-bearing liabilities:						
Non-interest-bearing deposits	1,400,619			1,241,527		
Other liabilities	116,667			70,839		
Total liabilities	6,681,327			6,246,623		
Shareholders' equity	703,101			587,509		
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 7,384,428			\$ 6,834,132		
Net interest revenue		\$ 54,169			\$ 54,574	
Net interest-rate spread			3.08%			3.22%
Net interest margin ⁽⁴⁾			3.21%			3.37%

(1) Interest revenue on tax-exempt securities and loans has been increased to reflect comparable interest on taxable securities and loans. The rate used was 39%, reflecting the statutory federal income tax rate and the federal tax adjusted state income tax rate.

(2) Included in the average balance of loans outstanding are loans where the accrual of interest has been discontinued and loans that are held for sale.

(3) Securities available for sale are shown at amortized cost. Pretax unrealized losses of \$4.6 million in 2014 and pretax unrealized gains of \$17.1 million in 2013 are included in other assets for purposes of this presentation.

(4) Net interest margin is taxable equivalent net-interest revenue divided by average interest-earning assets.

The following table shows the relative effect on net interest revenue for changes in the average outstanding amounts (volume) of interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities and the rates earned and paid on such assets and liabilities (rate). Variances resulting from a combination of changes in rate and volume are allocated in proportion to the absolute dollar amounts of the change in each category.

Table 3 - Change in Interest Revenue and Expense on a Taxable Equivalent Basis
(in thousands)

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2014 Compared to 2013 Increase (decrease) Due to Changes in		
	Volume	Rate	Total
Interest-earning assets:			
Loans	\$ 1,878	\$ (5,010)	\$ (3,132)
Taxable securities	867	820	1,687
Tax-exempt securities	(24)	(15)	(39)
Federal funds sold and other interest-earning assets	(325)	190	(135)
Total interest-earning assets	2,396	(4,015)	(1,619)
Interest-bearing liabilities:			
NOW accounts	37	(51)	(14)
Money market accounts	51	(50)	1
Savings deposits	4	(20)	(16)
Time deposits less than \$100,000	(244)	(492)	(736)
Time deposits greater than \$100,000	(222)	(337)	(559)
Brokered time deposits	20	(245)	(225)
Total interest-bearing deposits	(354)	(1,195)	(1,549)
Federal funds purchased & other borrowings	301	23	324
Federal Home Loan Bank advances	43	(4)	39
Long-term debt	105	(133)	(28)
Total borrowed funds	449	(114)	335
Total interest-bearing liabilities	95	(1,309)	(1,214)
Increase in net interest revenue	\$ 2,301	\$ (2,706)	\$ (405)

Provision for Credit Losses

The provision for credit losses is based on management's evaluation of probable incurred losses in the loan portfolio and corresponding analysis of the allowance for credit losses at quarter-end. The provision for credit losses was \$2.50 million for the first quarter of 2014, compared to \$11.0 million for the same period in 2013. The amount of provision recorded in each period was the amount required such that the total allowance for loan losses reflected the appropriate balance, in the estimation of management, and was sufficient to cover incurred losses in the loan portfolio. The first quarter of 2014 loan loss provision was lower due to improved credit quality metrics compared to the first quarter of 2013, following the second quarter of 2013 classified asset disposition. For the three months ended March 31, 2014, net loan charge-offs as an annualized percentage of average outstanding loans were .38% compared to 1.21% for the same period in 2013.

In the fourth quarter of 2013, United established an allowance for unfunded loan commitments which is included in other liabilities in the consolidated balance sheet. The allowance for unfunded commitments represents probable incurred losses on unfunded loan commitments that are expected to result in outstanding loan balances. The allowance for unfunded loan commitments was established through the provision for credit losses.

Over the past two years, United has experienced significant improvement in credit quality and corresponding credit measures. During the second quarter of 2013 United sold classified assets totaling approximately \$172 million, including a bulk sale of \$131 million. The classified asset sales and a general improving trend reduced United's nonperforming assets to \$30.8 million as of March 31, 2014. Additional discussion on credit quality and the allowance for loan losses is included in the "Asset Quality and Risk Elements" section of this report on page 43.

Fee Revenue

Fee revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was \$12.2 million, a decrease of \$735,000, or 6%, compared to the first quarter of 2013. The following table presents the components of fee revenue for the first quarters of 2014 and 2013.

Table 4 - Fee Revenue
(in thousands)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Change	
	2014	2013	Amount	Percent
Overdraft fees	\$ 2,920	\$ 2,991	\$ (71)	(2)
ATM and debit card fees	3,531	3,227	304	9
Other service charges and fees	1,447	1,185	262	22
Service charges and fees	7,898	7,403	495	7
Mortgage loan and related fees	1,354	2,655	(1,301)	(49)
Brokerage fees	1,177	767	410	53
Customer derivatives	57	252	(195)	(77)
Securities gains, net	217	116	101	
Other	1,473	1,718	(245)	(14)
Total fee revenue	\$ 12,176	\$ 12,911	\$ (735)	(6)

Service charges and fees of \$7.90 million were up \$495,000, or 7%, from the first quarter of 2013. The increase resulted from higher debit card and interchange fees as well as higher other service charges and fees. Effective January 1, 2014, United initiated new service fees that led to the increase over 2013. Overdraft fees continue to decline as customer utilization of our courtesy overdraft services decreases.

Mortgage loans and related fees for the first quarter of 2014 were down \$1.30 million, or 49%, from the same period in 2013. In the first quarter of 2014, United closed 289 loans totaling \$46.0 million compared with 464 loans totaling \$69.8 million in the first quarter of 2013. Mortgage refinancing activity has slowed due to rising long-term interest rates. United had \$30.3 million in new purchase money mortgage originations in the first quarter of 2014, compared with \$26.4 million a year ago. Purchase money mortgages increased as a percentage of total production due to lower refinancing activity but also due to an increase in the amount of purchase money mortgages. The volume of new purchase money mortgages in the first quarter was 66% compared with 43% in the first quarter of 2013.

Brokerage fees increased \$410,000, or 53%, from the first quarter of 2013, as customer balances increased, due to heightened customer demand for income products stemming from continued low interest rates. Also, referrals and overall activity in this area have increased as United intensified its focus on growing this line of business. A portion of United's brokerage fee revenue is derived from the value of assets under management which increased with the overall improvement in the market, further contributing to the increased revenue.

Customer derivative fees of \$57,000 were down \$195,000 from first quarter 2013. Management believes the decrease is a reflection of the interest rate environment resulting in a temporary weakening of customer demand.

United recognized net securities gains of \$217,000 for the three months ended March 31, 2014, compared to net securities gains of \$116,000 in the first quarter of 2013.

Other fee revenue of \$1.47 million for the first quarter of 2014 was down \$245,000 from the first quarter of 2013, primarily due to lower earnings on deferred compensation plan assets and lower earnings on bank owned life insurance policies.

Operating Expenses

The following table presents the components of operating expenses for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013.

Table 5 - Operating Expenses
(in thousands)

	Three Months Ended March 31,		Change	
	2014	2013	Amount	Percent
Salaries and employee benefits	\$ 24,396	\$ 23,592	\$ 804	3
Communications and equipment	3,239	3,046	193	6
Occupancy	3,378	3,367	11	—
Advertising and public relations	626	938	(312)	(33)
Postage, printing and supplies	776	863	(87)	(10)
Professional fees	1,427	2,366	(939)	(40)
FDIC assessments and other regulatory charges	1,353	2,505	(1,152)	(46)
Amortization of intangibles	387	705	(318)	(45)
Other	3,352	4,055	(703)	(17)
Total excluding foreclosed property expenses	38,934	41,437	(2,503)	(6)
Net (gains) losses on sales of foreclosed properties	(521)	105	(626)	
Foreclosed property write downs	277	1,041	(764)	
Foreclosed property maintenance expenses	360	1,187	(827)	(70)
Total operating expenses	\$ 39,050	\$ 43,770	\$ (4,720)	(11)

Operating expenses for the first quarter of 2014 totaled \$39.1 million, down \$4.72 million, or 11%, from the first quarter of 2013. The decrease mostly reflects lower foreclosed property expenses, losses and write downs associated with the declining volume of foreclosed properties following the classified asset sales in the second quarter of 2013. Excluding foreclosed property costs, total operating expenses were \$38.9 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014, down \$2.50 million, or 6%, from the first quarter of 2013.

Salaries and employee benefits for the first quarter of 2014 were \$24.4 million, up \$804,000, or 3%, from the same period of 2013. The increase was due to higher brokerage incentives, bonuses and higher stock based compensation expense in the first quarter of 2014. Headcount totaled 1,488 at March 31, 2014, compared to 1,540 at March 31, 2013, a decrease of 52 positions.

Communications and equipment expense of \$3.24 million for the first quarter of 2014 was up \$193,000, or 6%, from the first quarter of 2013. The increases reflect higher software costs resulting from new technology solutions to improve operating efficiency and customer service as well as higher telecommunications charges.

Occupancy expense of \$3.38 million for the first quarter of 2014 was flat compared to the same period of 2013.

Professional fees for the first quarter of 2014 of \$1.43 million were down \$939,000, or 40%, from the same period in 2013. The decrease was primarily due to lower legal fees and fewer consulting projects that are in process.

FDIC assessments and other regulatory charges of \$1.35 million is down \$1.15 million reflecting a lower deposit insurance assessment rate following the termination of our informal memorandum of understanding with the FDIC and the Georgia Department of Banking and Finance late in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Amortization of intangibles continues to decrease as core deposit intangibles related to past acquisitions become fully amortized.

Other expense of \$3.35 million for the first quarter of 2014 decreased \$703,000 from the first quarter of 2013. The decrease for the quarter was primarily due to lower appraisal and lending support costs as well as lower ATM network provider costs.

Net gains on sales of foreclosed property totaled \$521,000 for the first quarter of 2014, compared to net losses on sale of \$105,000 for the first quarter of 2013. Foreclosed property write-downs for the first quarter of 2014 were \$277,000 compared to \$1.04 million a year ago. Foreclosed property maintenance expenses include legal fees, property taxes, marketing costs, utility services, maintenance and repair charges and totaled \$360,000 for the first quarter of 2014 compared with \$1.19 million a year ago. These costs continue to decline with the decrease in the number of foreclosed properties held by United.

Income Taxes

Income tax expense for the first quarter of 2014 was \$9.04 million as compared with income tax expense of \$585,000 for the first quarter of 2013. The effective tax rate (as a percentage of pre-tax earnings) for the three months ended March 31, 2014 was 37.0%. The effective tax rate for the first quarter of 2013 was not meaningful due to the full valuation allowance on United's deferred tax asset that was reversed in the second quarter of 2013. For the remainder of the year, United expects to record income tax expense at an effective tax rate of approximately 37.0%.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts and their respective tax bases including operating losses and tax credit carryforwards. Net deferred tax assets (deferred tax assets net of deferred tax liabilities and valuation allowance) are reported in the consolidated balance sheet as a component of total assets.

Accounting Standards Codification Topic 740, *Income Taxes*, requires that companies assess whether a valuation allowance should be established against their deferred tax assets based on the consideration of all available evidence using a "more likely than not" standard. The determination of whether a valuation allowance for deferred tax assets is appropriate is subject to considerable judgment and requires an evaluation of all positive and negative evidence with more weight given to evidence that can be objectively verified. Each quarter, management considers both positive and negative evidence and analyzes changes in near-term market conditions as well as other factors which may impact future operating results.

At March 31, 2013, United reported no net deferred tax asset due to a full valuation allowance of \$271 million. However, during the second quarter of 2013, based on the weight of all the positive and negative evidence at such date, management concluded that it was more likely than not that \$272 million of the net deferred tax assets will be realized based upon future taxable income and therefore, reversed \$272 million of the valuation allowance. Thus, at March 31, 2014, United reported a net deferred tax asset of \$244 million, net of a valuation allowance of \$4.08 million that related to specific state income tax credits that have short carryforward periods and therefore are expected to expire before they can be utilized.

The deferred tax asset valuation allowance was reversed in the second quarter of 2013 following the achievement of six consecutive quarters of positive operating results. The recent positive earnings results and improving credit measures provide an objective basis for a conclusion that profitability is sustainable and improving. In addition, the second quarter 2013 sale of classified assets improved United's ability to project credit costs and forecast profitability going forward by removing the assets that were most likely to drive future credit losses. As a result of this discretionary distressed asset sale, United's classified asset ratio (classified assets as a percentage of Tier 1 capital and the allowance for loan losses) improved to 27% at March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 compared to 49% at March 31, 2013.

Based on all evidence considered, as of March 31, 2014, management again concluded it was more likely than not that our net deferred tax asset would be realized. With continuous improvements in credit quality, quarterly earnings for the past ten quarters have closely followed management's forecast for these periods, excluding the impact of the discretionary sales of classified assets in the second quarter 2013. The improvement in management's ability to produce reliable forecasts, continuous and significant improvements in credit quality, and a sustained period of profitability were given appropriate weighting in our analysis, and such evidence was considered sufficient to overcome the weight of the negative evidence related to the significant operating losses in prior years.

In addition to such positive evidence at March 31, 2014, United has also reduced the amount of credit risk inherent in its loan portfolio by reducing its concentration of construction loans and improving its overall loan portfolio diversification. These changes place United in a strong position to manage through the ongoing weakness in the economy. United also has a long record of positive earnings and accurate earnings forecasts prior to the recent economic downturn and is currently in a strong capital position. Effective in the first quarter of 2014, based on a rolling twelve quarters, United is no longer in a three-year cumulative loss position which had previously been considered a significant piece of negative evidence.

Management expects to generate higher levels of future taxable income and believes this will allow for full utilization of United's net operating loss carryforwards within five to seven years, which is well within the statutory carryforward periods. In determining whether management's projections of future taxable income are reliable, management considered objective evidence supporting the forecast assumptions as well as recent experience demonstrating management's ability to reasonably project future results of operations. Further, while the banking environment is expected to remain challenging due to economic and other uncertainties, management believes that it can confidently forecast future taxable income at sufficient levels over the future period of time that United has available to realize its March 31, 2014 deferred tax asset.

As of February 22, 2011, United adopted a tax benefits preservation plan designed to protect its ability to utilize its substantial tax assets. Those tax assets include net operating losses that it could utilize in certain circumstances to offset taxable income and reduce its federal income tax liability and the future tax benefits from potential net unrealized built-in losses. United's ability to use its tax benefits would be substantially limited if it were to experience an ownership change as defined under Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code. In general, an ownership change would occur if United's "5-percent shareholders," as defined under Section 382, collectively increase their ownership in United by more than 50% over a rolling three-year period. The tax benefits preservation plan was designed to reduce the likelihood that United will experience an ownership change by discouraging any person or group from becoming a beneficial owner of 4.99% or more of United's common stock then outstanding. The tax benefits preservation plan expired in the first quarter of 2014.

Additional information regarding income taxes, including a reconciliation of the differences between the recorded income tax provision and the amount of income tax computed by applying the statutory federal income tax rate to income before income taxes, can be found in Note 17 to the consolidated financial statements filed with United's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Balance Sheet Review

Total assets at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 were \$7.40 billion, \$7.43 billion and \$6.85 billion, respectively. Average total assets for the first quarter of 2014 were \$7.38 billion, up from \$6.83 billion in the first quarter of 2013.

The following table presents a summary of the loan portfolio.

Table 6 - Loans Outstanding (excludes loans covered by loss share agreement)
(in thousands)

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2013
By Loan Type			
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 1,765,621	\$ 1,756,710	\$ 1,804,030
Commercial & industrial	495,178	471,961	453,764
Commercial construction	148,454	148,903	152,410
Total commercial	<u>2,409,253</u>	<u>2,377,574</u>	<u>2,410,204</u>
Residential mortgage	866,615	875,077	849,802
Home equity lines of credit	446,705	440,887	396,173
Residential construction	317,749	328,579	371,733
Consumer installment	106,991	111,045	110,796
Indirect auto	208,395	196,104	54,852
Total loans	<u>\$ 4,355,708</u>	<u>\$ 4,329,266</u>	<u>\$ 4,193,560</u>
As a percentage of total loans:			
Commercial (secured by real estate)	41%	41%	43%
Commercial & industrial	12	11	11
Commercial construction	3	3	3
Total commercial	<u>56</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>57</u>
Residential mortgage	20	20	20
Home equity lines of credit	10	10	10
Residential construction	7	8	9
Consumer installment	2	3	3
Indirect auto	5	4	1
Total	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>
By Geographic Location			
North Georgia	\$ 1,204,672	\$ 1,240,234	\$ 1,362,479
Atlanta MSA	1,289,630	1,275,139	1,262,109
North Carolina	563,317	571,971	575,063
Coastal Georgia	424,654	423,045	398,047
Gainesville MSA	261,616	254,655	259,385
East Tennessee	272,493	279,587	281,625
South Carolina / Corporate	130,931	88,531	—
Other (Indirect Auto)	208,395	196,104	54,852
Total loans	<u>\$ 4,355,708</u>	<u>\$ 4,329,266</u>	<u>\$ 4,193,560</u>

Substantially all of United's loans are to customers located in the immediate market areas of its community banks in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and South Carolina, including customers who have a seasonal residence in United's market areas. More than 80% of the loans are secured by real estate. At March 31, 2014, total loans, excluding loans that are covered by loss sharing agreements with the FDIC, were \$4.36 billion, an increase of \$162 million, or 4%, from March 31, 2013. Despite the weak economy and lagging loan demand, United has continued to pursue lending opportunities. Home equity loans increased primarily due to a successful home equity line promotion that has gained traction in United's footprint and residential mortgage loans increased due to a low closing cost mortgage product that began being offered in the first quarter of 2013. Indirect auto loans have increased due to additional purchases of loan pools for this portfolio. United also had an increase in commercial and industrial loan production during the first quarter of 2014.

Asset Quality and Risk Elements

United manages asset quality and controls credit risk through review and oversight of the loan portfolio as well as adherence to policies designed to promote sound underwriting and loan monitoring practices. United's credit administration function is responsible for monitoring asset quality and Board-approved portfolio limits, establishing credit policies and procedures and enforcing the consistent application of these policies and procedures among all of the community banks. Additional information on the credit administration function is included in Item 1 under the heading *Loan Review and Nonperforming Assets* in United's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

United classifies performing loans as "substandard" when there are well-defined weaknesses that jeopardize the repayment by the borrower and there is a distinct possibility that United could sustain some loss if the deficiency is not corrected.

United's home equity lines generally require the payment of interest only for a set period after origination. After this initial period, the outstanding balance begins amortizing and requires the payment of both principal and interest. At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, the funded portion of home equity lines totaled \$447 million, \$441 million, and \$396 million, respectively.

Approximately 3% of the home equity loans at March 31, 2014 were amortizing. Of the \$447 million in balances outstanding at March 31, 2014, \$282 million, or 63%, were first liens. At March 31, 2014, 60% of the total available home equity lines were drawn upon.

United monitors the performance of its home equity loans and lines secured by second liens similar to other consumer loans and utilizes assumptions specific to these loans in determining the necessary allowance. United also receives notification when the first lien holder is in the process of foreclosure and upon that notification, United obtains valuations to determine if any additional charge-offs or reserves are warranted.

The table below presents performing substandard loans for the last five quarters.

Table 7 - Performing Substandard Loans
(dollars in thousands)

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	September 30, 2013	June 30, 2013	March 31, 2013
By Category					
Commercial (secured by real estate)	\$ 84,325	\$ 77,725	\$ 75,542	\$ 78,750	\$ 128,120
Commercial & industrial	8,141	9,589	10,342	11,458	20,320
Commercial construction	5,281	16,758	16,911	15,766	18,462
Total commercial	97,747	104,072	102,795	105,974	166,902
Residential mortgage	43,572	44,022	45,493	43,874	53,994
Home equity	7,662	7,967	7,679	7,348	10,109
Residential construction	12,977	14,104	15,552	16,631	37,882
Consumer installment	2,310	2,538	2,147	2,505	2,794
Indirect auto	597	—	—	—	—
Total	<u>\$ 164,865</u>	<u>\$ 172,703</u>	<u>\$ 173,666</u>	<u>\$ 176,332</u>	<u>\$ 271,681</u>
By Market					
North Georgia	\$ 69,584	\$ 69,510	\$ 74,456	\$ 68,272	\$ 107,798
Atlanta MSA	32,008	43,171	44,650	48,574	74,064
North Carolina	21,735	18,954	20,768	23,440	30,391
Coastal Georgia	18,354	18,561	10,729	8,391	17,496
Gainesville MSA	14,911	14,916	14,820	19,734	28,514
East Tennessee	7,676	7,591	8,243	7,921	13,418
South Carolina / Corporate	—	—	—	—	—
Indirect auto	597	—	—	—	—
Total loans	<u>\$ 164,865</u>	<u>\$ 172,703</u>	<u>\$ 173,666</u>	<u>\$ 176,332</u>	<u>\$ 271,681</u>

At March 31, 2014, performing substandard loans totaled \$165 million and decreased \$7.84 million from the prior quarter-end, and decreased \$107 million from a year ago. The decrease from the second quarter of 2013 reflects a general declining trend and the decrease from a year ago also reflects the second quarter 2013 classified asset sales. Performing substandard loans had been on a downward trend as credit conditions have continued to improve as problem credits are resolved.

Reviews of substandard performing and nonperforming loans, troubled debt restructures, past due loans and larger credits, are conducted on a quarterly basis with management and are designed to identify risk migration and potential charges to the allowance for loan losses. These reviews are presented by the responsible lending officers and specific action plans are discussed along with the financial strength of borrowers, the value of the applicable collateral, past loan loss experience, anticipated loan losses, changes in risk profile, the effect of prevailing economic conditions on the borrower along with other factors specific to the borrower and its industry. In addition to United's internal loan review, United also uses external loan review to ensure the independence of the loan review process.

The following table presents a summary of the changes in the allowance for loan losses for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013.

Table 8 - Allowance for Loan Losses
(in thousands)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2014	2013
Allowance for loan losses at beginning of period	\$ 76,762	\$ 107,137
Charge-offs:		
Commercial (secured by real estate)	572	5,454
Commercial & industrial	963	1,823
Commercial construction	—	45
Residential mortgage	1,581	1,797
Home equity lines of credit	1,003	559
Residential construction	304	2,982
Consumer installment	676	665
Indirect auto	77	42
Total loans charged-off	<u>5,176</u>	<u>13,367</u>
Recoveries:		
Commercial (secured by real estate)	89	211
Commercial & industrial	541	322
Commercial construction	—	49
Residential mortgage	66	162
Home equity lines of credit	10	47
Residential construction	93	9
Consumer installment	327	181
Indirect auto	11	2
Total recoveries	<u>1,137</u>	<u>983</u>
Net charge-offs	<u>4,039</u>	<u>12,384</u>
Provision for loan losses	2,500	11,000
Allowance for loan losses at end of period	<u>\$ 75,223</u>	<u>\$ 105,753</u>
Allowance for unfunded commitments at beginning of period	\$ 2,165	\$ —
Provision for losses on unfunded commitments	—	—
Allowance for unfunded commitments at end of period	<u>2,165</u>	<u>—</u>
Allowance for credit losses	<u>\$ 77,388</u>	<u>\$ 105,753</u>
Total loans: *		
At period-end	\$ 4,355,708	\$ 4,193,560
Average	4,335,724	4,166,225
Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of period-end loans	1.73%	2.52%
As a percentage of average loans (annualized):		
Net charge-offs	.38	1.21
Provision for loan losses	.23	1.07
Allowance for loan losses as a percentage of non-performing loans	298	110

* Excludes loans covered by loss sharing agreements with the FDIC

The provision for credit losses charged to earnings was based upon management's judgment of the amount necessary to maintain the allowance at a level appropriate to probable incurred losses in the loan portfolio at the balance sheet date. The amount each quarter is dependent upon many factors, including growth and changes in the composition of the loan portfolio, net charge-offs, delinquencies, management's assessment of loan portfolio quality, the value of collateral, and other macro-economic factors and trends. The evaluation of these factors is performed quarterly by management through an analysis of the appropriateness of the allowance for loan losses. The decreases in the provision and the level of the allowance for loan losses compared to the previous periods reflects stabilizing trends in substandard loans, leading to an expectation that charge-off levels will continue to decline. Further, the declining balance of the allowance for loan losses over the last several quarters reflects an overall improving trend in credit quality of the loan portfolio. A general improvement in economic conditions in United's market also contributed to the lower level of provision and allowance for loan losses.

The allowance for credit losses, which includes a portion related to unfunded commitments, totaled \$77.4 million at March 31, 2014, compared with \$78.9 million at December 31, 2013, and \$106 million at March 31, 2013. At March 31, 2014, the allowance for loan losses was \$75.2 million, or 1.73% of loans, compared with \$76.8 million, or 1.77% of total loans, at December 31, 2013 and \$106 million, or 2.52% of loans, at March 31, 2013.

Management believes that the allowance for loan losses at March 31, 2014 reflects the probable incurred losses in the loan portfolio and unfunded loan commitments. This assessment involves uncertainty and judgment; therefore, the adequacy of the allowance for credit losses cannot be determined with precision and may be subject to change in future periods. The amount of any changes could be significant if management's assessment of loan quality or collateral values change substantially with respect to one or more loan relationships or portfolios. In addition, bank regulatory authorities, as part of their periodic examination of the Bank, may require adjustments to the provision for credit losses in future periods if, in their opinion, the results of their review warrant such additions. See the "Critical Accounting Policies" section for additional information on the allowance for loan losses.

Nonperforming Assets

The table below summarizes nonperforming assets, excluding assets covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC. Those assets have been excluded from nonperforming assets, as the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC and purchase price adjustments to reflect credit losses effectively eliminate the likelihood of recognizing any losses on the covered assets.

Table 9 - Nonperforming Assets

(in thousands)

	March 31, 2014	December 31, 2013	March 31, 2013
Nonperforming loans	\$ 25,250	\$ 26,819	\$ 96,006
Foreclosed properties (OREO)	5,594	4,221	16,734
Total nonperforming assets	<u>\$ 30,844</u>	<u>\$ 31,040</u>	<u>\$ 112,740</u>
Nonperforming loans as a percentage of total loans	.58%	.62%	2.29%
Nonperforming assets as a percentage of total loans and OREO	.71	.72	2.68
Nonperforming assets as a percentage of total assets	.42	.42	1.65

At March 31, 2014, nonperforming loans were \$25.3 million compared to \$26.8 million at December 31, 2013 and \$96.0 million at March 31, 2013. Nonperforming loans have steadily decreased in dollar amount and as a percentage of total loans following the classification of United's largest lending relationship in the third quarter of 2011. In addition, the second quarter of 2013 sales of classified assets, which included United's largest lending relationship, further reduced nonperforming assets. Nonperforming assets, which include nonperforming loans and foreclosed real estate, totaled \$30.8 million at March 31, 2014 compared with \$31.0 million at December 31, 2013 and \$113 million at March 31, 2013. United sold \$3.24 million of foreclosed properties during the first quarter of 2014; however, these sales of foreclosed properties were offset by \$4.37 million in new foreclosures for the quarter.

United's policy is to place loans on nonaccrual status when, in the opinion of management, the principal and interest on a loan is not likely to be repaid in accordance with the loan terms or when the loan becomes 90 days past due and is not well secured and in the process of collection. When a loan is classified on nonaccrual status, interest previously accrued but not collected is reversed against current interest revenue. Principal and interest payments received on a nonaccrual loan are applied to reduce outstanding principal.

The following table summarizes nonperforming assets by category and market. As with Tables 6, 7, 8 and 9, assets covered by the loss-sharing agreements with the FDIC related to the acquisition of Southern Community Bank (“SCB”) are excluded from this table.

Table 10 - Nonperforming Assets by Quarter ⁽¹⁾
(in thousands)

	March 31, 2014			December 31, 2013			March 31, 2013		
	Nonaccrual Loans	Foreclosed Properties	Total NPAs	Nonaccrual Loans	Foreclosed Properties	Total NPAs	Nonaccrual Loans	Foreclosed Properties	Total NPAs
BY CATEGORY									
Commercial (sec. by RE)	\$ 5,146	\$ 2,812	\$ 7,958	\$ 8,340	\$ 832	\$ 9,172	\$ 17,304	\$ 5,584	\$ 22,888
Commercial & industrial	822	—	822	427	—	427	29,545	—	29,545
Commercial construction	479	—	479	361	—	361	22,359	3,027	25,386
Total commercial	6,447	2,812	9,259	9,128	832	9,960	69,208	8,611	77,819
Residential mortgage	13,307	2,146	15,453	11,731	2,684	14,415	10,901	3,463	14,364
Home equity	1,106	362	1,468	1,447	389	1,836	916	—	916
Residential construction	3,805	274	4,079	4,264	316	4,580	14,592	4,660	19,252
Consumer installment	291	—	291	249	—	249	389	—	389
Indirect auto	294	—	294	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total NPAs	\$ 25,250	\$ 5,594	\$ 30,844	\$ 26,819	\$ 4,221	\$ 31,040	\$ 96,006	\$ 16,734	\$ 112,740
Balance as a % of									
Unpaid Principal	65.8%	53.9%	63.2%	65.3%	44.5%	61.4%	66.3%	45.0%	62.0%
BY MARKET									
North Georgia	\$ 12,166	\$ 2,058	\$ 14,224	\$ 12,352	\$ 2,494	\$ 14,846	\$ 63,210	\$ 6,616	\$ 69,826
Atlanta MSA	2,916	904	3,820	2,830	684	3,514	17,380	3,524	20,904
North Carolina	6,501	866	7,367	6,567	683	7,250	8,519	2,533	11,052
Coastal Georgia	800	1,607	2,407	2,342	173	2,515	3,523	1,449	4,972
Gainesville MSA	1,145	—	1,145	928	—	928	911	370	1,281
East Tennessee	1,428	159	1,587	1,800	187	1,987	2,463	2,242	4,705
South Carolina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Indirect auto	294	—	294	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total NPAs	\$ 25,250	\$ 5,594	\$ 30,844	\$ 26,819	\$ 4,221	\$ 31,040	\$ 96,006	\$ 16,734	\$ 112,740

⁽¹⁾ Excludes non-performing loans and foreclosed properties covered by the loss-sharing agreement with the FDIC, related to the acquisition of SCB.

Nonperforming assets in the residential construction category were \$4.08 million at March 31, 2014, compared with \$19.3 million at March 31, 2013, a decrease of \$15.2 million, or 79%. Commercial nonperforming assets decreased from \$77.8 million at March 31, 2013 to \$9.26 million at March 31, 2014. Residential mortgage nonperforming assets of \$15.5 million increased \$1.09 million from March 31, 2013. The second quarter of 2013 classified asset sales contributed to the decreases in most categories of nonperforming assets.

At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and March 31, 2013, United had \$85.9 million, \$87.0 million and \$159 million, respectively, in loans with terms that have been modified in troubled debt restructurings (“TDRs”). Included therein were \$7.98 million, \$8.25 million and \$32.8 million, respectively, of TDRs that were not performing in accordance with their modified terms and were included in nonperforming loans. The remaining TDRs with an aggregate balance of \$77.9 million, \$78.7 million and \$126 million, respectively, were performing according to their modified terms and are therefore not considered to be nonperforming assets.

At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, there were \$105 million, \$115 million and \$231 million, respectively, of loans classified as impaired under the definition outlined in the Accounting Standards Codification, including TDRs which are by definition considered impaired. Included in impaired loans at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 was \$30.7 million, \$38.9 million and \$122 million, respectively, that did not require specific reserves or had previously been charged down to net realizable value. The balance of impaired loans at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013 of \$74.4 million, \$75.7 million and \$108 million, respectively, had specific reserves that totaled \$8.40 million, \$6.02 million and \$12.0 million, respectively. The average recorded investment in impaired loans for the first quarters of 2014 and 2013 was \$108 million and \$236 million, respectively. For the three months ended March 31, 2014, United recognized \$1.22 million in interest revenue on impaired loans compared to \$1.83 million for the same period of the prior year. United’s policy is to discontinue the recognition of interest revenue for loans classified as impaired under ASC 310-10-35, *Receivables*, when a loan meets the criteria for nonaccrual status. Impaired loans decreased 54% from March 31, 2013 to March 31, 2014, primarily due to the second quarter 2013 classified asset sales.

The table below summarizes activity in nonperforming assets by quarter. Assets covered by loss sharing agreements with the FDIC, related to the acquisition of SCB, are not included in this table.

Table 11 - Activity in Nonperforming Assets
(in thousands)

	First Quarter 2014 ⁽¹⁾			First Quarter 2013 ⁽¹⁾		
	Nonaccrual Loans	Foreclosed Properties	Total NPAs	Nonaccrual Loans	Foreclosed Properties	Total NPAs
Beginning Balance	\$ 26,819	\$ 4,221	\$ 31,040	\$ 109,894	\$ 18,264	\$ 128,158
Loans placed on non-accrual	9,303	—	9,303	9,665	—	9,665
Payments received	(1,666)	—	(1,666)	(6,809)	—	(6,809)
Loan charge-offs	(4,839)	—	(4,839)	(10,456)	—	(10,456)
Foreclosures	(4,367)	4,367	—	(6,288)	6,288	—
Capitalized costs	—	—	—	—	54	54
Property sales	—	(3,238)	(3,238)	—	(6,726)	(6,726)
Write downs	—	(277)	(277)	—	(1,041)	(1,041)
Net losses on sales	—	521	521	—	(105)	(105)
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 25,250</u>	<u>\$ 5,594</u>	<u>\$ 30,844</u>	<u>\$ 96,006</u>	<u>\$ 16,734</u>	<u>\$ 112,740</u>

⁽¹⁾ Excludes non-performing loans and foreclosed properties covered by the loss-sharing agreement with the FDIC, related to the acquisition of SCB.

Foreclosed property is initially recorded at fair value, less estimated costs to sell. If the fair value, less estimated costs to sell at the time of foreclosure, is less than the loan balance, the deficiency is charged against the allowance for loan losses. If the lesser of fair value, less estimated costs to sell or the listed selling price, less the costs to sell, of the foreclosed property decreases during the holding period, a valuation allowance is established with a charge to foreclosed property expense. When the foreclosed property is sold, a gain or loss is recognized on the sale for the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the property. Financed sales of foreclosed property are accounted for in accordance with ASC 360-20, *Real Estate Sales*. For the first quarter of 2014, United transferred \$4.37 million of loans into foreclosed property through foreclosures. During the same period, proceeds from sales of foreclosed property were \$3.24 million, which includes \$821,000 in sales that were financed by United.

Investment Securities

The composition of the investment securities portfolio reflects United's investment strategy of maintaining an appropriate level of liquidity while providing a relatively stable source of revenue. The investment securities portfolio also provides a balance to interest rate risk and credit risk in other categories of the balance sheet while providing a vehicle for the investment of available funds, furnishing liquidity, and supplying securities to pledge as required collateral for certain deposits and borrowings, including repurchase agreements. Total investment securities at March 31, 2014 increased \$162 million from a year ago.

At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, United had securities held-to-maturity with a carrying amount of \$465 million, \$480 million, and \$231 million, respectively, and securities available-for-sale totaling \$1.84 billion, \$1.83 billion, and \$1.91 billion, respectively. At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013, and March 31, 2013, the securities portfolio represented approximately 31% of total assets.

The investment securities portfolio primarily consists of U.S. government sponsored agency mortgage-backed securities, non-agency mortgage-backed securities, corporate securities, municipal securities and asset-backed securities. Mortgage-backed securities rely on the underlying pools of mortgage loans to provide a cash flow of principal and interest. The actual maturities of these securities will differ from contractual maturities because loans underlying the securities can prepay. Decreases in interest rates will generally cause an acceleration of prepayment levels. In a declining or prolonged low interest rate environment, United may not be able to reinvest the proceeds from these prepayments in assets that have comparable yields. In a rising rate environment, the opposite occurs - prepayments tend to slow and the weighted average life extends. This is referred to as extension risk which can lead to lower levels of liquidity due to the delay of cash receipts and can result in the holding of a below market yielding asset for a longer period of time. United's asset-backed securities include securities that are backed by student loans and collateralized loan obligations.

Management evaluates its securities portfolio each quarter to determine if any security is considered to be other than temporarily impaired. In making this evaluation, management considers its ability and intent to hold securities to recover current market losses. Losses on United's fixed income securities at March 31, 2014 primarily reflect the effect of changes in interest rates. United did not recognize any other than temporary impairment losses on its investment securities during the first quarters of 2014 or 2013.

At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, 39%, 41% and 34%, respectively, of the securities portfolio was invested in floating-rate securities or fixed-rate securities that were swapped to floating rates in order to manage exposure to rising interest rates.

Other Intangible Assets

United's core deposit intangibles representing the value of United's acquired deposit base, are amortizing intangible assets that are required to be tested for impairment only when events or circumstances indicate that impairment may exist. There were no events or circumstances that led management to believe that any impairment exists in United's other intangible assets.

Deposits

United has initiated several programs to improve core earnings by growing customer transaction deposit accounts and lowering overall pricing on deposit accounts to improve its net interest margin and increase net interest revenue. The programs were successful in increasing core transaction deposit accounts and allowing for the reduction of more costly time deposit balances as United's funding needs decreased due to lower loan demand. United's high level of service, as evidenced by its strong customer satisfaction scores, has been instrumental in attracting and retaining deposits.

Total customer deposits, excluding brokered deposits, as of March 31, 2014 were \$5.78 billion, an increase of \$83.4 million from March 31, 2013. Total core deposits (demand, NOW, money market and savings deposits, excluding public funds deposits) of \$3.57 billion increased \$278 million, or 8%, from a year ago, due to the success of core deposit programs.

Total time deposits, excluding brokered deposits, as of March 31, 2014 were \$1.41 billion, down \$298 million from March 31, 2013. Time deposits less than \$100,000 totaled \$833 million, a decrease of \$186 million, or 18%, from a year ago. Time deposits of \$100,000 and greater totaled \$573 million as of March 31, 2014, a decrease of \$112 million, or 16%, from March 31, 2013. United continued to offer low rates on certificates of deposit, allowing balances to decline as United's funding needs declined due to weak loan demand and a shift to lower cost transaction account deposits.

Brokered deposits totaled \$470 million as of March 31, 2014, an increase of \$138 million from a year ago. United has actively added long-term deposits to diversify our funding base. These are typically swapped to LIBOR minus a spread, which achieves low cost funding within our interest rate risk parameters.

Wholesale Funding

The Bank is a shareholder in the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta ("FHLB"). Through this affiliation, FHLB secured advances totaled \$50.1 million, \$120 million and \$125,000, respectively, as of March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013. United anticipates continued use of this short and long-term source of funds. Additional information regarding FHLB advances is provided in Note 12 to the consolidated financial statements included in United's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

At March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013, United had \$123 million, \$53.2 million and \$52.0 million, respectively, in other short-term borrowings outstanding. Included in the balance at March 31, 2014 was \$40 million in balances outstanding on United's holding company line of credit. United takes advantage of these additional sources of liquidity when rates are favorable compared to other forms of short-term borrowings, such as FHLB advances and brokered deposits.

Contractual Obligations

There have not been any material changes to United's contractual obligations since December 31, 2013.

Interest Rate Sensitivity Management

The absolute level and volatility of interest rates can have a significant effect on United's profitability. The objective of interest rate risk management is to identify and manage the sensitivity of net interest revenue to changing interest rates, in order to achieve United's overall financial goals. Based on economic conditions, asset quality and various other considerations, management establishes tolerance ranges for interest rate sensitivity and manages within these ranges.

United's net interest revenue, and the fair value of its financial instruments, are influenced by changes in the level of interest rates. United limits its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates through policies developed by the Asset/Liability Management Committee ("ALCO") and approved by the Board of Directors. ALCO meets periodically and has responsibility for formulating and recommending asset/liability management policies to the Board of Directors, formulating and implementing strategies to improve balance sheet positioning and/or earnings, and reviewing United's interest rate sensitivity.

One of the tools management uses to estimate and manage the sensitivity of net interest revenue to changes in interest rates is an asset/liability simulation model. Resulting estimates are based upon a number of assumptions for each scenario, including loan and deposit re-pricing characteristics and the rate of prepayments. ALCO periodically reviews the assumptions for accuracy based on historical data and future expectations; however, actual net interest revenue may differ from model results. The primary objective of the simulation model is to measure the potential change in net interest revenue over time using multiple interest rate scenarios. The base scenario assumes rates remain flat and is the scenario to which all others are compared in order to measure the change in net interest revenue. Policy limits are based on immediate rate shock scenarios, as well as gradually rising and falling rate scenarios, which are all compared to the base scenario. Another commonly analyzed scenario is a most-likely scenario that projects the expected change in rates based on the slope of the forward yield curve. Other scenarios analyzed may include delayed rate shocks, yield curve steepening or flattening, or other variations in rate movements. While the primary policy scenarios focus on a twelve month time frame, longer time horizons are also modeled. All policy scenarios assume a static balance sheet.

United's policy is based on the 12-month impact on net interest revenue of interest rate shocks and ramps that increase or decrease from 100 to 400 basis points from the base scenario. In the shock scenarios, rates immediately change the full amount at the scenario onset. In the ramp scenarios, rates change by 25 basis points per month. United's policy limits the change in net interest revenue over the first 12 months to a 5% decrease for each 100 basis point change in the increasing and decreasing rate ramp and shock scenarios. Historically low rates on March 31, 2014 and 2013 made use of the down scenarios problematic. The following table presents United's interest sensitivity position at March 31, 2014 and 2013.

Table 12 - Interest Sensitivity

Change in Rates	Increase (Decrease) in Net Interest Revenue from Base Scenario at March 31,			
	2014		2013	
	Shock	Ramp	Shock	Ramp
200 basis point increase	5.8	5.6%	2.9%	3.9%
25 basis point decrease	(2.0)	(2.0)	(1.4)	(1.4)

Interest rate sensitivity is a function of the re-pricing characteristics of the portfolio of assets and liabilities. These re-pricing characteristics are the time frames within which the interest-earning assets and interest-bearing liabilities are subject to change in interest rates either at replacement, re-pricing or maturity during the life of the instruments. Interest rate sensitivity management focuses on the maturity structure of assets and liabilities and their re-pricing characteristics during periods of changes in market interest rates. Effective interest rate sensitivity management seeks to ensure that both assets and liabilities respond to changes in interest rates on a net basis within an acceptable timeframe, thereby minimizing the effect of interest rate changes on net interest revenue.

United may have some discretion in the extent and timing of deposit re-pricing depending upon the competitive pressures in the markets in which it operates. Changes in the mix of earning assets or supporting liabilities can either increase or decrease the net interest margin without affecting interest rate sensitivity. The interest rate spread between an asset and its supporting liability can vary significantly even when the timing of re-pricing for both the asset and the liability remains the same, due to the two instruments re-pricing according to different indices. This is commonly referred to as basis risk.

In order to manage interest rate sensitivity, United periodically enters into off-balance sheet contracts that are considered derivative financial instruments. Derivative financial instruments can be a cost-effective and capital-effective means of modifying the re-pricing characteristics of on-balance sheet assets and liabilities. These contracts generally consist of interest rate swaps under which United pays a variable rate (or fixed rate, as the case may be) and receives a fixed rate (or variable rate, as the case may be).

United's derivative financial instruments that are designated as accounting hedges are classified as either cash flow or fair value hedges. The change in fair value of cash flow hedges is recognized in other comprehensive income. Fair value hedges recognize in earnings both the effect of the change in the fair value of the derivative financial instrument and the offsetting effect of the change in fair value of the hedged asset or liability associated with the particular risk of that asset or liability being hedged. United has other derivative financial instruments that are not designated as accounting hedges but are used for interest rate risk management purposes and as an effective economic hedge. Derivative financial instruments that are not accounted for as an accounting hedge are marked to market through earnings.

In addition to derivative instruments, United uses a variety of balance sheet instruments to manage interest rate risk such as Investment Portfolio holdings, wholesale funding, and bank-issued deposits.

The following table presents United's outstanding derivative positions at March 31, 2014.

Table 13 - Derivative Financial Instruments
(in thousands)

Type of Instrument	Number of Contracts	Notional	Purpose	Fair Value ^(F)	
				Asset	Liability
Fair value hedges of fixed rate brokered deposit (accounting hedge)					
Receive fixed cancellable swaps ⁽¹⁾	16	\$ 199,000	Low cost funding	\$ —	\$ 14,119
Fair value hedges of fixed rate corporate bonds (accounting hedge)					
Pay fixed swaps ⁽²⁾	8	86,000	Protection from rising interest rates	2,655	2,729
Cash flow hedges of floating rate borrowings (accounting hedge)					
Pay fixed swaps ⁽³⁾	3	200,000	Protection from rising interest rates	—	3,650
Cash flow hedges of LIBOR indexed money market deposits (accounting hedge)					
Pay fixed swaps ⁽⁴⁾	3	375,000	Protection from rising interest rates	2,971	678
Customer swap positions					
Receive fixed swaps ⁽⁵⁾	55	173,663	Provide customer with fixed rate loan	1,359	825
Dealer offset to customer swap positions					
Pay fixed swaps ⁽⁵⁾	55	173,663	Protection from rising interest rates	825	1,377
Bifurcated derivatives embedded in hybrid host instruments					
Pay steepener rate cancellable swap ⁽⁶⁾	3	99,000	Low cost funding	13,753	—
Interest rate swaps not designated as accounting hedges					
Receive steepener rate cancellable swap ⁽⁶⁾	3	101,500	Low cost funding	—	18,931
		<u>\$ 1,407,826</u>		<u>\$ 21,563</u>	<u>\$ 42,309</u>

⁽¹⁾ United uses these swaps as part of a program to provide a low cost non-collateralized source of funds. The swaps hedge fixed rate brokered deposits with step up rates that increase over time that are mirrored in the receive rate of the swaps. The variable pay rates on these swaps are based on three-month LIBOR at spreads of minus 20 to minus 65 basis points. The counterparties have the right to call the instruments at any time generally after six months to one year following inception. United has a similar option in the hedged brokered deposit.

⁽²⁾ These swaps convert fixed rate corporate bonds to three-month LIBOR and are used for protection against rising interest rates. The pay rates match the fixed rates of the hedged corporate bonds.

⁽³⁾ These swaps are forward starting and become effective in the first and second quarters of 2014. They convert three month LIBOR-based floating rate borrowings to fixed rates for a three-year term. They are used for protection against rising interest rates.

⁽⁴⁾ These swaps are forward starting and become effective in the second and third quarters of 2014 and the second quarter of 2015. They convert one month LIBOR-based money market deposits to fixed rates for terms of three to eight years. They are used for protection against rising interest rates.

⁽⁵⁾ United offers interest rate swaps to customers seeking fixed rate loans under a back to back swap program. United enters into offsetting swap positions with qualified dealers simultaneously with the customer swap. Customer swaps and the offsetting dealer swap positions are marked to market through other fee revenue.

⁽⁶⁾ United offers market linked certificates of deposit through broker dealers. The rate paid on these hybrid instruments is based on a formula derived from the spread between the long and short ends of the constant maturity swap ("CMS") rate curve. This type of instrument is referred to as a steepener since it derives its value from the slope of the CMS curve. United has determined that these hybrid instruments contain an embedded swap contract which has been bifurcated from the host contract. United enters into a swap with a swap dealer simultaneously where the receive rate on the swap mirrors the pay rate on the brokered deposit. The bifurcated derivative and the stand alone swap are both marked to market through other fee revenue. Although these instruments are not treated as an accounting hedge, the swap acts as an effective economic hedge of the steepener index in the brokered deposit.

From time to time, United will terminate swap or floor positions when conditions change and the position is no longer necessary to manage United's overall sensitivity to changes in interest rates. In those situations where the terminated contract was in an effective hedging relationship at the time of termination and the hedging relationship is expected to remain effective throughout the original term of the contract, the resulting gain or loss is amortized over the remaining life of the original contract. For swap contracts, the gain or loss is amortized over the remaining original contract term using the straight line method of amortization. In addition, United's forward starting active cash flow hedges of floating rate liabilities have become or will begin to become effective over the next twelve months. United expects that \$5.02 million will be reclassified as an increase to deposit interest expense over the next twelve months related to these cash flow hedges.

During the fourth quarter of 2013, United reclassified hedge ineffectiveness gains and losses from other fee revenue to net interest revenue. This reclassification has been reflected in all prior period results.

United's policy requires all non-customer facing derivative financial instruments be used only for asset/liability management through the hedging of specific transactions or positions, and not for trading or speculative purposes. Management believes that the risk associated with using derivative financial instruments to mitigate interest rate risk sensitivity is minimal and should not have any material unintended effect on our financial condition or results of operations. In order to mitigate potential credit risk, from time to time United may require the counterparties to derivative contracts to pledge securities as collateral to cover the net exposure.

Liquidity Management

The objective of liquidity management is to ensure that sufficient funding is available, at a reasonable cost, to meet the ongoing operational cash needs and to take advantage of revenue producing opportunities as they arise. While the desired level of liquidity will vary depending upon a variety of factors, it is the primary goal of United to maintain a sufficient level of liquidity in all expected economic environments. To assist in determining the adequacy of its liquidity, United performs a variety of liquidity stress tests including idiosyncratic, systematic and combined scenarios for both moderate and severe events. Liquidity is defined as the ability to convert assets into cash or cash equivalents without significant loss and to raise additional funds by increasing liabilities. Liquidity management involves maintaining United's ability to meet the daily cash flow requirements of the Bank's customers, both depositors and borrowers. United maintains a unencumbered liquid asset reserve to ensure its ability to meet its obligations. The size of the reserve is determined through severe liquidity stress testing and covers a 30 day period.

In addition, because United is a separate entity and apart from the Bank, it must provide for its own liquidity. United is responsible for the payment of dividends declared for its common and preferred shareholders, and interest and principal on any outstanding debt or trust preferred securities. United currently has internal capital resources to meet these obligations. Substantially all of United's liquidity is obtained from subsidiary service fees and dividends from the Bank, which are limited by applicable law. In recent years, when the bank was unable to pay dividends to United, liquidity was obtained from external sources (debt and equity issuances) to meet its needs. United has committed in its Risk Appetite Statement to maintaining a cash reserve to cover a minimum of 18 months of cash operating needs at the holding company.

Two key objectives of asset/liability management are to provide for adequate liquidity in order to meet the needs of customers and to maintain an optimal balance between interest-sensitive assets and interest-sensitive liabilities to optimize net interest revenue. Daily monitoring of the sources and uses of funds is necessary to maintain a position that meets both requirements.

The asset portion of the balance sheet provides liquidity primarily through loan principal repayments and the maturities and sales of securities, as well as the ability to use these as collateral for borrowings on a secured basis. We also maintain excess funds in short-term interest-bearing assets that provide additional liquidity. Mortgage loans held for sale totaled \$10.9 million at March 31, 2014, and typically turn over every 45 days as the closed loans are sold to investors in the secondary market.

The liability section of the balance sheet provides liquidity through interest-bearing and noninterest-bearing deposit accounts. Federal funds purchased, Federal Reserve short-term borrowings, FHLB advances and securities sold under agreements to repurchase are additional sources of liquidity and represent United's incremental borrowing capacity. These sources of liquidity are generally short-term in nature and are used as necessary to fund asset growth and meet other short-term liquidity needs.

At March 31, 2014, United had cash and cash equivalent balances of \$213 million and had sufficient qualifying collateral to increase FHLB advances by \$959 million and Federal Reserve discount window capacity of \$651 million. United also has the ability to raise substantial funds through brokered deposits. In addition to these wholesale sources, United has the ability to attract retail deposits at any time by competing more aggressively on pricing.

As disclosed in United's consolidated statement of cash flows, net cash provided by operating activities was \$27.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014. The net income of \$15.4 million for the three month period included the deferred income tax expense of \$9.78 million, and non-cash expenses for the following: provision for loan losses of \$2.5 million and depreciation, amortization and accretion of \$4.93 million. In addition, other assets decreased \$6.61 million. Mortgage loans held for sale increased \$614,000. Net cash provided by investing activities of \$22.0 million consisted primarily of proceeds from sales, maturities and calls of securities of \$225 million, and proceeds from sales of foreclosed properties of \$2.4 million partially offset by a \$34.0 million increase in loans and purchases of investment securities totaling \$173 million. Net cash used in financing activities of \$64.5 million consisted primarily of \$122 million in payments to redeem preferred stock and a \$70 million net decrease in FHLB advances. This was partially offset by a \$46.0 million increase in deposits, a \$69.8 increase in short-term borrowings, and \$12.2 million from the issuance of common stock. In the opinion of management, United's liquidity position at March 31, 2014, was sufficient to meet its expected cash flow requirements.

Capital Resources and Dividends

Shareholders' equity at March 31, 2014 was \$704 million, a decrease of \$92.0 million from December 31, 2013. Accumulated other comprehensive loss, which includes unrealized gains and losses on securities available-for-sale, the unrealized gains and losses on derivatives qualifying as cash flow hedges and unamortized prior service cost and actuarial gains and losses on United's modified retirement plan, is excluded in the calculation of regulatory capital adequacy ratios. Excluding the change in the accumulated other comprehensive income, shareholders' equity decreased \$93.1 million from December 31, 2013.

United accrued \$159,000 and \$280,000, respectively, in dividends, including accretion of discounts, on Series B and Series D preferred stock in the first quarter of 2014. As of March 31, 2014, United no longer had any preferred stock outstanding.

On December 27, 2013, United redeemed \$75 million of its \$180 million in outstanding Series B Preferred Stock. The redemption price for shares of the Series B Preferred Stock called for redemption was the stated liquidation value of \$1,000 per share, plus any accrued and unpaid dividends that had been earned thereon to, but not including, the redemption date. The remaining \$105 million of United's Series B Preferred Stock was redeemed on January 10, 2014 on comparable terms. United funded both redemptions by utilizing cash on hand, cash dividends from the Bank and short-term debt. On March 3, 2014, United redeemed all of its outstanding \$16.6 million in Series D Preferred Stock for \$16.6 million.

In 2010, United granted a warrant to Fletcher to purchase common stock equivalent junior preferred stock that would be convertible into 1,411,765 common shares, exercisable at a price equivalent to \$21.25 per share (the "Warrant"). United has received purported partial warrant exercise notices from Fletcher with respect to the Warrant that include incorrect calculations of the number of settlement shares Fletcher would receive upon exercise. On June 17, 2011, United completed a reclassification of its common stock in the form of 1-for-5 reverse stock split, or recombination. United believes that any current exercise of the Warrant would not result in the issuance of any settlement shares because the Warrant may only be exercised for net shares via a cashless exercise formula, and the reverse stock split-adjusted market price component of that formula does not exceed the exercise price to yield any net shares. United responded to Fletcher with United's calculations related to the Warrant.

On March 5, 2014, United announced that it and the Chapter 11 Trustee for Fletcher had agreed to settle all potential claims and counterclaims between them relating to or arising out of (i) their dispute concerning their respective rights and obligations under the Warrant and a Securities Purchase Agreement, dated April 1, 2010, between United and Fletcher (the "Securities Purchase Agreement"), and (ii) an Asset Purchase Agreement, dated April 1, 2010, between Fletcher International, Inc. and its affiliates (which are separate related entities of Fletcher not under its control) and United (the "Asset Purchase Agreement"). The transactions contemplated by the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Warrant and the Asset Purchase Agreement are referred to herein collectively as the "2010 Transactions". United believes that the Fletcher settlement will finally resolve all remaining claims by Fletcher related to the 2010 Transactions and will terminate the warrants and all contractual obligations of United to Fletcher with respect to the 2010 Transactions.

Pursuant to the settlement, United has agreed to deliver 640,000 shares of its common stock and cash that, together with the common stock, will have a combined fair value of \$12 million for the repurchase of the Warrant and to resolve all claims by Fletcher. The settlement amount was the approximate fair value of the Warrant at the time the settlement terms were agreed upon.

On March 25, 2014, the Company completed the sale of 640,000 shares of common stock and received approximately \$12.2 million in net proceeds after discounts and expenses. The settlement agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby have been approved by the bankruptcy court but remain subject to an appeal.

The Federal Reserve has issued guidelines for the implementation of risk-based capital requirements by U.S. banks and bank holding companies. These risk-based capital guidelines take into consideration risk factors, as defined by regulators, associated with various categories of assets, both on and off-balance sheet. Under the guidelines, capital strength is measured in two tiers that are used in conjunction with risk-weighted assets to determine the risk-based capital ratios. The guidelines require an 8% total risk-based capital ratio, of which 4% must be Tier 1 capital. However, to be considered well-capitalized under the guidelines, a 10% total risk-based capital ratio is required, of which 6% must be Tier 1 capital.

Under the risk-based capital guidelines, assets and credit equivalent amounts of derivatives and off-balance sheet items are assigned to one of several broad risk categories based on the obligor, or the guarantor, if relevant, or the nature of the collateral. The aggregate dollar amount in each risk category is then multiplied by the risk weight associated with the category. The resulting weighted values from each of the risk categories are added together, and generally this sum is the company's total risk weighted assets. Risk-weighted assets for purposes of United's capital ratios are calculated under these guidelines.

A minimum leverage ratio is required in addition to the risk-based capital standards and is defined as Tier 1 capital divided by average assets adjusted for goodwill and deposit-based intangibles. Although a minimum leverage ratio of 3% is required, the Federal Reserve requires a bank holding company to maintain a leverage ratio greater than 3% if it is experiencing or anticipating significant growth or is operating with less than well-diversified risks in the opinion of the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve uses the leverage and risk-based capital ratios to assess capital adequacy of banks and bank holding companies.

United's Tier 1 capital excludes other comprehensive income, and consists of shareholders' equity and qualifying capital securities, less goodwill and deposit-based intangibles. Tier 2 capital components include supplemental capital items such as a qualifying allowance for loan losses and qualifying subordinated debt. Tier 1 capital plus Tier 2 capital components is referred to as Total Risk-Based capital.

The following table shows United's capital ratios, as calculated under regulatory guidelines, at March 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and March 31, 2013.

Table 14 - Capital Ratios
(dollars in thousands)

	Regulatory Guidelines		United Community Banks, Inc. (Consolidated)			United Community Bank		
	Minimum	Well Capitalized	March 31,	December 31,	March 31,	March 31,	December 31,	March 31,
			2014	2013	2013	2014	2013	2013
Risk-based ratios:								
Tier I capital	4.0%	6.0%	11.05%	12.74%	14.31%	12.64%	13.55%	14.72%
Total capital	8.0	10.0	12.30	13.99	15.87	13.90	14.80	15.98
Leverage ratio	3.0	5.0	7.96	9.08	9.71	9.07	9.61	10.00
Tier I capital			\$ 571,418	\$ 649,162	\$ 663,415	\$ 650,609	\$ 686,687	\$ 681,843
Total capital			636,236	713,063	735,965	715,089	750,216	740,329

United's common stock trades on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol "UCBI". Below is a quarterly schedule of high, low and closing stock prices and average daily volume for 2014 and 2013.

Table 15 - Stock Price Information

	2014				2013			
	High	Low	Close	Avg Daily Volume	High	Low	Close	Avg Daily Volume
First quarter	\$ 20.28	\$ 15.74	\$ 19.41	494,205	\$ 11.57	\$ 9.59	\$ 11.34	195,803
Second quarter					12.94	10.15	12.42	184,922
Third quarter					16.04	12.15	14.99	341,270
Fourth quarter					18.56	14.82	17.75	421,948

Effect of Inflation and Changing Prices

A bank's asset and liability structure is substantially different from that of an industrial firm in that primarily all assets and liabilities of a bank are monetary in nature with relatively little investment in fixed assets or inventories. Inflation has an important effect on the growth of total assets and the resulting need to increase equity capital at higher than normal rates in order to maintain an appropriate equity to assets ratio.

United's management believes the effect of inflation on financial results depends on United's ability to react to changes in interest rates, and by such reaction, reduce the inflationary effect on performance. United has an asset/liability management program to manage interest rate sensitivity. In addition, periodic reviews of banking services and products are conducted to adjust pricing in view of current and expected costs.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk

There have been no material changes in United's quantitative and qualitative disclosures about market risk as of March 31, 2014 from that presented in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013. The interest rate sensitivity position at March 31, 2014 is included in management's discussion and analysis on page 53 of this report.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

United's management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, supervised and participated in an evaluation of United's disclosure controls and procedures as of March 31, 2014. Based on, and as of the date of that evaluation, United's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective in accumulating and communicating information to management, including the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures of that information under the SEC's rules and forms and that the disclosure controls and procedures are designed to ensure that the information required to be disclosed in reports that are filed or submitted by United under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms.

There were no significant changes in the internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect these controls subsequent to the date of their evaluation.

Part II. Other Information

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

In the ordinary course of operations, United and the Bank are defendants in various legal proceedings. Additionally, in the ordinary course of business, United and the Bank are subject to regulatory examinations and investigations. Based on our current knowledge and advice of counsel, in the opinion of management there is no such pending or threatened legal matter in which an adverse decision could result in a material adverse change in the consolidated financial condition or results of operations of United.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes from the risk factors previously disclosed in United's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds – None

Item 3. Defaults upon Senior Securities – None

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures – None

Item 5. Other Information – None

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
10.1	Form of Stock Option Award Agreement (Incentive Stock Option).
10.2	Form of Stock Option Award Agreement (Incentive Stock Option – Key Employee).
10.3	Form of Stock Option Award Agreement (Nonqualified Stock Option).
10.4	Form of Stock Option Award Agreement (Nonqualified Stock Option – Key Employee).
10.5	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement.
10.6	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement (Key Employee).
10.7	Form of Restricted Stock Unit Award Agreement (Key Employee – Retirement Eligible).
10.8	Form of Change in Control Severance Agreement.
31.1	Certification by Jimmy C. Tallent, President and Chief Executive Officer of United Community Banks, Inc., as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
31.2	Certification by Rex S. Schuette, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of United Community Banks, Inc., as adopted pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
32	Certification Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema Document
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase Document
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase Document
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase Document
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase Document

Signatures

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

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

/s/ Jimmy C. Tallent

Jimmy C. Tallent
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ Rex S. Schuette

Rex S. Schuette
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ Alan H. Kumler

Alan H. Kumler
Senior Vice President and Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)

Date: May 9, 2014

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
AMENDED AND RESTATED
2000 KEY EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

STOCK OPTION AWARD AGREEMENT
(Incentive Stock Option)

Optionee: _____

Number of Shares: _____ Shares

Option Exercise Price: \$ _____ per Share

Date of Grant: _____

Vesting Schedule: Per attached Optionee Statement referred to herein as "*Exhibit B*"

Territory: Any county and any contiguous county and any metropolitan statistical area in which any of the Company's subsidiary banks has an office as of the date hereof.

THIS AGREEMENT (the "*Agreement*") is entered into as of the _____ day of _____, _____, by and between **UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.**, a Georgia corporation (the "*Company*"), and the individual designated above (the "*Optionee*").

WHEREAS, the United Community Banks, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Key Employee Stock Option Plan (the "*Plan*") was adopted by the Company, effective March 15, 2007;

WHEREAS, the Optionee performs valuable services for the Company or a Subsidiary; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company or the committee responsible for the administration of the Plan has determined to grant the Option to the Optionee as provided herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Grant of the Option.

1.1 Option. An option to purchase shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the "*Shares*"), is hereby granted to the Optionee (the "*Option*").

1.2 Number of Shares. The number of Shares that the Optionee can purchase upon exercise of the Option is set forth above.

1.3 Option Exercise Price. The price the Optionee must pay to exercise the Option (the “**Option Exercise Price**”) is set forth above. The Option Exercise Price per Share may not be less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Date of Grant (one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the Fair Market Value of a Share if the Participant owns (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) stock of the Company or any Subsidiary possessing more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or Subsidiary).

1.4 Date of Grant. The date that the Option is granted (the “**Date of Grant**”) is set forth above.

1.5 Type of Option. Subject to Section 6.1 of the Plan, the Option is intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code; provided, however, that nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted as a representation, guarantee or other undertaking on the part of the Company that the Option is or will be determined to be an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code. To the extent this Option is not treated as an Incentive Stock Option, it will be treated as a Nonqualified Stock Option. If the Option (including all other Options under the Plan and all other incentive stock options of the Company or any Subsidiary) are first exercisable in any calendar year for Shares having an aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the Date of Grant) that exceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), the Option shall be treated as a Nonqualified Stock Option to the extent required by Section 422 of the Code with respect to such excess Shares.

1.6 Construction. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance and consistent with, and subject to, the provisions of the Plan (the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference) and, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan.

1.7 Execution of Agreement. The Option is evidenced by this Agreement. If the Optionee does not execute this Agreement within thirty (30) days of receiving the Agreement, the Committee may in its discretion cancel the Option and this Agreement.

2. **Duration.**

The Option shall be exercisable to the extent and in the manner provided herein for a period of ten (10) years from the Date of Grant (five (5) years from the Date of Grant if the Participant owns (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) stock of the Company or any Subsidiary possessing more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or Subsidiary) (the “**Exercise Term**”); provided, however, that the Exercise Term may end earlier as provided in Sections 5 and 13 hereof.

3. Vesting.

The Option shall vest and become exercisable in accordance with the vesting schedule specified in Exhibit B. The Optionee may exercise the Option to the extent it is vested during the Exercise Term, subject to any limitations on exercise contained in Section 7 hereof.

4. Manner of Exercise and Payment.

4.1 Delivery. To exercise the Option, the Optionee must deliver a completed copy of the Option Exercise Form, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, to the address indicated on such Form or such other address designated by the Company from time to time. The Committee may establish a minimum number of Shares (e.g., 100) for which the Option may be exercised at a particular time. Contemporaneously with the delivery of the Option Exercise Form, the Optionee shall tender to the Company the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option by (i) cash, check, or wire transfer, (ii) delivering or properly attesting to ownership of Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for such period as may be required by the Committee) with a Fair Market Value at the date of exercise equal to the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option, (iii) delivery of a proper notice electing a Net Exercise, (iv) a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, (v) such other method of payment as may be acceptable to the Committee pursuant to the Plan or (vi) any combination of the foregoing. The Company shall deliver to the Optionee certificates evidencing the Shares as to which the Option was exercised within thirty (30) days of the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company or shall make such Shares available for electronic delivery in the U.S. to an account the Optionee designates in writing within three (3) business days after the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company, and in either case such Shares shall be free and clear of all liens, security interests, pledges or other claims or charges, except those provided in this Agreement or the Plan, or any other agreement affecting the Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Optionee is a non-exempt employee for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Optionee may not exercise any Option prior to the date that is six (6) months after the Date of Grant unless the Optionee's employment has terminated due to death, Disability, or Retirement or unless a Change in Control has occurred after the Date of Grant.

4.2 No Rights as Shareholder. The Optionee shall not be deemed to be the holder of, or to have any of the rights of a holder with respect to any Shares subject to the Option until (i) the Option shall have been exercised pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and the Optionee shall have paid the full purchase price for the number of Shares in respect of which the Option was exercised, (ii) the Company shall have issued and delivered the Shares to the Optionee, and (iii) the Optionee's name shall have been entered as a shareholder of record on the books of the Company, whereupon the Optionee shall have full voting and other ownership rights with respect to such Shares, subject to divestment pursuant to Section 13.

5. Termination of Employment.

5.1 Termination of Employment for Cause. If the Optionee's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause, the outstanding Option shall expire immediately, and the Optionee's right to exercise the outstanding Option (whether or not vested) shall terminate immediately upon the date of the Optionee's termination of employment.

5.2 Termination of Employment by Death. In the event the Optionee dies while actively employed by the Company, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall immediately vest, and thereafter the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date, or for one (1) year after the date of death, whichever period is shorter, (i) by such person(s) who have acquired the Optionee's rights by will or the laws of descent and distribution, or (ii) if no such person in (i) exists, by the executor or representative of the Optionee's estate.

5.3 Termination of Employment by Disability. In the event the employment of the Optionee with the Company is terminated by reason of Disability (as defined in the Plan), the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall expire as of the date the employment of the Optionee is terminated by reason of Disability, and the outstanding vested portion of the Option as of that date shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for one (1) year after the termination of the Optionee's employment by reason of Disability, whichever period is shorter.

5.4 Termination of Employment Without Cause or Voluntary Termination. If the Optionee's employment with the Company is terminated involuntarily by the Company without Cause, or the Optionee voluntarily terminates his or her employment with the Company (including upon Retirement), the unvested portion of the Option shall expire, and the outstanding vested portion of the Option as of the date of termination of employment shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for three (3) months (one (1) year in the case of Retirement) after the date of termination of employment, whichever period is shorter.

5.5 Change In Control. If a Change in Control (as defined in the Plan) occurs during the term of this Agreement and Optionee's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, and if such termination is an involuntary termination by the Company without Cause (as defined in the Plan), and does not arise as a result of Executive's death or Disability (as defined in the Plan), or a termination by Optionee for Good Reason, the unvested portion of the Option shall fully vest immediately upon the Change in Control and become immediately exercisable. The Option shall remain exercisable in accordance with the other provisions of this Agreement, provided that, notwithstanding the other provisions of this Agreement, the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for a period of one (1) year after the date of termination of employment, whichever period is shorter.

For purposes of this Section 5.5, a "**Good Reason**" for termination by Optionee of Optionee's employment shall mean the occurrence (without the Optionee's express written consent), within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, of any one of the following acts by the Company, or failures by the Company to act, unless, in the case of any act or failure to act described in paragraphs (i), (iii), or (iv) below, such

act or failure to act is corrected prior to the date of termination specified in the notice of termination given in respect thereof:

- (i) the substantial adverse change in Optionee's responsibilities at the Company from those in effect immediately prior to the date that is six (6) months prior to the date of a Change in Control (the "**Measurement Date**");
- (ii) the required relocation of Optionee to a location outside of the market area of the Company on the Measurement Date;
- (iii) a material reduction from those in effect on the Measurement Date in the levels of coverage of Optionee under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or
- (iv) after the Measurement Date, a reduction in Optionee's base salary, a reduction in his incentive compensation or the failure by the Company to continue to provide Optionee with benefits substantially similar to those enjoyed by Optionee under any of the Company's pension, deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, health and accident or disability plans in which Optionee was participating at the Measurement Date, the taking of any action by the Company which would directly or indirectly reduce any of such benefits or deprive Optionee of any material fringe benefit enjoyed by Optionee at the Measurement Date.

Optionee's right to terminate the Optionee's employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by the Optionee's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability. Optionee's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

5.6 Employment by Subsidiary. For purposes of this Section and Sections 8 and 13, employment with the Company includes employment with any Subsidiary and service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Company or a Subsidiary. A change of employment between the Company and any Subsidiary or between Subsidiaries or a change in the nature of the Optionee's service relationship with the Company and the Subsidiaries (e.g., from employee to Director or Director to employee) without any interruption in the Optionee's provision of services is not a termination of employment under this Agreement.

6. Nontransferability.

The Option shall not be transferable other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and, during the lifetime of the Optionee, the Option shall be exercisable only by the Optionee except as provided in Section 5.2.

7. Securities Laws Restrictions.

The Option may not be exercised at any time unless, in the opinion of counsel for the

Company, the issuance and sale of the Shares issued upon such exercise is exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any other applicable federal or state securities law, rule or regulation, or the Shares have been duly registered under such laws. The Company intends to register the Shares issuable upon the exercise of the Option; however, until the Shares have been registered under all applicable laws, the Optionee shall represent, warrant and agree, as a condition to the exercise of any Option, that the Shares are being purchased for investment only and without a view to any sale or distribution of such Shares and that such Shares shall not be transferred or disposed of in any manner without registration under such laws, unless it is the opinion of counsel for the Company that such a disposition is exempt from such registration. The Optionee acknowledges that an appropriate legend giving notice of the foregoing restrictions may appear conspicuously on all certificates evidencing the Shares issued upon the exercise of the Option.

8. No Right to Continued Employment.

Nothing in this Agreement or the Plan shall be interpreted or construed to confer upon the Optionee any right with respect to continuance of employment by the Company, nor shall this Agreement or the Plan interfere in any way with the right of the Company to terminate the Optionee's employment at any time.

9. Adjustments; Company Transactions.

9.1 In the event of a change in capitalization, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Plan. The adjustment shall be effective and final, binding and conclusive for all purposes of the Plan and this Agreement.

9.2 In the event of a proposed sale of all or substantially all of the assets or stock of the Company, the merger of the Company with or into another corporation such that shareholders of the Company immediately prior to the merger exchange their Shares of stock in the Company for cash and/or shares of another entity or any other Change in Control or corporate transaction to which the Committee deems this provision applicable (any such event is referred to as a "**Transaction**"), the Committee may, in its discretion, without consent of the Optionee:

(i) cause the Option to be assumed, or arrange for the substitution, in exchange for the Option, of options to purchase equity securities other than Shares (including, if appropriate, equity securities of an entity other than the Company), on such terms and conditions as the Committee determines are appropriate;

(ii) accelerate the vesting of or right to exercise the Option, in whole or in part, immediately prior to or in connection with the closing or completion of any such Transaction, and cause the expiration of the Option to the extent not vested, or not timely exercised or purchased by the date of the closing or completion of any such Transaction or other date thereafter designated by the Committee; or

(iii) cancel or arrange for the cancellation of all or any portion of the Option in exchange for a cash payment of the excess, if any, of the Fair Market Value of the Shares or portion thereof being canceled over the purchase price with respect to the Option or portion

thereof being canceled (an Option whose purchase price equals or exceeds the Fair Market Value of the Shares may be canceled without any payment therefor).

10. Withholding of Taxes.

10.1 Prior to the issuance of Shares to the Optionee upon exercise of the Option, the Optionee shall pay the federal, state, and local income taxes and other amounts as may be required by law to be withheld (the “**Withholding Taxes**”) (if any) to the Company in cash or by check or wire transfer. In satisfaction of the Withholding Taxes, the Optionee may make a written election (the “**Tax Election**”) to satisfy such withholding obligation by a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, by delivering Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for such period as may be required by the Committee) or by having the Company retain from the Shares to be delivered a number of Shares having an aggregate Fair Market Value equal to the Withholding Taxes, provided that, if the Optionee may be subject to liability under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, the election must comply with the requirements applicable to Share transactions by the Optionee, and Shares may only be used to pay the minimum required withholdings. The Company shall have the right to deduct from any amounts payable to the Optionee for salary, bonuses or otherwise an amount equal to Withholding Taxes with respect to the Option.

10.2 If the Optionee makes a disposition, within the meaning of Section 424(c) of the Code and regulations promulgated thereunder, of any Share or Shares issued to him pursuant to his exercise of the Option within the two-year period commencing on the day after the Date of Grant or within the one-year period commencing on the day after the date of transfer of such Share or Shares to the Optionee pursuant to such exercise, the Optionee shall, within ten (10) days of such disposition, notify the Company thereof, by delivery of written notice to the Company at its principal executive office, and immediately deliver to the Company the amount of Withholding Taxes (if any).

11. Optionee Bound by the Plan.

The Optionee hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Plan and agrees to be bound by all the terms and provisions thereof.

12. Modification of Agreement.

Except as expressly otherwise provided herein, this Agreement may not be modified, amended, suspended or terminated, and any terms or conditions may not be waived, except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto.

13. Cancellation and Rescission of Awards; Return of Profits.

13.1 If, during his employment with the Company or at any time during the one (1) year period after the Date of Termination, the Optionee violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 13.2 below, then the Committee shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) cancel any outstanding portion of the Option (whether or not vested), and (ii) repurchase any Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option

during the period six (6) months prior to and one (1) year after the Date of Termination at a per Share repurchase price equal to the Option Exercise Price, and require the Optionee to pay to the Company any gain realized by Optionee from the sale of Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option during such period.

13.2 The Optionee will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person other than the Company or a Subsidiary:

- (i) solicit any Customers for the purpose of providing services identical to or reasonably substitutable for the Company's Business;
- (ii) solicit or induce, or in any manner attempt to solicit or induce, any Person employed by the Company to leave such employment, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company or any Subsidiary or is at will;
- (iii) engage in any Restricted Activities within the Territory or from a business location servicing any part of the Territory;
- (iv) manage any personnel engaging in any Restricted Activities within the Territory; or
- (v) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company, any Subsidiary, the Company's Business or the Company's or any Subsidiary's suppliers, employees, patrons, customers, and others who may at any time have or have had relations with the Company or any Subsidiary.

The Optionee further agrees that he or she will not, except as necessary to carry out his duties as an employee of the Company, disclose or use Confidential Information. The Optionee further agrees that, upon termination or expiration of employment with the Company for any reason whatsoever or at any time, the Optionee will upon request by the Company deliver promptly to the Company all materials (including electronically-stored materials), documents, plans, records, notes, or other papers, and any copies in the Optionee's possession or control, relating in any way to the Company's Business, which at all times shall be the property of the Company.

13.3 For purposes of this Section 13, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

- (i) "**Company's Business**" means the business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.
- (ii) "**Confidential Information**" means information, without regard to form, relating to the Company's or any Subsidiary's customers, operation, finances, and business that derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other Persons, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data (including personnel data), formulas, patterns, compilations (including compilations of customer information), programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, financial data or lists of actual or potential customers (including

identifying information about customers), whether or not in writing. Confidential Information includes information disclosed to the Company or any Subsidiary by third parties that the Company or any Subsidiary is obligated to maintain as confidential. Confidential Information subject to this Agreement may include information that is not a trade secret under applicable law, but information not constituting a trade secret only shall be treated as Confidential Information under this Agreement for a two (2) year period after the Date of Termination.

(iii) “**Customers**” means all Persons that (1) the Optionee serviced or solicited on behalf of the Company or any Subsidiary, (2) whose dealings with the Company or any Subsidiary were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by the Optionee, or (3) about whom the Optionee obtained Confidential Information, in each case during the term of this Agreement or while otherwise employed by the Company.

(iv) “**Date of Termination**” means the date upon which the Optionee’s employment with the Company ceases for any reason.

(v) “**Person**” means any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(vi) “**Restricted Activities**” means serving as a director, officer, executive, manager, employee or business consultant for a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

14. Severability; Scope of Restrictions.

Should any provision of this Agreement, including Section 13, be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force in accordance with their terms. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of Section 13 are overbroad or unreasonable as applied to Optionee, the parties hereto acknowledge their mutual intention and agreement that those restrictions be enforced to the fullest extent the court deems reasonable, and the Agreement shall be modified to that extent.

15. Governing Law.

The validity, interpretation, construction and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the United States and the laws of the State of Georgia without giving effect to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

16. Successors in Interest.

This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Company and its successors and assigns, and, subject to Section 9.2, upon any person acquiring, whether by merger, consolidation, reorganization, purchase of stock or assets, or otherwise, all or substantially all of the Company’s assets and business. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Optionee’s heirs and legal representatives. All obligations imposed upon the Optionee and all rights granted to the Company under this Agreement shall be final, binding and conclusive upon the Optionee’s heirs,

executors, administrators and successors.

17. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement and the Plan contain the entire agreement and understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersede all prior communications, representations and negotiations in respect thereto.

18. Resolution of Disputes.

18.1 Any dispute or disagreement which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Committee. Any determination made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Optionee and the Company and their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives for all purposes.

18.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any dispute, disagreement or claim which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement or the Plan, any breach hereof or thereof, or relating to the enforcement or arbitrability of any provision hereof or thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia by the American Arbitration Association. Judgment on the arbitrator's award shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Except as may otherwise be determined by the arbitrator(s), each party shall be solely responsible for any expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements, court costs and expert witness fees) incurred by it or on its behalf in investigating and enforcing any rights under this Agreement, and each party shall bear one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s) in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.

18.3 THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE THE OTHER PARTY IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE ARBITRATOR(S) DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD. THE ARBITRATION RULES MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION COULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BROUGHT IN COURT.

19. Legal Construction.

The legal construction and interpretation of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, issues of gender, plural or singular, governing law and severability) shall be governed by the

provisions of Article 19 of the Plan.

20. Section 409A.

This Option is intended to be exempt from the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the standards, regulations or other guidance promulgated hereunder ("Section 409A"). Any action that may be taken (and, to the extent possible, any action actually taken) by the Company shall not be taken (or shall be void and without effect), if such action results in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A. Any provision in this Agreement that is determined to result in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A shall be void and without effect. In addition, any provision that is required to appear in this Agreement to conform the Option's exemption from Section 409A that is not expressly set forth herein shall be deemed to be set forth herein, and the Agreement shall be administered in all respects as if such provision were expressly set forth.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By signing below, the Optionee hereby accepts the Option subject to all its terms and provisions and agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Plan. The Optionee hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Company, or the Compensation Committee or other Committee responsible for the administration of the Plan, upon any questions arising under the Plan. The Optionee authorizes the Company to withhold, in accordance with applicable law, from any compensation payable to him or her, any taxes required to be withheld by federal, state, local or foreign law as a result of the grant, existence or exercise of the Option, or subsequent sale of the Shares.

OPTIONEE

By: _____

Name: _____

[EXHIBITS FOLLOW]

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
AMENDED AND RESTATED
2000 KEY EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

STOCK OPTION AWARD AGREEMENT
(Incentive Stock Option – Key Employee)

Optionee: _____

Number of Shares: _____ Shares

Option Exercise Price: \$ _____ per Share

Date of Grant: _____

Vesting Schedule: Per attached Optionee Statement referred to herein as “*Exhibit B*”

Territory: Any county and any contiguous county and any metropolitan statistical area in which any of the Company’s subsidiary banks has an office as of the date hereof.

THIS AGREEMENT (the “*Agreement*”) is entered into as of the ____ day of _____, _____, by and between **UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.**, a Georgia corporation (the “*Company*”), and the individual designated above (the “*Optionee*”).

WHEREAS, the United Community Banks, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Key Employee Stock Option Plan (the “*Plan*”) was adopted by the Company, effective March 15, 2007;

WHEREAS, the Optionee performs valuable services for the Company or a Subsidiary; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company or the committee responsible for the administration of the Plan has determined to grant the Option to the Optionee as provided herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Grant of the Option.

1.1 Option. An option to purchase shares of the Company’s Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the “*Shares*”), is hereby granted to the Optionee (the “*Option*”).

1.2 Number of Shares. The number of Shares that the Optionee can purchase upon exercise of the Option is set forth above.

1.3 Option Exercise Price. The price the Optionee must pay to exercise the Option (the “**Option Exercise Price**”) is set forth above. The Option Exercise Price per Share may not be less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Date of Grant (one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the Fair Market Value of a Share if the Participant owns (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) stock of the Company or any Subsidiary possessing more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or Subsidiary).

1.4 Date of Grant. The date that the Option is granted (the “**Date of Grant**”) is set forth above.

1.5 Type of Option. Subject to Section 6.1 of the Plan, the Option is intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code; provided, however, that nothing in this Agreement shall be interpreted as a representation, guarantee or other undertaking on the part of the Company that the Option is or will be determined to be an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Code. To the extent this Option is not treated as an Incentive Stock Option, it will be treated as a Nonqualified Stock Option. If the Option (including all other Options under the Plan and all other incentive stock options of the Company or any Subsidiary) are first exercisable in any calendar year for Shares having an aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the Date of Grant) that exceeds one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), the Option shall be treated as a Nonqualified Stock Option to the extent required by Section 422 of the Code with respect to such excess Shares.

1.6 Construction. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance and consistent with, and subject to, the provisions of the Plan (the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference) and, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan.

1.7 Execution of Agreement. The Option is evidenced by this Agreement. If the Optionee does not execute this Agreement within thirty (30) days of receiving the Agreement, the Committee may in its discretion cancel the Option and this Agreement.

2. Duration.

The Option shall be exercisable to the extent and in the manner provided herein for a period of ten (10) years from the Date of Grant (five (5) years from the Date of Grant if the Participant owns (within the meaning of Section 424(d) of the Code) stock of the Company or any Subsidiary possessing more than ten percent (10%) of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company or Subsidiary) (the “**Exercise Term**”); provided, however, that the Exercise Term may end earlier as provided in Sections 5 and 13 hereof.

3. Vesting.

The Option shall vest and become exercisable in accordance with the vesting schedule specified in Exhibit B. The Optionee may exercise the Option to the extent it is vested during the Exercise Term, subject to any limitations on exercise contained in Section 7 hereof.

4. Manner of Exercise and Payment.

4.1 Delivery. To exercise the Option, the Optionee must deliver a completed copy of the Option Exercise Form, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, to the address indicated on such Form or such other address designated by the Company from time to time. The Committee may establish a minimum number of Shares (e.g., 100) for which the Option may be exercised at a particular time. Contemporaneously with the delivery of the Option Exercise Form, the Optionee shall tender to the Company the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option by (i) cash, check, or wire transfer, (ii) delivering or properly attesting to ownership of Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for such period as may be required by the Committee) with a Fair Market Value at the date of exercise equal to the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option, (iii) delivery of a proper notice electing a Net Exercise, (iv) a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, (v) such other method of payment as may be acceptable to the Committee pursuant to the Plan or (vi) any combination of the foregoing. The Company shall deliver to the Optionee certificates evidencing the Shares as to which the Option was exercised within thirty (30) days of the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company or shall make such Shares available for electronic delivery in the U.S. to an account the Optionee designates in writing within three (3) business days after the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company, and in either case such Shares shall be free and clear of all liens, security interests, pledges or other claims or charges, except those provided in this Agreement or the Plan, or any other agreement affecting the Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Optionee is a non-exempt employee for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Optionee may not exercise any Option prior to the date that is six (6) months after the Date of Grant unless the Optionee's employment has terminated due to death, Disability, or Retirement after the Date of Grant.

4.2 No Rights as Shareholder. The Optionee shall not be deemed to be the holder of, or to have any of the rights of a holder with respect to any Shares subject to the Option until (i) the Option shall have been exercised pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and the Optionee shall have paid the full purchase price for the number of Shares in respect of which the Option was exercised, (ii) the Company shall have issued and delivered the Shares to the Optionee, and (iii) the Optionee's name shall have been entered as a shareholder of record on the books of the Company, whereupon the Optionee shall have full voting and other ownership rights with respect to such Shares, subject to divestment pursuant to Section 13.

5. Termination of Employment.

5.1 Termination of Employment for Cause. If the Optionee's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause, the outstanding Option shall expire immediately, and the Optionee's right to exercise the outstanding Option (whether vested or not vested) shall terminate immediately upon the date of the Optionee's termination of employment.

5.2 Termination of Employment Without Cause or For Good Reason.

(1) If the Optionee's employment with the Company is terminated involuntarily by the Company without Cause or is terminated by the Optionee for Good Reason (as defined in subsection (2) below), the Option shall continue to vest in accordance with the original vesting schedule set forth in this Agreement (just as if the Optionee had remained employed) and shall remain exercisable at any time prior to the expiration of the term of the Option. In the event of the Optionee's death after a termination covered by this subsection 5.2, the Option shall continue to vest and be exercisable in accordance with this subsection 5.2 as if the Optionee had lived and the Option shall be exercisable by the persons described in Section 5.4.

(2) For purposes of this Option, the Optionee shall be entitled to terminate his employment with the Company for Good Reason in the event, without the Optionee's express written consent, of any one of the following acts by the Company, or failures by the Company to act, unless, in the case of any act or failure to act described in paragraphs (i), (iii), or (iv) below, such act or failure to act is corrected prior to the Optionee's date of termination:

- (i) a material reduction in the Optionee's responsibilities at the Company; or
- (ii) the required relocation of the Optionee's employment to a location outside of the market area of the Company; or
- (iii) a material reduction in the levels of coverage of the Optionee under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or
- (iv) a substantial reduction in the Optionee's base salary, a material reduction in his incentive compensation or the taking of any action by the Company which would, directly or indirectly, materially reduce any of the benefits provided to the Optionee under any of the Company's pension, 401(k) deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, accident or disability plans in which the Optionee is participating.

The Optionee's right to terminate employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by the Optionee's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability as defined in the Plan. The Optionee's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

5.3 Termination of Employment Following a Change in Control When Eligible for Retirement. If the Optionee's employment with the Company is terminated following a Change in Control and the Optionee is eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall immediately vest and the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to the expiration of the term of the Option.

5.4 Termination of Employment Due to Death. If the Optionee dies while actively employed by the Company, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall immediately vest, and thereafter the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for one (1) year after the date of death, whichever period is shorter, (i) by such person(s) who have acquired the Optionee's rights by will or the laws of descent and distribution, or (ii) if no such person in (i) exists, by the executor or representative of the Optionee's estate.

5.5 Termination of Employment by Disability. In the event the employment of the Optionee with the Company is terminated by reason of Disability (as defined in the Plan), the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall expire as of the date the employment of the Optionee is terminated by reason of Disability, and the outstanding vested portion of the Option as of that date shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date, or for one (1) year after the termination of the Optionee's employment by reason of Disability, whichever period is shorter.

5.6 Voluntary Termination of Employment or Retirement. If the Optionee voluntarily terminates his or her employment with the Company (except for Good Reason), including upon Retirement that does not follow a Change in Control, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall expire as of the date of termination of employment, and the vested portion of the Option as of the date of termination of employment shall remain exercisable (i) if the Optionee is not eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, at any time prior to its expiration date or for three (3) months after the date of termination of employment, whichever period is shorter, or (ii) if the Optionee is eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, at any time prior to its expiration date.

5.7 Employment by Subsidiary. For purposes of this Section and Sections 8 and 13, employment with the Company includes employment with any Subsidiary and service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Company or a Subsidiary. A change of employment between the Company and any Subsidiary or between Subsidiaries or a change in the nature of the Optionee's service relationship with the Company and the Subsidiaries (e.g., from employee to Director or Director to employee) without any interruption in the Optionee's provision of services is not a termination of employment under this Agreement.

6. Nontransferability.

The Option shall not be transferable other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and, during the lifetime of the Optionee, the Option shall be exercisable only by the Optionee except as provided in Section 5.4.

7. Securities Laws Restrictions.

The Option may not be exercised at any time unless, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, the issuance and sale of the Shares issued upon such exercise is exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any other applicable federal or state securities law, rule or regulation, or the Shares have been duly registered under such laws. The Company intends to register the Shares issuable upon the exercise of the Option; however, until the Shares have been registered under all applicable laws, the Optionee shall represent, warrant and agree, as a condition to the exercise of any Option, that the Shares are being purchased for investment only and without a view to any sale or distribution of such Shares and that such Shares shall not be transferred or disposed of in any manner without registration under such laws, unless it is the opinion of counsel for the Company that such a disposition is exempt from such registration. The Optionee acknowledges that an appropriate legend giving notice of the foregoing restrictions may appear conspicuously on all certificates evidencing the Shares issued upon the exercise of the Option.

8. No Right to Continued Employment.

Nothing in this Agreement or the Plan shall be interpreted or construed to confer upon the Optionee any right with respect to continuance of employment by the Company, nor shall this Agreement or the Plan interfere in any way with the right of the Company to terminate the Optionee's employment at any time.

9. Adjustments; Company Transactions.

9.1 In the event of a change in capitalization, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Plan. The adjustment shall be effective and final, binding and conclusive for all purposes of the Plan and this Agreement.

9.2 In the event of a proposed sale of all or substantially all of the assets or stock of the Company, the merger of the Company with or into another corporation such that shareholders of the Company immediately prior to the merger exchange their Shares of stock in the Company for cash and/or shares of another entity or any other Change in Control or corporate transaction to which the Committee deems this provision applicable (any such event is referred to as a "**Transaction**"), the Committee may, in its discretion, without consent of the Optionee:

(i) cause the Option to be assumed, or arrange for the substitution, in exchange for the Option, of options to purchase equity securities other than Shares (including, if appropriate, equity securities of an entity other than the Company), on such terms and conditions as the Committee determines are appropriate;

(ii) accelerate the vesting of or right to exercise the Option, in whole or in part, immediately prior to or in connection with the closing or completion of any such Transaction, and cause the expiration of the Option to the extent not vested, or not timely exercised or purchased by the date of the closing or completion of any such Transaction or other date thereafter designated by the Committee; or

(iii) cancel or arrange for the cancellation of all or any portion of the Option in exchange for a cash payment of the excess, if any, of the Fair Market Value of the Shares or portion thereof being canceled over the purchase price with respect to the Option or portion thereof being canceled (an Option whose purchase price equals or exceeds the Fair Market Value of the Shares may be canceled without any payment therefor).

10. Withholding of Taxes.

10.1 Prior to the issuance of Shares to the Optionee upon exercise of the Option, the Optionee shall pay the federal, state, and local income taxes and other amounts as may be required by law to be withheld (the "**Withholding Taxes**") (if any) to the Company in cash or by check or wire transfer. In satisfaction of the Withholding Taxes, the Optionee may make a written election (the "Tax Election") to satisfy such withholding obligation by a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, by delivering Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for such period as may be required by the Committee) or by having the Company retain from the Shares to be delivered a number of Shares having an aggregate Fair Market Value equal to the Withholding Taxes, provided that, if the Optionee may be subject to liability under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, the election must comply with the requirements applicable to Share transactions by the Optionee, and Shares may only be used to pay the minimum required withholdings. The Company shall have the right to deduct from any amounts payable to the Optionee for salary, bonuses or otherwise an amount equal to Withholding Taxes with respect to the Option.

10.2 If the Optionee makes a disposition, within the meaning of Section 424(c) of the Code and regulations promulgated thereunder, of any Share or Shares issued to him pursuant to his exercise of the Option within the two-year period commencing on the day after the Date of Grant or within the one-year period commencing on the day after the date of transfer of such Share or Shares to the Optionee pursuant to such exercise, the Optionee shall, within ten (10) days of such disposition, notify the Company thereof, by delivery of written notice to the Company at its principal executive office, and immediately deliver to the Company the amount of Withholding Taxes (if any).

11. Optionee Bound by the Plan.

The Optionee hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Plan and agrees to be bound by all the terms and provisions thereof.

12. Modification of Agreement.

Except as expressly otherwise provided herein, this Agreement may not be modified, amended, suspended or terminated, and any terms or conditions may not be waived, except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto.

13. Cancellation and Rescission of Awards; Return of Profits.

13.1 If, during his employment with the Company or at any time during the one (1) year period after the Date of Termination, the Optionee violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 13.2 below, then the Committee shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) cancel any outstanding portion of the Option (whether or not

vested), and (ii) repurchase any Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option during the period six (6) months prior to and one (1) year after the Date of Termination at a per Share repurchase price equal to the Option Exercise Price, and require the Optionee to pay to the Company any gain realized by Optionee from the sale of Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option during such period.

13.2 The Optionee will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person other than the Company or a Subsidiary:

- (i) solicit any Customers for the purpose of providing services identical to or reasonably substitutable for the Company's Business;
- (ii) solicit or induce, or in any manner attempt to solicit or induce, any Person employed by the Company to leave such employment, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company or any Subsidiary or is at will;
- (iii) engage in any Restricted Activities within the Territory or from a business location servicing any part of the Territory;
- (iv) manage any personnel engaging in any Restricted Activities within the Territory; or
- (v) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company, any Subsidiary, the Company's Business or the Company's or any Subsidiary's suppliers, employees, patrons, customers, and others who may at any time have or have had relations with the Company or any Subsidiary.

The Optionee further agrees that he or she will not, except as necessary to carry out his duties as an employee of the Company, disclose or use Confidential Information. The Optionee further agrees that, upon termination or expiration of employment with the Company for any reason whatsoever or at any time, the Optionee will upon request by the Company deliver promptly to the Company all materials (including electronically-stored materials), documents, plans, records, notes, or other papers, and any copies in the Optionee's possession or control, relating in any way to the Company's Business, which at all times shall be the property of the Company.

13.3 For purposes of this Section 13, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

- (i) "**Company's Business**" means the business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.
- (ii) "**Confidential Information**" means information, without regard to form, relating to the Company's or any Subsidiary's customers, operation, finances, and business that derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other Persons, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data (including personnel data), formulas,

patterns, compilations (including compilations of customer information), programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, financial data or lists of actual or potential customers (including identifying information about customers), whether or not in writing. Confidential Information includes information disclosed to the Company or any Subsidiary by third parties that the Company or any Subsidiary is obligated to maintain as confidential. Confidential Information subject to this Agreement may include information that is not a trade secret under applicable law, but information not constituting a trade secret only shall be treated as Confidential Information under this Agreement for a two (2) year period after the Date of Termination.

(iii) “**Customers**” means all Persons that (1) the Optionee serviced or solicited on behalf of the Company or any Subsidiary, (2) whose dealings with the Company or any Subsidiary were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by the Optionee, or (3) about whom the Optionee obtained Confidential Information, in each case during the term of this Agreement or while otherwise employed by the Company.

(iv) “**Date of Termination**” means the date upon which the Optionee’s employment with the Company ceases for any reason.

(v) “**Person**” means any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(vi) “**Restricted Activities**” means serving as a director, officer, executive, manager, employee or business consultant for a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

14. Severability; Scope of Restrictions.

Should any provision of this Agreement, including Section 13, be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force in accordance with their terms. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of Section 13 are overbroad or unreasonable as applied to Optionee, the parties hereto acknowledge their mutual intention and agreement that those restrictions be enforced to the fullest extent the court deems reasonable, and the Agreement shall be modified to that extent.

15. Governing Law.

The validity, interpretation, construction and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the United States and the laws of the State of Georgia without giving effect to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

16. Successors in Interest.

This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Company and its successors and assigns, and, subject to Section 9.2, upon any person acquiring, whether by merger, consolidation, reorganization, purchase of stock or assets, or otherwise, all or substantially all of the Company's assets and business. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Optionee's heirs and legal representatives. All obligations imposed upon the Optionee and all rights granted to the Company under this Agreement shall be final, binding and conclusive upon the Optionee's heirs, executors, administrators and successors.

17. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement and the Plan contain the entire agreement and understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersede all prior communications, representations and negotiations in respect thereto.

18. Resolution of Disputes.

18.1 Any dispute or disagreement which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Committee. Any determination made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Optionee and the Company and their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives for all purposes.

18.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any dispute, disagreement or claim which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement or the Plan, any breach hereof or thereof, or relating to the enforcement or arbitrability of any provision hereof or thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia by the American Arbitration Association. Judgment on the arbitrator's award shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Except as may otherwise be determined by the arbitrator(s), each party shall be solely responsible for any expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements, court costs and expert witness fees) incurred by it or on its behalf in investigating and enforcing any rights under this Agreement, and each party shall bear one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s) in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.

18.3 THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE THE OTHER PARTY IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE ARBITRATOR(S) DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD. THE ARBITRATION RULES MAY

IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION COULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BROUGHT IN COURT.

19. Legal Construction.

The legal construction and interpretation of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, issues of gender, plural or singular, governing law and severability) shall be governed by the provisions of Article 19 of the Plan.

20. Section 409A.

This Option is intended to be exempt from the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the standards, regulations or other guidance promulgated hereunder ("Section 409A"). Any action that may be taken (and, to the extent possible, any action actually taken) by the Company shall not be taken (or shall be void and without effect), if such action results in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A. Any provision in this Agreement that is determined to result in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A shall be void and without effect. In addition, any provision that is required to appear in this Agreement to conform the Option's exemption from Section 409A that is not expressly set forth herein shall be deemed to be set forth herein, and the Agreement shall be administered in all respects as if such provision were expressly set forth.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By signing below, the Optionee hereby accepts the Option subject to all its terms and provisions and agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Plan. The Optionee hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Company, or the Compensation Committee or other Committee responsible for the administration of the Plan, upon any questions arising under the Plan. The Optionee authorizes the Company to withhold, in accordance with applicable law, from any compensation payable to him or her, any taxes required to be withheld by federal, state, local or foreign law as a result of the grant, existence or exercise of the Option, or subsequent sale of the Shares.

OPTIONEE

By: _____

Name: _____

[EXHIBITS FOLLOW]

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
AMENDED AND RESTATED
2000 KEY EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

STOCK OPTION AWARD AGREEMENT
(Nonqualified Stock Option)

Optionee: _____

Number of Shares: _____

Option Exercise Price: \$ _____ per Share

Date of Grant: _____

Vesting Schedule: Per attached Optionee Statement referred to herein as "Exhibit B"

Territory: Any county and any contiguous county and any metropolitan statistical area in which any of the Company's subsidiary banks has an office as of the date hereof.

THIS AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into as of the ____ day of _____, by and between UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC., a Georgia corporation (the "Company"), and the individual designated above (the "Optionee").

WHEREAS, the United Community Banks, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Key Employee Stock Option Plan (the "Plan") was adopted by the Company, effective March 15, 2007;

WHEREAS, the Optionee performs valuable services for the Company or a Subsidiary; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company or the committee responsible for the administration of the Plan has determined to grant the Option to the Optionee as provided herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Grant of the Option.**

1.1 Option. An option to purchase shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the "Shares"), is hereby granted to the Optionee (the "Option").

1.2 **Number of Shares.** The number of Shares that the Optionee can purchase upon exercise of the Option is set forth above.

1.3 **Option Exercise Price.** The price the Optionee must pay to exercise the Option (the “***Option Exercise Price***”) is set forth above. The Option Exercise Price per Share may not be less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Date of Grant.

1.4 **Date of Grant.** The date that the Option is granted (the “***Date of Grant***”) is set forth above.

1.5 **Type of Option.** The Option is intended to be a Nonqualified Stock Option. It is not intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time, or any successor provision thereto.

1.6 **Construction.** This Agreement shall be construed in accordance and consistent with, and subject to, the provisions of the Plan (the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference) and, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan.

1.7 **Execution of Agreement.** The Option is evidenced by this Agreement. If the Optionee does not execute this Agreement within thirty (30) days of receiving the Agreement, the Committee may in its discretion cancel the Option and this Agreement.

2. **Duration.**

The Option shall be exercisable to the extent and in the manner provided herein for a period of ten (10) years from the Date of Grant (the “***Exercise Term***”); provided, however, that the Exercise Term may end earlier as provided in Sections 5 and 13 hereof.

3. **Vesting.**

The Option shall vest and become exercisable in accordance with the vesting schedule specified in Exhibit B. The Optionee may exercise the Option to the extent it is vested during the Exercise Term, subject to any limitations on exercise contained in Section 7 hereof.

4. **Manner of Exercise and Payment.**

4.1 **Delivery.** To exercise the Option, the Optionee must deliver a completed copy of the Option Exercise Form, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, to the address indicated on such Form or such other address designated by the Company from time to time. The Committee may establish a minimum number of Shares (e.g., 100) for which the Option may be exercised at a particular time. Contemporaneously with the delivery of the Option Exercise Form, the Optionee shall tender to the Company the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option by (i) cash, check, or wire transfer, (ii) delivering or properly attesting to ownership of Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for

such period as may be required by the Committee) with a Fair Market Value at the date of exercise equal to the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option, (iii) delivery of a proper notice electing a Net Exercise, (iv) a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, (v) such other method of payment as may be acceptable to the Committee pursuant to the Plan or (vi) any combination of the foregoing. The Company shall deliver to the Optionee certificates evidencing the Shares as to which the Option was exercised within thirty (30) days of the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company or shall make such Shares available for electronic delivery in the U.S. to an account the Optionee designates in writing within three (3) business days after the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company, and in either case such Shares shall be free and clear of all liens, security interests, pledges or other claims or charges, except those provided in this Agreement or the Plan, or any other agreement affecting the Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Optionee is a non-exempt employee for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Optionee may not exercise any Option prior to the date that is six (6) months after the Date of Grant unless the Optionee's employment has terminated due to death, Disability, or Retirement or unless a Change in Control has occurred after the Date of Grant.

4.2 No Rights as Shareholder. The Optionee shall not be deemed to be the holder of, or to have any of the rights of a holder with respect to any Shares subject to the Option until (i) the Option shall have been exercised pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and the Optionee shall have paid the full purchase price for the number of Shares in respect of which the Option was exercised, (ii) the Company shall have issued and delivered the Shares to the Optionee, and (iii) the Optionee's name shall have been entered as a shareholder of record on the books of the Company, whereupon the Optionee shall have full voting and other ownership rights with respect to such Shares, subject to divestment pursuant to Section 13.

5. Termination of Employment.

5.1 Termination of Employment for Cause. If the Optionee's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause, the outstanding Option shall expire immediately, and the Optionee's right to exercise the outstanding Option (whether or not vested) shall terminate immediately upon the date of the Optionee's termination of employment.

5.2 Termination of Employment by Death. In the event the Optionee dies while actively employed by the Company, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall immediately vest, and thereafter the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date, or for one (1) year after the date of death, whichever period is shorter, (i) by such person(s) who have acquired the Optionee's rights by will or the laws of descent and distribution, or (ii) if no such person in (i) exists, by the executor or representative of the Optionee's estate.

5.3 Termination of Employment by Disability. In the event the employment of the Optionee with the Company is terminated by reason of Disability (as defined in the Plan), the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall expire as of the date the employment of the

Optionee is terminated by reason of Disability, and the outstanding vested portion of the Option as of that date shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for one (1) year after the termination of the Optionee's employment by reason of Disability, whichever period is shorter.

5.4 Termination of Employment Without Cause or Voluntary Termination. If the Optionee's employment with the Company is terminated involuntarily by the Company without Cause, or the Optionee voluntarily terminates his or her employment with the Company (including upon Retirement), the unvested portion of the Option shall expire, and the outstanding vested portion of the Option as of the date of termination of employment shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for three (3) months (one (1) year in the case of Retirement) after the date of termination of employment, whichever period is shorter.

5.5 Change In Control. If a Change in Control (as defined in the Plan) occurs during the term of this Agreement and Optionee's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, and if such termination is an involuntary termination by the Company without Cause (as defined in the Plan), and does not arise as a result of Executive's death or Disability (as defined in the Plan), or a termination by Optionee for Good Reason, the unvested portion of the Option shall fully vest immediately upon the Change in Control and become immediately exercisable. The Option shall remain exercisable in accordance with the other provisions of this Agreement, provided that, notwithstanding the other provisions of this Agreement, the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for a period of one (1) year after the date of termination of employment, whichever period is shorter.

For purposes of this Section 5.5, a "**Good Reason**" for termination by Optionee of Optionee's employment shall mean the occurrence (without the Optionee's express written consent), within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, of any one of the following acts by the Company, or failures by the Company to act, unless, in the case of any act or failure to act described in paragraphs (i), (iii), or (iv) below, such act or failure to act is corrected prior to the date of termination specified in the notice of termination given in respect thereof:

- (i) the substantial adverse change in Optionee's responsibilities at the Company from those in effect immediately prior to the date that is six (6) months prior to the date of a Change in Control (the "**Measurement Date**");
- (ii) the required relocation of Optionee to a location outside of the market area of the Company on the Measurement Date;
- (iii) a material reduction from those in effect on the Measurement Date in the levels of coverage of Optionee under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or
- (iv) after the Measurement Date, a reduction in Optionee's base salary, a reduction in his incentive compensation or the failure by the Company to continue to

provide Optionee with benefits substantially similar to those enjoyed by Optionee under any of the Company's pension, deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, health and accident or disability plans in which Optionee was participating at the Measurement Date, the taking of any action by the Company which would directly or indirectly reduce any of such benefits or deprive Optionee of any material fringe benefit enjoyed by Optionee at the Measurement Date.

Optionee's right to terminate the Optionee's employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by the Optionee's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability. Optionee's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

5.6 Employment by Subsidiary. For purposes of this Section 5 and Sections 8 and 13, employment with the Company includes employment with any Subsidiary and service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Company or a Subsidiary. A change of employment between the Company and any Subsidiary or between Subsidiaries or a change in the nature of the Optionee's service relationship with the Company and the Subsidiaries (e.g., from employee to Director or Director to employee) without any interruption in the Optionee's provision of services is not a termination of employment under this Agreement.

6. Nontransferability.

The Option shall not be transferable other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and, during the lifetime of the Optionee, the Option shall be exercisable only by the Optionee except as provided in Section 5.2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any portion or all of the Option which is vested may be transferred, in whole or in part, without consideration, to another person or entity to the extent permitted by the Plan (a "Permitted Transferee"). Appropriate evidence of any such transfer to the Permitted Transferees shall be delivered to the Company on such forms as the Committee or Company shall prescribe and shall comply with and indicate the Optionee's (if during the lifetime of the Optionee) and the Permitted Transferee's agreement to abide by the Company's then current stock option transfer guidelines. If all or part of the Option is transferred to a Permitted Transferee, the Permitted Transferee shall remain subject to all terms and conditions applicable to such Option prior to the transfer.

7. Securities Laws Restrictions.

The Option may not be exercised at any time unless, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, the issuance and sale of the Shares issued upon such exercise is exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any other applicable federal or state securities law, rule or regulation, or the Shares have been duly registered under such laws. The Company intends to register the Shares issuable upon the exercise of the Option; however, until the Shares have been registered under all applicable laws, the Optionee shall represent, warrant and agree, as a condition to the exercise of any Option, that the Shares are being purchased for investment only and without a view to any sale or distribution of such Shares and that such Shares shall not be transferred or disposed of in any manner without registration under such laws, unless it is the opinion of counsel

for the Company that such a disposition is exempt from such registration. The Optionee acknowledges that an appropriate legend giving notice of the foregoing restrictions may appear conspicuously on all certificates evidencing the Shares issued upon the exercise of the Option.

8. No Right to Continued Employment.

Nothing in this Agreement or the Plan shall be interpreted or construed to confer upon the Optionee any right with respect to continuance of employment by the Company, nor shall this Agreement or the Plan interfere in any way with the right of the Company to terminate the Optionee's employment at any time.

9. Adjustments; Company Transactions.

9.1 In the event of a change in capitalization, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Plan. The adjustment shall be effective and final, binding and conclusive for all purposes of the Plan and this Agreement.

9.2 In the event of a proposed sale of all or substantially all of the assets or stock of the Company, the merger of the Company with or into another corporation such that shareholders of the Company immediately prior to the merger exchange their Shares of stock in the Company for cash and/or shares of another entity or any other Change in Control or corporate transaction to which the Committee deems this provision applicable (any such event is referred to as a "**Transaction**"), the Committee may, in its discretion, without consent of the Optionee:

(i) cause the Option to be assumed, or arrange for the substitution, in exchange for the Option, of options to purchase equity securities other than Shares (including, if appropriate, equity securities of an entity other than the Company), on such terms and conditions as the Committee determines are appropriate;

(ii) accelerate the vesting of or right to exercise the Option, in whole or in part, immediately prior to or in connection with the closing or completion of any such Transaction, and cause the expiration of the Option to the extent not vested, or not timely exercised or purchased by the date of the closing or completion of any such Transaction or other date thereafter designated by the Committee; or

(iii) cancel or arrange for the cancellation of all or any portion of the Option in exchange for a cash payment of the excess, if any, of the Fair Market Value of the Shares or portion thereof being canceled over the purchase price with respect to the Option or portion thereof being canceled (an Option whose purchase price equals or exceeds the Fair Market Value of the Shares may be canceled without any payment therefor).

10. Withholding of Taxes.

Prior to the issuance of Shares to the Optionee upon exercise of the Option, the Optionee shall pay the federal, state, and local income taxes and other amounts as may be required by law to be withheld (the "**Withholding Taxes**") (if any) to the Company in cash or by check or wire

transfer. In satisfaction of the Withholding Taxes, the Optionee may make a written election (the "**Tax Election**") to satisfy such withholding obligation by a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, by delivering Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for such period as may be required by the Committee) or by having the Company retain from the Shares to be delivered a number of Shares having an aggregate Fair Market Value equal to the Withholding Taxes, provided that, if the Optionee may be subject to liability under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, the election must comply with the requirements applicable to Share transactions by the Optionee, and Shares may only be used to pay the minimum required withholdings. The Company shall have the right to deduct from any amounts payable to the Optionee for salary, bonuses or otherwise an amount equal to Withholding Taxes with respect to the Option.

11. Optionee Bound by the Plan.

The Optionee hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Plan and agrees to be bound by all the terms and provisions thereof.

12. Modification of Agreement.

Except as expressly otherwise provided herein, this Agreement may not be modified, amended, suspended or terminated, and any terms or conditions may not be waived, except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto.

13. Cancellation and Rescission of Awards; Return of Profits.

13.1 If, during his employment with the Company or at any time during the one (1) year period after the Date of Termination, the Optionee violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 13.2 below, then the Committee shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) cancel any outstanding portion of the Option (whether or not vested), and (ii) repurchase any Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option during the period six (6) months prior to and one (1) year after the Date of Termination at a per Share repurchase price equal to the Option Exercise Price, and require the Optionee to pay to the Company any gain realized by Optionee from the sale of Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option during such period.

13.2 The Optionee will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person other than the Company or a Subsidiary:

- (i) solicit any Customers for the purpose of providing services identical to or reasonably substitutable for the Company's Business;
- (ii) solicit or induce, or in any manner attempt to solicit or induce, any Person employed by the Company to leave such employment, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company or any Subsidiary or is at will;
- (iii) engage in any Restricted Activities within the Territory or from a business location servicing any part of the Territory;

- (iv) manage any personnel engaging in any Restricted Activities within the Territory; or
- (v) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company, any Subsidiary, the Company's Business or the Company's or any Subsidiary's suppliers, employees, patrons, customers, and others who may at any time have or have had relations with the Company or any Subsidiary.

The Optionee further agrees that he or she will not, except as necessary to carry out his duties as an employee of the Company, disclose or use Confidential Information. The Optionee further agrees that, upon termination or expiration of employment with the Company for any reason whatsoever or at any time, the Optionee will upon request by the Company deliver promptly to the Company all materials (including electronically-stored materials), documents, plans, records, notes, or other papers, and any copies in the Optionee's possession or control, relating in any way to the Company's Business, which at all times shall be the property of the Company.

13.3 For purposes of this Section 13, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

- (i) "**Company's Business**" means the business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.
- (ii) "**Confidential Information**" means information, without regard to form, relating to the Company's or any Subsidiary's customers, operation, finances, and business that derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other Persons, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data (including personnel data), formulas, patterns, compilations (including compilations of customer information), programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, financial data or lists of actual or potential customers (including identifying information about customers), whether or not in writing. Confidential Information includes information disclosed to the Company or any Subsidiary by third parties that the Company or any Subsidiary is obligated to maintain as confidential. Confidential Information subject to this Agreement may include information that is not a trade secret under applicable law, but information not constituting a trade secret only shall be treated as Confidential Information under this Agreement for a two (2) year period after the Date of Termination.
- (iii) "**Customers**" means all Persons that (1) the Optionee serviced or solicited on behalf of the Company or any Subsidiary, (2) whose dealings with the Company or any Subsidiary were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by the Optionee, or (3) about whom the Optionee obtained Confidential Information, in each case during the term of this Agreement or while otherwise employed by the Company.
- (iv) "**Date of Termination**" means the date upon which the Optionee's employment with the Company ceases for any reason.
- (v) "**Person**" means any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint

venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(vi) “**Restricted Activities**” means serving as a director, officer, executive, manager, employee or business consultant for a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

14. Severability; Scope of Restrictions.

Should any provision of this Agreement, including Section 13, be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force in accordance with their terms. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of Section 13 are overbroad or unreasonable as applied to Optionee, the parties hereto acknowledge their mutual intention and agreement that those restrictions be enforced to the fullest extent the court deems reasonable, and the Agreement shall be modified to that extent.

15. Governing Law.

The validity, interpretation, construction and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the United States and the laws of the State of Georgia without giving effect to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

16. Successors in Interest.

This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Company and its successors and assigns, and, subject to Section 9.2, upon any person acquiring, whether by merger, consolidation, reorganization, purchase of stock or assets, or otherwise, all or substantially all of the Company’s assets and business. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Optionee’s heirs and legal representatives. All obligations imposed upon the Optionee and all rights granted to the Company under this Agreement shall be final, binding and conclusive upon the Optionee’s heirs, executors, administrators and successors.

17. Entire Agreement. This Agreement and the Plan contain the entire agreement and understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersede all prior communications, representations and negotiations in respect thereto.

18. Resolution of Disputes.

18.1 Any dispute or disagreement which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Committee. Any determination made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Optionee and the Company and their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives for all purposes.

18.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any dispute, disagreement or claim which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement or the Plan, any breach hereof or thereof, or relating to the

enforcement or arbitrability of any provision hereof or thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia by the American Arbitration Association. Judgment on the arbitrator's award shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Except as may otherwise be determined by the arbitrator(s), each party shall be solely responsible for any expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements, court costs and expert witness fees) incurred by it or on its behalf in investigating and enforcing any rights under this Agreement, and each party shall bear one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s) in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.

18.3 THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE THE OTHER PARTY IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE ARBITRATOR(S) DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD. THE ARBITRATION RULES MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION COULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BROUGHT IN COURT.

19. Legal Construction.

The legal construction and interpretation of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, issues of gender, plural or singular, governing law and severability) shall be governed by the provisions of Article 19 of the Plan.

20. Section 409A.

This Option is intended to be exempt from the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the standards, regulations or other guidance promulgated hereunder ("Section 409A"). Any action that may be taken (and, to the extent possible, any action actually taken) by the Company shall not be taken (or shall be void and without effect), if such action results in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A. Any provision in this Agreement that is determined to result in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A shall be void and without effect. In addition, any provision that is required to appear in this Agreement to conform the Option's exemption from Section 409A that is not expressly set forth herein shall be deemed to be set forth herein, and the Agreement shall be administered in all respects as if such provision were expressly set forth.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By signing below, the Optionee hereby accepts the Option subject to all its terms and provisions and agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Plan. The Optionee hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Company, or the Compensation Committee or other Committee responsible for the administration of the Plan, upon any questions arising under the Plan. The Optionee authorizes the Company to withhold, in accordance with applicable law, from any compensation payable to him or her, any taxes required to be withheld by federal, state, local or foreign law as a result of the grant, existence or exercise of the Option, or subsequent sale of the Shares.

OPTIONEE

By: _____

Name: _____

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
AMENDED AND RESTATED
2000 KEY EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

STOCK OPTION AWARD AGREEMENT
(Nonqualified Stock Option – Key Employee)

Optionee: _____

Number of Shares: _____ Shares

Option Exercise Price: \$ _____ per Share

Date of Grant: _____

Vesting Schedule: Per attached Optionee Statement referred to herein as “*Exhibit B*”

Territory: Any county and any contiguous county and any metropolitan statistical area in which any of the Company’s subsidiary banks has an office as of the date hereof.

THIS AGREEMENT (the “*Agreement*”) is entered into as of the ____ day of _____, _____, by and between **UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.**, a Georgia corporation (the “*Company*”), and the individual designated above (the “*Optionee*”).

WHEREAS, the United Community Banks, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Key Employee Stock Option Plan (the “*Plan*”) was adopted by the Company, effective March 15, 2007;

WHEREAS, the Optionee performs valuable services for the Company or a Subsidiary; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Company or the committee responsible for the administration of the Plan has determined to grant the Option to the Optionee as provided herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Grant of the Option.

1.1 Option. An option to purchase shares of the Company’s Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the “*Shares*”), is hereby granted to the Optionee (the “*Option*”).

1.2 Number of Shares. The number of Shares that the Optionee can purchase upon

exercise of the Option is set forth above.

1.3 Option Exercise Price. The price the Optionee must pay to exercise the Option (the “**Option Exercise Price**”) is set forth above. The Option Exercise Price per Share may not be less than one hundred percent (100%) of the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Date of Grant.

1.4 Date of Grant. The date that the Option is granted (the “**Date of Grant**”) is set forth above.

1.5 Type of Option. The Option is intended to be a Nonqualified Stock Option. It is not intended to qualify as an Incentive Stock Option within the meaning of Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time, or any successor provision thereto.

1.6 Construction. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance and consistent with, and subject to, the provisions of the Plan (the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference) and, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan.

1.7 Execution of Agreement. The Option is evidenced by this Agreement. If the Optionee does not execute this Agreement within thirty (30) days of receiving the Agreement, the Committee may in its discretion cancel the Option and this Agreement.

2. Duration.

The Option shall be exercisable to the extent and in the manner provided herein for a period of ten (10) years from the Date of Grant (the “**Exercise Term**”); provided, however, that the Exercise Term may end earlier as provided in Sections 5 and 13 hereof.

3. Vesting.

The Option shall vest and become exercisable in accordance with the vesting schedule specified in Exhibit B. The Optionee may exercise the Option to the extent it is vested during the Exercise Term, subject to any limitations on exercise contained in Section 7 hereof.

4. Manner of Exercise and Payment.

4.1 Delivery. To exercise the Option, the Optionee must deliver a completed copy of the Option Exercise Form, attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, to the address indicated on such Form or such other address designated by the Company from time to time. The Committee may establish a minimum number of Shares (e.g., 100) for which the Option may be exercised at a particular time. Contemporaneously with the delivery of the Option Exercise Form, the Optionee shall tender to the Company the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option by (i) cash, check, or wire transfer, (ii) delivering or properly attesting to ownership of Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for such period as may be required by the Committee) with a Fair Market Value at the

date of exercise equal to the aggregate Option Exercise Price for the Shares as to which the Optionee is exercising the Option, (iii) delivery of a proper notice electing a Net Exercise, (iv) a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, (v) such other method of payment as may be acceptable to the Committee pursuant to the Plan or (vi) any combination of the foregoing. The Company shall deliver to the Optionee certificates evidencing the Shares as to which the Option was exercised within thirty (30) days of the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company or shall make such Shares available for electronic delivery in the U.S. to an account the Optionee designates in writing within three (3) business days after the date on which the Optionee delivers the Option Exercise Form and makes payment of the aggregate Option Exercise Price to the Company, and in either case such Shares shall be free and clear of all liens, security interests, pledges or other claims or charges, except those provided in this Agreement or the Plan, or any other agreement affecting the Shares. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Optionee is a non-exempt employee for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the Optionee may not exercise any Option prior to the date that is six (6) months after the Date of Grant unless the Optionee's employment has terminated due to death, Disability, or Retirement after the Date of Grant.

4.2 No Rights as Shareholder. The Optionee shall not be deemed to be the holder of, or to have any of the rights of a holder with respect to any Shares subject to the Option until (i) the Option shall have been exercised pursuant to the terms of this Agreement and the Optionee shall have paid the full purchase price for the number of Shares in respect of which the Option was exercised, (ii) the Company shall have issued and delivered the Shares to the Optionee, and (iii) the Optionee's name shall have been entered as a shareholder of record on the books of the Company, whereupon the Optionee shall have full voting and other ownership rights with respect to such Shares, subject to divestment pursuant to Section 13.

5. Termination of Employment.

5.1 Termination of Employment for Cause. If the Optionee's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause, the outstanding Option shall expire immediately, and the Optionee's right to exercise the outstanding Option (whether vested or not vested) shall terminate immediately upon the date of the Optionee's termination of employment.

5.2 Termination of Employment Without Cause or For Good Reason.

(1) If the Optionee's employment with the Company is terminated involuntarily by the Company without Cause or is terminated by the Optionee for Good Reason (as defined in subsection (2) below), the Option shall continue to vest in accordance with the original vesting schedule set forth in this Agreement (just as if the Optionee had remained employed) and shall remain exercisable at any time prior to the expiration of the term of the Option. In the event of the Optionee's death after a termination covered by this subsection 5.2, the Option shall continue to vest and be exercisable in accordance with this subsection 5.2 as if the Optionee had lived and the Option shall be exercisable by the persons described in Section 5.4.

(2) For purposes of this Option, the Optionee shall be entitled to terminate his employment with the Company for Good Reason in the event, without the Optionee's express written consent, of any one of the following acts by the Company, or failures by the Company to act, unless, in the case of any act or failure to act described in paragraphs (i), (iii), or (iv) below, such act or failure to act is corrected prior to the Optionee's date of termination:

- (i) a material reduction in the Optionee's responsibilities at the Company; or
- (ii) the required relocation of the Optionee's employment to a location outside of the market area of the Company; or
- (iii) a material reduction in the levels of coverage of the Optionee under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or
- (iv) a substantial reduction in the Optionee's base salary, a material reduction in his incentive compensation or the taking of any action by the Company which would, directly or indirectly, materially reduce any of the benefits provided to the Optionee under any of the Company's pension, 401(k), deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, accident or disability plans in which the Optionee is participating.

The Optionee's right to terminate employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by the Optionee's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability as defined in the Plan. The Optionee's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

5.3 Termination of Employment Following a Change in Control When Eligible for Retirement. If the Optionee's employment with the Company is terminated following a Change in Control and the Optionee is eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall immediately vest and the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to the expiration of the term of the Option.

5.4 Termination of Employment Due to Death. If the Optionee dies while actively employed by the Company, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall immediately vest, and thereafter the Option shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for one (1) year after the date of death, whichever period is shorter, (i) by such person(s) who have acquired the Optionee's rights by will or the laws of descent and distribution, or (ii) if no such person in (i) exists, by the executor or representative of the Optionee's estate.

5.5 Termination of Employment by Disability. In the event the employment of the Optionee with the Company is terminated by reason of Disability (as defined in the Plan), the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall expire as of the date the employment of the Optionee is terminated by reason of Disability, and the outstanding vested portion of the Option as

of that date shall remain exercisable at any time prior to its expiration date or for one (1) year after the termination of the Optionee's employment by reason of Disability, whichever period is shorter.

5.6 Voluntary Termination of Employment or Retirement. If the Optionee voluntarily terminates his or her employment with the Company (except for Good Reason), including upon Retirement that does not follow a Change in Control, the outstanding unvested portion of the Option shall expire as of the date of termination of employment, and the vested portion of the Option as of the date of termination of employment shall remain exercisable (i) if the Optionee is not eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, at any time prior to its expiration date or for three (3) months after the date of termination of employment, whichever period is shorter, or (ii) if the Optionee is eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, at any time prior to its expiration date.

5.7 Employment by Subsidiary. For purposes of this Section 5 and Sections 8 and 13, employment with the Company includes employment with any Subsidiary and service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Company or a Subsidiary. A change of employment between the Company and any Subsidiary or between Subsidiaries or a change in the nature of the Optionee's service relationship with the Company and the Subsidiaries (e.g., from employee to Director or Director to employee) without any interruption in the Optionee's provision of services is not a termination of employment under this Agreement.

6. Nontransferability.

The Option shall not be transferable other than by will or by the laws of descent and distribution, and, during the lifetime of the Optionee, the Option shall be exercisable only by the Optionee except as provided in Section 5.4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any portion or all of the Option which is vested may be transferred, in whole or in part, without consideration, to another person or entity to the extent permitted by the Plan (a "Permitted Transferee"). Appropriate evidence of any such transfer to the Permitted Transferees shall be delivered to the Company on such forms as the Committee or Company shall prescribe and shall comply with and indicate the Optionee's (if during the lifetime of the Optionee) and the Permitted Transferee's agreement to abide by the Company's then current stock option transfer guidelines. If all or part of the Option is transferred to a Permitted Transferee, the Permitted Transferee shall remain subject to all terms and conditions applicable to such Option prior to the transfer.

7. Securities Laws Restrictions.

The Option may not be exercised at any time unless, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, the issuance and sale of the Shares issued upon such exercise is exempt from registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or any other applicable federal or state securities law, rule or regulation, or the Shares have been duly registered under such laws. The Company intends to register the Shares issuable upon the exercise of the Option; however, until the Shares have been registered under all applicable laws, the Optionee shall represent, warrant and agree, as a condition to the exercise of any Option, that the Shares are being purchased for investment only and without a view to any sale or distribution of such Shares and that such Shares shall not be transferred or

disposed of in any manner without registration under such laws, unless it is the opinion of counsel for the Company that such a disposition is exempt from such registration. The Optionee acknowledges that an appropriate legend giving notice of the foregoing restrictions may appear conspicuously on all certificates evidencing the Shares issued upon the exercise of the Option.

8. No Right to Continued Employment.

Nothing in this Agreement or the Plan shall be interpreted or construed to confer upon the Optionee any right with respect to continuance of employment by the Company, nor shall this Agreement or the Plan interfere in any way with the right of the Company to terminate the Optionee's employment at any time.

9. Adjustments; Company Transactions.

9.1 In the event of a change in capitalization, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.3 of the Plan. The adjustment shall be effective and final, binding and conclusive for all purposes of the Plan and this Agreement.

9.2 In the event of a proposed sale of all or substantially all of the assets or stock of the Company, the merger of the Company with or into another corporation such that shareholders of the Company immediately prior to the merger exchange their Shares of stock in the Company for cash and/or shares of another entity or any other Change in Control or corporate transaction to which the Committee deems this provision applicable (any such event is referred to as a "**Transaction**"), the Committee may, in its discretion, without consent of the Optionee:

(i) cause the Option to be assumed, or arrange for the substitution, in exchange for the Option, of options to purchase equity securities other than Shares (including, if appropriate, equity securities of an entity other than the Company), on such terms and conditions as the Committee determines are appropriate;

(ii) accelerate the vesting of or right to exercise the Option, in whole or in part, immediately prior to or in connection with the closing or completion of any such Transaction, and cause the expiration of the Option to the extent not vested, or not timely exercised or purchased by the date of the closing or completion of any such Transaction or other date thereafter designated by the Committee; or

(iii) cancel or arrange for the cancellation of all or any portion of the Option in exchange for a cash payment of the excess, if any, of the Fair Market Value of the Shares or portion thereof being canceled over the purchase price with respect to the Option or portion thereof being canceled (an Option whose purchase price equals or exceeds the Fair Market Value of the Shares may be canceled without any payment therefor).

10. Withholding of Taxes.

Prior to the issuance of Shares to the Optionee upon exercise of the Option, the Optionee shall pay the federal, state, and local income taxes and other amounts as may be required by law to be

withheld (the “*Withholding Taxes*”) (if any) to the Company in cash or by check or wire transfer. In satisfaction of the Withholding Taxes, the Optionee may make a written election (the “*Tax Election*”) to satisfy such withholding obligation by a broker-assisted cashless exercise transaction through a brokerage firm designated by the Optionee, by delivering Shares (that have been owned by the Optionee for such period as may be required by the Committee) or by having the Company retain from the Shares to be delivered a number of Shares having an aggregate Fair Market Value equal to the Withholding Taxes, provided that, if the Optionee may be subject to liability under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act, the election must comply with the requirements applicable to Share transactions by the Optionee, and Shares may only be used to pay the minimum required withholdings. The Company shall have the right to deduct from any amounts payable to the Optionee for salary, bonuses or otherwise an amount equal to Withholding Taxes with respect to the Option.

11. Optionee Bound by the Plan.

The Optionee hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Plan and agrees to be bound by all the terms and provisions thereof.

12. Modification of Agreement.

Except as expressly otherwise provided herein, this Agreement may not be modified, amended, suspended or terminated, and any terms or conditions may not be waived, except by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto.

13. Cancellation and Rescission of Awards; Return of Profits.

13.1 If, during his employment with the Company or at any time during the one (1) year period after the Date of Termination, the Optionee violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 13.2 below, then the Committee shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) cancel any outstanding portion of the Option (whether or not vested), and (ii) repurchase any Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option during the period six (6) months prior to and one (1) year after the Date of Termination at a per Share repurchase price equal to the Option Exercise Price, and require the Optionee to pay to the Company any gain realized by Optionee from the sale of Shares issued to the Optionee pursuant to exercise of the Option during such period.

13.2 The Optionee will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person other than the Company or a Subsidiary:

- (i) solicit any Customers for the purpose of providing services identical to or reasonably substitutable for the Company’s Business;
- (ii) solicit or induce, or in any manner attempt to solicit or induce, any Person employed by the Company to leave such employment, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company or any Subsidiary or is at will;
- (iii) engage in any Restricted Activities within the Territory or from a business

location servicing any part of the Territory;

(iv) manage any personnel engaging in any Restricted Activities within the Territory; or

(v) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company, any Subsidiary, the Company's Business or the Company's or any Subsidiary's suppliers, employees, patrons, customers, and others who may at any time have or have had relations with the Company or any Subsidiary.

The Optionee further agrees that he or she will not, except as necessary to carry out his duties as an employee of the Company, disclose or use Confidential Information. The Optionee further agrees that, upon termination or expiration of employment with the Company for any reason whatsoever or at any time, the Optionee will upon request by the Company deliver promptly to the Company all materials (including electronically-stored materials), documents, plans, records, notes, or other papers, and any copies in the Optionee's possession or control, relating in any way to the Company's Business, which at all times shall be the property of the Company.

13.3 For purposes of this Section 13, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

(i) "**Company's Business**" means the business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

(ii) "**Confidential Information**" means information, without regard to form, relating to the Company's or any Subsidiary's customers, operation, finances, and business that derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other Persons, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data (including personnel data), formulas, patterns, compilations (including compilations of customer information), programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, financial data or lists of actual or potential customers (including identifying information about customers), whether or not in writing. Confidential Information includes information disclosed to the Company or any Subsidiary by third parties that the Company or any Subsidiary is obligated to maintain as confidential. Confidential Information subject to this Agreement may include information that is not a trade secret under applicable law, but information not constituting a trade secret only shall be treated as Confidential Information under this Agreement for a two (2) year period after the Date of Termination.

(iii) "**Customers**" means all Persons that (1) the Optionee serviced or solicited on behalf of the Company or any Subsidiary, (2) whose dealings with the Company or any Subsidiary were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by the Optionee, or (3) about whom the Optionee obtained Confidential Information, in each case during the term of this Agreement or while otherwise employed by the Company.

(iv) "**Date of Termination**" means the date upon which the Optionee's employment with the Company ceases for any reason.

(v) **“Person”** means any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(vi) **“Restricted Activities”** means serving as a director, officer, executive, manager, employee or business consultant for a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

14. Severability; Scope of Restrictions.

Should any provision of this Agreement, including Section 13, be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force in accordance with their terms. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of Section 13 are overbroad or unreasonable as applied to Optionee, the parties hereto acknowledge their mutual intention and agreement that those restrictions be enforced to the fullest extent the court deems reasonable, and the Agreement shall be modified to that extent.

15. Governing Law.

The validity, interpretation, construction and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the United States and the laws of the State of Georgia without giving effect to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

16. Successors in Interest.

This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Company and its successors and assigns, and, subject to Section 9.2, upon any person acquiring, whether by merger, consolidation, reorganization, purchase of stock or assets, or otherwise, all or substantially all of the Company’s assets and business. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Optionee’s heirs and legal representatives. All obligations imposed upon the Optionee and all rights granted to the Company under this Agreement shall be final, binding and conclusive upon the Optionee’s heirs, executors, administrators and successors.

17. Entire Agreement.

This Agreement and the Plan contain the entire agreement and understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersede all prior communications, representations and negotiations in respect thereto.

18. Resolution of Disputes.

18.1 Any dispute or disagreement which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Committee. Any determination made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Optionee and the Company and their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives for all purposes.

18.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any dispute, disagreement or claim which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement or the Plan, any breach hereof or thereof, or relating to the enforcement or arbitrability of any provision hereof or thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia by the American Arbitration Association. Judgment on the arbitrator's award shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Except as may otherwise be determined by the arbitrator(s), each party shall be solely responsible for any expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements, court costs and expert witness fees) incurred by it or on its behalf in investigating and enforcing any rights under this Agreement, and each party shall bear one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s) in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.

18.3 THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE THE OTHER PARTY IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE ARBITRATOR(S) DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD. THE ARBITRATION RULES MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION COULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BROUGHT IN COURT.

19. Legal Construction.

The legal construction and interpretation of this Agreement (including, but not limited to, issues of gender, plural or singular, governing law and severability) shall be governed by the provisions of Article 19 of the Plan.

20. Section 409A.

This Option is intended to be exempt from the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the standards, regulations or other guidance promulgated hereunder ("Section 409A"). Any action that may be taken (and, to the extent possible, any action actually taken) by the Company shall not be taken (or shall be void and without effect), if such action results in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A. Any provision in this Agreement that is determined to result in the Option becoming subject to and violating the requirements of Section 409A shall be void and without effect. In addition, any provision that is required to appear in this Agreement to conform the Option's exemption from Section 409A that is not expressly set forth herein shall be deemed to be set forth herein, and the Agreement shall be administered in all respects as if such provision were expressly set forth.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By signing below, the Optionee hereby accepts the Option subject to all its terms and provisions and agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the Plan. The Optionee hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Company, or the Compensation Committee or other Committee responsible for the administration of the Plan, upon any questions arising under the Plan. The Optionee authorizes the Company to withhold, in accordance with applicable law, from any compensation payable to him or her, any taxes required to be withheld by federal, state, local or foreign law as a result of the grant, existence or exercise of the Option, or subsequent sale of the Shares.

OPTIONEE

By: _____

Name: _____

[EXHIBITS FOLLOW]

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
AMENDED AND RESTATED
2000 KEY EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AWARD AGREEMENT

Grantee: _____

Number of RSUs: _____ RSUs

Date of Grant: _____

Vesting Schedule: Per attached Grantee Statement referred to herein as "*Exhibit A*"

Territory: Any county, any contiguous county and any metropolitan statistical area in which any of the Company's subsidiary banks has an office as of the date hereof.

THIS AGREEMENT (the "*Agreement*") is entered into as of the ____ day of _____ by and between **UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.**, a Georgia corporation (the "*Company*"), and the individual designated above (the "*Grantee*").

WHEREAS, the Company maintains the United Community Banks, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Key Employee Stock Option Plan (the "*Plan*"), and the Grantee has been selected by the Committee to receive a Restricted Stock Unit Award under the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED, by and between the Company and the Grantee, as follows:

1. Award of Restricted Stock Units

1.1 The Company hereby grants to the Grantee an award of Restricted Stock Units ("*RSUs*") in the amount set forth above, subject to, and in accordance with, the restrictions, terms, and conditions set forth in this Agreement and the Plan. The grant date of this award of RSUs is set forth above (the "*Date of Grant*").

1.2 This Agreement (including any Exhibits) shall be construed in accordance and consistent with, and subject to, the provisions of the Plan (the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference) and, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan.

1.3 This Award is conditioned on the Grantee's execution of this Agreement. If this Agreement is not executed by the Grantee and returned to the Company within two days

of the Date of Grant, it may be canceled by the Committee resulting in the immediate forfeiture of all RSUs.

2. Vesting and Termination of Employment

2.1 Vesting. Subject to Sections 2.2 through 2.4 below and Section 8, if the Grantee remains employed by the Company, the RSUs shall vest in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit A. Each date on which the RSUs vest is hereinafter referred to as a "Vesting Date".

Except as otherwise provided below, on the Vesting Date, a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be issued to the Grantee free and clear of all restrictions imposed by this Agreement (except those imposed by Sections 3.3 and 8 below). The Company shall transfer such Shares to an unrestricted account in the name of the Grantee as soon as practical (and no later than thirty (30) days) after the Vesting Date. For purposes of this Agreement, employment with a Subsidiary of the Company or service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Company or a Subsidiary shall be considered employment with the Company.

2.2 Termination of Employment Due to Death or Disability. If the Grantee's employment is terminated by the Company as a result of death or Disability, the unvested RSUs shall immediately vest, and a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee or, in the event of the Grantee's death, to the Grantee's surviving spouse or, if none, to his estate.

2.3 Change In Control. If a Change in Control (as defined in the Plan) occurs and Grantee's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, and if such termination is an involuntary termination by the Company without Cause (as defined in the Plan), and does not arise as a result of Executive's death or Disability (as defined in the Plan), or a termination by Grantee for Good Reason, the unvested RSUs shall fully vest immediately upon the later of (i) the Change in Control, or (ii) the termination of Grantee's employment, and a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee in the manner provided in Section 2.1.

For purposes of this Section 2.3, a "Good Reason" for termination by Grantee of Grantee's employment shall mean the occurrence (without the Grantee's express written consent), within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, of any one of the following acts by the Company, or failures by the Company to act:

- (i) the substantial adverse change in Grantee's responsibilities at the Company from those in effect immediately prior to the date that is six (6) months prior to the date of a Change in Control (the "Measurement Date");
- (ii) the required relocation of Grantee to a location outside of the market area of the Company on the Measurement Date;

(iii) a material reduction from those in effect on the Measurement Date in the levels of coverage of Grantee under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or

(iv) after the Measurement Date, a reduction in Grantee's base salary, a reduction in his incentive compensation or the failure by the Company to continue to provide Grantee with benefits substantially similar to those enjoyed by Grantee under any of the Company's pension, deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, health and accident or disability plans in which Grantee was participating at the Measurement Date, the taking of any action by the Company which would directly or indirectly reduce any of such benefits or deprive Grantee of any material fringe benefit enjoyed by Grantee at the Measurement Date.

Grantee must give the Company notice of any event or condition that would constitute "Good Reason" within thirty (30) days of the event or condition, and upon receipt of such notice, the Company shall have thirty (30) days to remedy such event or condition. If such event or condition is not remedied within such 30-day period, any termination of employment by Grantee for "Good Reason" must occur within thirty (30) days after the period for remedying the event or condition has expired.

Grantee's right to terminate the Grantee's employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by the Grantee's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability. Grantee's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

2.4 Termination of Employment for Other Reasons. If the Grantee's employment is terminated by the Company (whether with or without Cause) other than within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, or the Grantee voluntarily terminates his or her employment (including upon Retirement) other than for "Good Reason" within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, the outstanding unvested RSUs shall immediately be forfeited as of the date of termination of employment.

2.5 Nontransferability. The RSUs may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged, or otherwise encumbered prior to the date the Grantee becomes vested in the RSUs and the Shares are issued.

2.6 Section 409A Compliance. To the extent applicable, this Agreement shall at all times be interpreted and operated in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the standards, regulations or other guidance promulgated thereunder ("**Section 409A**"). Any action that may be taken (and, to the extent possible, any action actually taken) by the Company shall not be taken (or shall be void and without effect), if such action violates the requirements of Section 409A. Any provision in this Agreement that is determined to violate the requirements of Section 409A shall be void and without effect. In addition, any provision that is required to appear in this Agreement in accordance with Section 409A that is not expressly set forth herein shall be deemed to be set forth herein, and the Agreement shall be administered in all respects as if such provision were

expressly set forth. The Company shall delay the commencement of any delivery of Shares that are payable to Grantee upon his separation from service if Grantee is a “key employee” of the Company (as determined by the Company in accordance with procedures established by the Company that are consistent with Section 409A) to the date which is immediately following the earlier of (i) six months after the date of Grantee’s separation from service or (ii) Grantee’s death, to the extent such delay is required under the provisions of Section 409A to avoid imposition of additional income and other taxes, provided that the Company and Grantee agree to take into account any exemptions available under Section 409A. For purposes of this Agreement, termination of employment shall be construed consistent with the meaning of a separation from service within the meaning of Section 409A.

3. Change in Capitalization; Deferral Rights

3.1 During the period the RSUs are not vested, the Grantee shall be credited with dividend equivalents or other distributions declared on the Share represented by the RSUs in the manner determined by the Committee. Within thirty (30) days after a Vesting Date, Grantee shall be paid in cash the dividend equivalents or other distributions with respect to the vested RSUs to which the dividend equivalents or other distributions relate.

3.2 In the event of a change in capitalization, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Plan to reflect the change in capitalization, provided that any such additional Shares or additional or different shares or securities reflected in any such adjustment shall remain subject to the restrictions in this Agreement.

3.3 The Grantee represents and warrants that he is acquiring the Shares under this Agreement for investment purposes only, and not with a view to distribution thereof. The Grantee is aware that the Shares may not be registered under the federal or any state securities laws and that in that event, in addition to the other restrictions on the Shares, they will not be able to be transferred unless an exemption from registration is available or the Shares are registered. By making this award of RSUs, the Company is not undertaking any obligation to register the RSUs under any federal or state securities laws.

3.4 To the extent the Grantee is eligible to participate in a deferred compensation plan established for such purpose, the Grantee may elect to defer delivery of the Shares that would otherwise be due by virtue of the lapse or waiver of the vesting requirements as set forth in Section 2. If such deferral election is made, the Committee shall, in its sole discretion, establish the rules and procedures for such deferrals which shall be in compliance with Section 409A.

4. No Right to Continued Employment

Nothing in this Agreement or the Plan shall be interpreted or construed to confer upon the Grantee any right with respect to continuance of employment by the Company, nor shall this Agreement or the Plan interfere in any way with the right of the Company to terminate the Grantee’s employment at any time.

5. Taxes and Withholding

The Grantee shall be responsible for all federal, state, and local income taxes payable with respect to this award of RSUs and any dividends paid on such RSUs. The Company and the Grantee agree to report the value of the RSUs in a consistent manner for federal income tax purposes. The Company shall have the right to retain and withhold from any payment of Shares (but only for the minimum required withholdings) or cash the amount of taxes required by any government to be withheld or otherwise deducted and paid with respect to such payment. At its discretion, the Company may require the Grantee to reimburse the Company for any such taxes required to be withheld and may withhold any distribution in whole or in part until the Company is so reimbursed. In lieu thereof, the Company shall have the right to withhold from any other cash amounts due to the Grantee an amount equal to such taxes required to be withheld or withhold and cancel (but only for the minimum required withholdings) (in whole or in part) a number of Shares having a market value not less than the amount of such taxes.

6. Grantee Bound By The Plan

The Grantee hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Plan and the prospectus for the Plan, and agrees to be bound by all the terms and provisions thereof.

7. Modification of Agreement; Severability

This Agreement may be modified, amended, suspended, or terminated, and any terms or conditions may be waived, but only by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto. Should any provision of this Agreement be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force in accordance with their terms.

8. Cancellation and Rescission of Award; Return of Shares

8.1 If, during his employment with the Company or at any time during the one (1) year period after the Date of Termination, the Grantee violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 8.2 below, then the Committee shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) cancel the outstanding RSUs that are not yet vested or with respect to which Shares have not yet been issued to the Grantee, and (ii) require the Grantee to return to the Company any Shares issued to the Grantee pursuant to vesting of the RSUs (or to pay to the Company the then current value of any such Shares) that occurred (or will occur) during the period six (6) months prior to and one (1) year after the Date of Termination.

8.2 The Grantee will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person other than the Company or a Subsidiary:

- (i) solicit any Customers for the purpose of providing services identical to or reasonably substitutable for the Company's Business;
- (ii) solicit or induce, or in any manner attempt to solicit or induce, any Person employed by the Company to leave such employment, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company or any Subsidiary or is at will;
- (iii) engage in any Restricted Activities within the Territory or from a business location servicing any part of the Territory;
- (iv) manage any personnel engaging in any Restricted Activities within the Territory; or
- (v) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company, any Subsidiary, the Company's Business or the Company's or any Subsidiary's suppliers, employees, patrons, customers, and others who may at any time have or have had relations with the Company or any Subsidiary.

If any term of this Section 8 shall be held to be illegal or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms shall remain in full force and effect. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of this Section 8 or the application thereof are unenforceable in whole or in part because of the time, geographic area or scope of such restriction or provision, the parties hereto agree that such court in making such determination shall have the power to modify the time, geographic area or scope of such restriction or provision to the extent necessary to make it enforceable, and that the restriction or provision in its modified form shall be valid and enforceable to the full extent permitted by law.

The Grantee further agrees that he or she will not, except as necessary to carry out his duties as an employee of the Company, disclose or use Confidential Information. The Grantee further agrees that, upon termination or expiration of employment with the Company for any reason whatsoever or at any time, the Grantee will upon request by the Company deliver promptly to the Company all materials (including electronically-stored materials), documents, plans, records, notes, or other papers, and any copies in the Grantee's possession or control, relating in any way to the Company's Business, which at all times shall be the property of the Company.

8.3 For purposes of this Section 8, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

- (i) "**Company's Business**" means the business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.
- (ii) "**Confidential Information**" means information, without regard to form, relating to the Company's or any Subsidiary's customers, operation, finances, and business that derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other Persons, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data (including personnel data), formulas, patterns, compilations (including compilations of customer

information), programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, financial data or lists of actual or potential customers (including identifying information about customers), whether or not in writing. Confidential Information includes information disclosed to the Company or any Subsidiary by third parties that the Company or any Subsidiary is obligated to maintain as confidential. Confidential Information subject to this Agreement may include information that is not a trade secret under applicable law, but information not constituting a trade secret only shall be treated as Confidential Information under this Agreement for a two (2) year period after the Date of Termination.

(iii) “**Customers**” means all Persons that (1) the Grantee serviced or solicited on behalf of the Company or any Subsidiary, (2) whose dealings with the Company or any Subsidiary were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by the Grantee, or (3) about whom the Grantee obtained Confidential Information, in each case during the term of this Agreement or while otherwise employed by the Company.

(iv) “**Date of Termination**” means the date upon which the Grantee’s employment with the Company ceases for any reason.

(v) “**Person**” means any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(vi) “**Restricted Activities**” means serving as a director, officer, executive, manager, employee or business consultant for a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

9. Governing Law

The validity, interpretation, construction, and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state of Georgia without giving effect to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

10. Successors in Interest

This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the Company and its successors and assigns, whether by merger, consolidation, reorganization, sale of assets, or otherwise. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Grantee’s legal representatives. All obligations imposed upon the Grantee and all rights granted to the Company under this Agreement shall be final, binding, and conclusive upon the Grantee’s heirs, executors, administrators, and successors.

11. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and the Plan contain the entire agreement and understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersede all prior communications, representations and negotiations in respect thereto. Wherever appropriate in

this Agreement, personal pronouns shall be deemed to include the other genders and the singular to include the plural. Wherever used in this Agreement, the term “including” means “including, without limitation.”

12. Resolution of Disputes

12.1 Any dispute or disagreement which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Committee. Any determination made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Grantee and the Company and their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives for all purposes.

12.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any dispute, disagreement or claim which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement or the Plan, any breach hereof or thereof, or relating to the enforcement or arbitrability of any provision hereof or thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia by the American Arbitration Association. Judgment on the arbitrator’s award shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Except as may otherwise be determined by the arbitrator(s), each party shall be solely responsible for any expenses (including attorneys’ fees and disbursements, court costs and expert witness fees) incurred by it or on its behalf in investigating and enforcing any rights under this Agreement, and each party shall bear one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s) in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.

12.3 THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE THE OTHER PARTY IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY’S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE ARBITRATOR(S) DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD. THE ARBITRATION RULES MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION COULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BROUGHT IN COURT.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By signing below, the Grantee hereby accepts the RSU grant subject to all its terms and provisions and agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Agreement, including Exhibit A and Section 8, and the Plan. The Grantee hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Company, or the Compensation Committee or other Committee responsible for the administration of the Plan, upon any questions arising under the Plan.

GRANTEE

By: _____

Name: _____

[EXHIBIT A FOLLOWS]

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
AMENDED AND RESTATED
2000 KEY EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AWARD AGREEMENT
(Key Employee)

Grantee: _____

Number of RSUs: _____ RSUs

Date of Grant: _____

Vesting Schedule: Per attached Grantee Statement referred to herein as "*Exhibit A*"

Territory: Any county and any contiguous county and any metropolitan statistical area in which any of the Company's subsidiary banks has an office as of the date hereof.

THIS AGREEMENT (the "*Agreement*") is entered into as of the ____ day of _____, _____, by and between **UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.**, a Georgia corporation (the "*Company*"), and the individual designated above (the "*Grantee*").

WHEREAS, the Company maintains the United Community Banks, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Key Employee Stock Option Plan (the "*Plan*"), and the Grantee has been selected by the Committee to receive a Restricted Stock Unit Award under the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED, by and between the Company and the Grantee, as follows:

1. Award of Restricted Stock Units

1.1 The Company hereby grants to the Grantee an award of Restricted Stock Units ("*RSUs*") in the amount set forth above, subject to, and in accordance with, the restrictions, terms, and conditions set forth in this Agreement and the Plan. The grant date of this award of RSUs is set forth above (the "*Date of Grant*").

1.2 This Agreement (including any Exhibits) shall be construed in accordance and consistent with, and subject to, the provisions of the Plan (the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference) and, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan.

1.3 This Award is conditioned on the Grantee's execution of this Agreement. If this Agreement is not executed by the Grantee and returned to the Company within two days of

the Date of Grant, it may be canceled by the Committee resulting in the immediate forfeiture of all RSUs.

2. Vesting and Termination of Employment

2.1 Vesting. Subject to Sections 2.2 through 2.6 below and Section 8, if the Grantee remains employed by the Company, the RSUs shall vest in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit A. Each date on which the RSUs vest is hereinafter referred to as a "Vesting Date". Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Vesting Date can be any earlier than the day immediately after the day which is twelve (12) months and thirty (30) days following the Date of Grant (the period from the Date of Grant until the day which is twelve (12) months and thirty (30) days following the Date of Grant being hereinafter referred to as the "Initial Restriction Period").

Except as otherwise provided below, on the Vesting Date, a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be issued to the Grantee free and clear of all restrictions imposed by this Agreement (except those imposed by Sections 3.3 and 8 below). The Company shall transfer such Shares to an unrestricted account in the name of the Grantee as soon as practical (and no later than thirty (30) days) after the Vesting Date. For purposes of this Agreement, employment with a Subsidiary of the Company or service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Company or a Subsidiary shall be considered employment with the Company.

2.2 Termination for Cause. If the Grantee's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause (as defined in the Plan), the unvested RSUs shall be forfeited immediately as of the date of termination of employment.

2.3 Termination of Employment Without Cause or For Good Reason.

(1) If the Grantee's employment with the Company is terminated involuntarily by the Company without Cause (as defined in the Plan) or is terminated by the Grantee for Good Reason (as defined in subsection (2) below), in either event after the expiration of the Initial Restriction Period, the unvested RSUs shall continue to vest in accordance with the original vesting schedule and shall be subject to performance criteria, if provided for, in Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed). In the event of the Grantee's death after a termination covered by this Section 2.3, the unvested RSUs shall continue to vest as if the Grantee had lived and upon vesting, a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee's surviving spouse or, if none, to his estate.

(2) For purposes of this Agreement, the Grantee shall be entitled to terminate his or her employment with the Company for Good Reason in the event of, without the Grantee's express written consent, any one of the acts by the Company set forth below, after the expiration of the Initial Restriction Period, and satisfaction of the following conditions: (a) Grantee provides notice to Company of such Good Reason condition within 90 days of his learning of its initial existence; (b) Company is given 30 days to remedy the Good Reason condition and fails to do so; and (c) Grantee terminates employment within 6 months of his learning of the initial existence of the Good Reason condition. The Good Reason conditions are:

- (i) a material reduction in the Grantee's responsibilities at the Company; or
- (ii) the required relocation of the Grantee's employment to a location outside of the market area of the Company; or
- (iii) a material reduction in the levels of coverage of the Grantee under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or
- (iv) a substantial reduction in the Grantee's base salary, a material reduction in his incentive compensation or the taking of any action by the Company which would, directly or indirectly, materially reduce any of the benefits provided to the Grantee under any of the Company's pension, 401(k), deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, accident or disability plans in which the Grantee is participating.

The Grantee's right to terminate employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by the Grantee's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability as defined in the Plan. The Grantee's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

2.4 Termination of Employment Following a Change in Control When Eligible for Retirement. Subject to Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed) and without regard to any performance criteria provided for therein, if the Grantee's employment with the Company is terminated by the Company after the expiration of the Initial Restriction Period and within two years following the date of a Change in Control and the Grantee is eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, the outstanding unvested portion of the RSUs shall continue to vest in accordance with the original vesting schedule set forth in Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed) (but disregarding any performance criteria, if provided for, on Exhibit A attached hereto). In the event of the Grantee's death after a termination covered by this Section 2.4, the unvested RSUs shall continue to vest as if the Grantee had lived and upon vesting, a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee's surviving spouse or, if none, to his estate.

2.5 Termination of Employment Due to Retirement (other than under Section 2.4), Death or Disability. Subject to Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed), if the Grantee's employment is terminated by the Company as a result of Retirement (excluding as provided for within Section 2.4), death, or Disability (and in case of Retirement after the expiration of the Initial Restriction Period), the unvested portion of the grant for the current year, if any, and the unvested portion of the grant for the subsequent year following termination, shall remain outstanding and payable upon attainment of the original vest date(s), and shall be subject to performance criteria, if provided for, on Exhibit A attached hereto. All remaining unvested RSUs shall be immediately forfeited. In the event Grantee's employment is terminated as a

result of death, the number of outstanding RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee's surviving spouse or, if none, to his estate upon attainment of the original vest date(s), and subject to performance criteria, if provided for, on Exhibit A attached hereto.

2.6 Termination of Employment for Other Reasons (other than Retirement under Sections 2.4 or 2.5). If the Grantee voluntarily terminates his or her employment (except for Good Reason or upon Retirement under Sections 2.4 or 2.5), the outstanding unvested RSUs shall immediately be forfeited as of the date of termination of employment.

2.7 Nontransferability. The RSUs may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged, or otherwise encumbered prior to the date the Grantee becomes vested in the RSUs and the Shares are issued.

2.8 Section 409A Compliance. To the extent applicable, this Agreement shall at all times be interpreted and operated in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the standards, regulations or other guidance promulgated thereunder ("**Section 409A**"). Any action that may be taken (and, to the extent possible, any action actually taken) by the Company shall not be taken (or shall be void and without effect), if such action violates the requirements of Section 409A. Any provision in this Agreement that is determined to violate the requirements of Section 409A shall be void and without effect. In addition, any provision that is required to appear in this Agreement in accordance with Section 409A that is not expressly set forth herein shall be deemed to be set forth herein, and the Agreement shall be administered in all respects as if such provision were expressly set forth. The Company shall delay the commencement of any delivery of Shares that are payable to Grantee upon his separation from service if Grantee is a "key employee" of the Company (as determined by the Company in accordance with procedures established by the Company that are consistent with Section 409A) to the date which is immediately following the earlier of (i) six months after the date of Grantee's separation from service or (ii) Grantee's death, to the extent such delay is required under the provisions of Section 409A to avoid imposition of additional income and other taxes, provided that the Company and Grantee agree to take into account any exemptions available under Section 409A. For purposes of this Agreement, termination of employment shall be construed consistent with the meaning of a separation from service within the meaning of Section 409A.

3. Change in Capitalization; Deferral Rights

3.1 During the period the RSUs are not vested, the Grantee shall be credited with dividend equivalents or other distributions declared on the Shares represented by the RSUs in the manner determined by the Committee. Within thirty (30) days after a Vesting Date and subject to Exhibit A, Grantee shall be paid in cash the dividend equivalents or other distributions with respect to the vested RSUs to which the dividend equivalents or other distributions relate.

3.2 In the event of a change in capitalization, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Plan to reflect the change in capitalization, provided that any such additional Shares or additional or different shares or securities reflected in any such adjustment shall remain subject to the restrictions in this

Agreement.

3.3 The Grantee represents and warrants that he is acquiring the Shares under this Agreement for investment purposes only, and not with a view to distribution thereof. The Grantee is aware that the Shares may not be registered under the federal or any state securities laws and that in that event, in addition to the other restrictions on the Shares, they will not be able to be transferred unless an exemption from registration is available or the Shares are registered. By making this award of RSUs, the Company is not undertaking any obligation to register the RSUs under any federal or state securities laws.

3.4 To the extent the Grantee is eligible to participate in a deferred compensation plan established for such purpose, the Grantee may elect to defer delivery of the Shares that would otherwise be due by virtue of the lapse or waiver of the vesting requirements as set forth in Section 2. If such deferral election is made, the Committee shall, in its sole discretion, establish the rules and procedures for such deferrals which shall be in compliance with Section 409A.

4. No Right to Continued Employment

Nothing in this Agreement or the Plan shall be interpreted or construed to confer upon the Grantee any right with respect to continuance of employment by the Company, nor shall this Agreement or the Plan interfere in any way with the right of the Company to terminate the Grantee's employment at any time.

5. Taxes and Withholding

The Grantee shall be responsible for all federal, state, and local income taxes payable with respect to this award of RSUs and any dividends paid on such RSUs. The Company and the Grantee agree to report the value of the RSUs in a consistent manner for federal income tax purposes. The Company shall have the right to retain and withhold from any payment of Shares (but only for the minimum required withholdings) or cash the amount of taxes required by any government to be withheld or otherwise deducted and paid with respect to such payment. At its discretion, the Company may require the Grantee to reimburse the Company for any such taxes required to be withheld and may withhold any distribution in whole or in part until the Company is so reimbursed. In lieu thereof, the Company shall have the right to withhold from any other cash amounts due to the Grantee an amount equal to such taxes required to be withheld or withhold and cancel (but only for the minimum required withholdings) (in whole or in part) a number of Shares having a market value not less than the amount of such taxes.

6. The Grantee Bound By The Plan

The Grantee hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Plan and the prospectus for the Plan, and agrees to be bound by all the terms and provisions thereof.

7. Modification of Agreement; Severability

This Agreement may be modified, amended, suspended, or terminated, and any terms or conditions may be waived, but only by a written instrument executed by the parties hereto. Should any provision of this Agreement be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force in accordance with their terms.

8. Cancellation and Rescission of Award; Return of Shares

8.1 If, during his employment with the Company or at any time during the one (1) year period after the Date of Termination, the Grantee violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 8.2 below, then the Committee shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) cancel the outstanding RSUs that are not yet vested or with respect to which Shares have not yet been issued to the Grantee, and (ii) require the Grantee to return to the Company any Shares issued to the Grantee pursuant to vesting of the RSUs (or to pay to the Company the then current value of such Shares) that occurred (or will occur) during the period six (6) months prior to and one (1) year after the Date of Termination.

8.2 The Grantee will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person other than the Company or a Subsidiary:

Business; (i) solicit any Customers for the purpose of providing services identical to or reasonably substitutable for the Company's

(ii) solicit or induce, or in any manner attempt to solicit or induce, any Person employed by the Company to leave such employment, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company or any Subsidiary or is at will;

(iii) engage in any Restricted Activities within the Territory or from a business location servicing any part of the Territory;

(iv) manage any personnel engaging in any Restricted Activities within the Territory; or

(v) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company, any Subsidiary, the Company's Business or the Company's or any Subsidiary's suppliers, employees, patrons, customers, and others who may at any time have or have had relations with the Company or any Subsidiary.

If any term of this Section 8 shall be held to be illegal or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms shall remain in full force and effect. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of this Section 8 or the application thereof are unenforceable in whole or in part because of the time, geographic area or scope of such restriction or provision, the parties hereto agree that such court in making such determination shall have the power to modify the time, geographic area or scope of such

restriction or provision to the extent necessary to make it enforceable, and that the restriction or provision in its modified form shall be valid and enforceable to the full extent permitted by law.

The Grantee further agrees that he or she will not, except as necessary to carry out his duties as an employee of the Company, disclose or use Confidential Information. The Grantee further agrees that, upon termination or expiration of employment with the Company for any reason whatsoever or at any time, the Grantee will upon request by the Company deliver promptly to the Company all materials (including electronically-stored materials), documents, plans, records, notes, or other papers, and any copies in the Grantee's possession or control, relating in any way to the Company's Business, which at all times shall be the property of the Company.

8.3 For purposes of this Section 8, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

(i) **"Company's Business"** means the business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

(ii) **"Confidential Information"** means information, without regard to form, relating to the Company's or any Subsidiary's customers, operation, finances, and business that derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other Persons, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data (including personnel data), formulas, patterns, compilations (including compilations of customer information), programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, financial data or lists of actual or potential customers (including identifying information about customers), whether or not in writing. Confidential Information includes information disclosed to the Company or any Subsidiary by third parties that the Company or any Subsidiary is obligated to maintain as confidential. Confidential Information subject to this Agreement may include information that is not a trade secret under applicable law, but information not constituting a trade secret only shall be treated as Confidential Information under this Agreement for a two (2) year period after the Date of Termination.

(iii) **"Customers"** means all Persons that (1) the Grantee serviced or solicited on behalf of the Company or any Subsidiary, (2) whose dealings with the Company or any Subsidiary were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by the Grantee, or (3) about whom the Grantee obtained Confidential Information, in each case during the term of this Agreement or while otherwise employed by the Company.

(iv) **"Date of Termination"** means the date upon which the Grantee's employment with the Company ceases for any reason.

(v) **"Person"** means any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(vi) **"Restricted Activities"** means serving as a director, officer,

executive, manager, employee or business consultant for a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

9. Governing Law

The validity, interpretation, construction, and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state of Georgia without giving effect to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

10. Successors in Interest

This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the Company and its successors and assigns, whether by merger, consolidation, reorganization, sale of assets, or otherwise. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Grantee's legal representatives. All obligations imposed upon the Grantee and all rights granted to the Company under this Agreement shall be final, binding, and conclusive upon the Grantee's heirs, executors, administrators, and successors.

11. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and the Plan contain the entire agreement and understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersede all prior communications, representations and negotiations in respect thereto. Wherever appropriate in this Agreement, personal pronouns shall be deemed to include the other genders and the singular to include the plural. Wherever used in this Agreement, the term "including" means "including, without limitation."

12. Resolution of Disputes

12.1 Any dispute or disagreement which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Committee. Any determination made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Grantee and the Company and their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives for all purposes.

12.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any dispute, disagreement or claim which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement or the Plan, any breach hereof or thereof, or relating to the enforcement or arbitrability of any provision hereof or thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia by the American Arbitration Association. Judgment on the arbitrator's award shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Except as may otherwise be determined by the arbitrator(s), each party shall be solely responsible for any expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements, court costs and expert witness fees) incurred by it or on its behalf in investigating and enforcing any rights under this Agreement, and each party shall bear one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s) in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.

12.3 THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE THE OTHER PARTY IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE ARBITRATOR(S) DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD. THE ARBITRATION RULES MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION COULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BROUGHT IN COURT.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By signing below, the Grantee hereby accepts the RSU grant subject to all its terms and provisions and agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Agreement, including Exhibit A and Section 8, and the Plan. The Grantee hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Company, or the Compensation Committee or other Committee responsible for the administration of the Plan, upon any questions arising under the Plan.

GRANTEE

By: _____

Name: _____

[EXHIBIT A FOLLOWS]

**UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
 AMENDED AND RESTATED
 2000 KEY EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN**

**RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT AWARD AGREEMENT
 (Key Employee – Retirement Eligible)**

Grantee: _____

Number of RSUs: _____ RSUs

Date of Grant: _____

Vesting Schedule: Per attached Grantee Statement referred to herein as “*Exhibit A*”

Territory: Any county and any contiguous county and any metropolitan statistical area in which any of the Company’s subsidiary banks has an office as of the date hereof.

THIS AGREEMENT (the “*Agreement*”) is entered into as of the ____ day of _____, _____, by and between **UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.**, a Georgia corporation (the “*Company*”), and the individual designated above (the “*Grantee*”).

WHEREAS, the Company maintains the United Community Banks, Inc. Amended and Restated 2000 Key Employee Stock Option Plan (the “*Plan*”), and the Grantee has been selected by the Committee to receive a Restricted Stock Unit Award under the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED, by and between the Company and the Grantee, as follows:

1. Award of Restricted Stock Units

1.1 The Company hereby grants to the Grantee an award of Restricted Stock Units (“*RSUs*”) in the amount set forth above, subject to, and in accordance with, the restrictions, terms, and conditions set forth in this Agreement and the Plan. The grant date of this award of RSUs is set forth above (the “*Date of Grant*”).

1.2 This Agreement (including any Exhibits) shall be construed in accordance and consistent with, and subject to, the provisions of the Plan (the provisions of which are incorporated herein by reference) and, except as otherwise expressly set forth herein, the capitalized terms used in this Agreement shall have the same definitions as set forth in the Plan.

1.3 This Award is conditioned on the Grantee’s execution of this Agreement. If this Agreement is not executed by the Grantee and returned to the Company within two days of

the Date of Grant, it may be canceled by the Committee resulting in the immediate forfeiture of all RSUs.

2. Vesting and Termination of Employment

2.1 Vesting. Subject to Sections 2.2 through 2.6 below and Section 8, if the Grantee remains employed by the Company, the RSUs shall vest in accordance with the provisions of Exhibit A. Each date on which the RSUs vest is hereinafter referred to as a "Vesting Date". Notwithstanding the foregoing, no Vesting Date can be any earlier than the day immediately after the day which is twelve (12) months and thirty (30) days following the Date of Grant (the period from the Date of Grant until the day which is twelve (12) months and thirty (30) days following the Date of Grant being hereinafter referred to as the "Initial Restriction Period").

Except as otherwise provided below, on the Vesting Date, a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be issued to the Grantee free and clear of all restrictions imposed by this Agreement (except those imposed by Sections 3.3 and 8 below). The Company shall transfer such Shares to an unrestricted account in the name of the Grantee as soon as practical (and no later than thirty (30) days) after the Vesting Date. For purposes of this Agreement, employment with a Subsidiary of the Company or service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Company or a Subsidiary shall be considered employment with the Company.

2.2 Termination for Cause. If the Grantee's employment is terminated by the Company for Cause (as defined in the Plan), the unvested RSUs shall be forfeited immediately as of the date of termination of employment.

2.3 Termination of Employment Without Cause or For Good Reason.

(1) If the Grantee's employment with the Company is terminated involuntarily by the Company without Cause (as defined in the Plan) or is terminated by the Grantee for Good Reason (as defined in subsection (2) below), in either event after the expiration of the Initial Restriction Period, the unvested RSUs shall continue to vest in accordance with the original vesting schedule and shall be subject to performance criteria, if provided for, in Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed). In the event of the Grantee's death after a termination covered by this Section 2.3, the unvested RSUs shall continue to vest as if the Grantee had lived and upon vesting, a number of Shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee's surviving spouse or, if none, to his estate.

(2) For purposes of this Agreement, the Grantee shall be entitled to terminate his or her employment with the Company for Good Reason in the event of, without the Grantee's express written consent, any one of the acts by the Company set forth below, after the expiration of the Initial Restriction Period, and satisfaction of the following conditions: (a) Grantee provides notice to Company of such Good Reason condition within 90 days of his learning of its initial existence; (b) Company is given 30 days to remedy the Good Reason condition and fails to do so; and (c) Grantee terminates employment within 6 months of his learning of the initial existence of the Good Reason condition. The Good Reason conditions are:

- (i) a material reduction in the Grantee's responsibilities at the Company; or
- (ii) the required relocation of the Grantee's employment to a location outside of the market area of the Company; or
- (iii) a material reduction in the levels of coverage of the Grantee under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or
- (iv) a substantial reduction in the Grantee's base salary, a material reduction in his incentive compensation or the taking of any action by the Company which would, directly or indirectly, materially reduce any of the benefits provided to the Grantee under any of the Company's pension, 401(k), deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, accident or disability plans in which the Grantee is participating.

The Grantee's right to terminate employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by the Grantee's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability as defined in the Plan. The Grantee's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

2.4 Termination of Employment Following a Change in Control When Eligible for Retirement. Subject to Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed) and without regard to any performance criteria provided for therein, if the Grantee's employment with the Company is terminated by the Company after the expiration of the Initial Restriction Period and within two years following the date of a Change in Control and the Grantee is eligible for Retirement as of the date of such termination, the outstanding unvested portion of the RSUs shall continue to vest in accordance with the original vesting schedule set forth in Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed) (but disregarding any performance criteria, if provided for, on Exhibit A attached hereto). In the event of the Grantee's death after a termination covered by this Section 2.4, the unvested RSUs shall continue to vest as if the Grantee had lived and upon vesting, a number of shares equal to the number of vested RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee's surviving spouse or, if none, to his estate.

2.5 Termination of Employment Due to Death or Disability. Subject to Exhibit A (just as if the Grantee had remained employed), if the Grantee's employment is terminated by the Company as a result of the Grantee's death or Disability, the unvested portion of the grant for the current year, if any, and the unvested portion of the grant for the subsequent year following termination, shall remain outstanding and payable upon attainment of the original vest date(s), and shall be subject to performance criteria, if provided for, on Exhibit A attached hereto. All remaining unvested RSUs shall be immediately forfeited. In the event of death, the number of outstanding RSUs shall be transferred to the Grantee's surviving spouse or, if none, to his estate upon attainment of the original vest date(s), and subject to performance criteria, if

provided for, on Exhibit A attached hereto.

2.6 Termination of Employment for Other Reasons, Including Retirement (other than under Section 2.4). If the Grantee voluntarily terminates his or her employment for other reasons including Retirement (except for Good Reason or Retirement under Section 2.4), the outstanding unvested RSUs shall immediately be forfeited as of the date of termination of employment.

2.7 Nontransferability. The RSUs may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged, or otherwise encumbered prior to the date the Grantee becomes vested in the RSUs and the Shares are issued.

2.8 Section 409A Compliance. To the extent applicable, this Agreement shall at all times be interpreted and operated in compliance with the requirements of Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended and the standards, regulations or other guidance promulgated thereunder ("**Section 409A**"). Any action that may be taken (and, to the extent possible, any action actually taken) by the Company shall not be taken (or shall be void and without effect), if such action violates the requirements of Section 409A. Any provision in this Agreement that is determined to violate the requirements of Section 409A shall be void and without effect. In addition, any provision that is required to appear in this Agreement in accordance with Section 409A that is not expressly set forth herein shall be deemed to be set forth herein, and the Agreement shall be administered in all respects as if such provision were expressly set forth. The Company shall delay the commencement of any delivery of Shares that are payable to Grantee upon his separation from service if Grantee is a "key employee" of the Company (as determined by the Company in accordance with procedures established by the Company that are consistent with Section 409A) to the date which is immediately following the earlier of (i) six months after the date of Grantee's separation from service or (ii) Grantee's death, to the extent such delay is required under the provisions of Section 409A to avoid imposition of additional income and other taxes, provided that the Company and Grantee agree to take into account any exemptions available under Section 409A. For purposes of this Agreement, termination of employment shall be construed consistent with the meaning of a separation from service within the meaning of Section 409A.

3. Change in Capitalization; Deferral Rights

3.1 During the period the RSUs are not vested, the Grantee shall be credited with dividend equivalents or other distributions declared on the Shares represented by the RSUs in the manner determined by the Committee. Within thirty (30) days after a Vesting Date and subject to Exhibit A, Grantee shall be paid in cash the dividend equivalents or other distributions with respect to the vested RSUs to which the dividend equivalents or other distributions relate.

3.2 In the event of a change in capitalization, the Committee shall make appropriate adjustments in accordance with Section 4.3 of the Plan to reflect the change in capitalization, provided that any such additional Shares or additional or different shares or securities reflected in any such adjustment shall remain subject to the restrictions in this Agreement.

3.3 The Grantee represents and warrants that he is acquiring the Shares under this Agreement for investment purposes only, and not with a view to distribution thereof. The Grantee is aware that the Shares may not be registered under the federal or any state securities laws and that in that event, in addition to the other restrictions on the Shares, they will not be able to be transferred unless an exemption from registration is available or the Shares are registered. By making this award of RSUs, the Company is not undertaking any obligation to register the RSUs under any federal or state securities laws.

3.4 To the extent the Grantee is eligible to participate in a deferred compensation plan established for such purpose, the Grantee may elect to defer delivery of the Shares that would otherwise be due by virtue of the lapse or waiver of the vesting requirements as set forth in Section 2. If such deferral election is made, the Committee shall, in its sole discretion, establish the rules and procedures for such deferrals which shall be in compliance with Section 409A.

4. No Right to Continued Employment

Nothing in this Agreement or the Plan shall be interpreted or construed to confer upon the Grantee any right with respect to continuance of employment by the Company, nor shall this Agreement or the Plan interfere in any way with the right of the Company to terminate the Grantee's employment at any time.

5. Taxes and Withholding

The Grantee shall be responsible for all federal, state, and local income taxes payable with respect to this award of RSUs and any dividends paid on such RSUs. The Company and the Grantee agree to report the value of the RSUs in a consistent manner for federal income tax purposes. The Company shall have the right to retain and withhold from any payment of Shares (but only for the minimum required withholdings) or cash the amount of taxes required by any government to be withheld or otherwise deducted and paid with respect to such payment. At its discretion, the Company may require the Grantee to reimburse the Company for any such taxes required to be withheld and may withhold any distribution in whole or in part until the Company is so reimbursed. In lieu thereof, the Company shall have the right to withhold from any other cash amounts due to the Grantee an amount equal to such taxes required to be withheld or withhold and cancel (but only for the minimum required withholdings) (in whole or in part) a number of Shares having a market value not less than the amount of such taxes.

6. The Grantee Bound By The Plan

The Grantee hereby acknowledges receipt of a copy of the Plan and the prospectus for the Plan, and agrees to be bound by all the terms and provisions thereof.

7. Modification of Agreement; Severability

This Agreement may be modified, amended, suspended, or terminated, and any terms or conditions may be waived, but only by a written instrument executed by the parties

hereto. Should any provision of this Agreement be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force in accordance with their terms.

8. Cancellation and Rescission of Award; Return of Shares

8.1 If, during his employment with the Company or at any time during the one (1) year period after the Date of Termination, the Grantee violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 8.2 below, then the Committee shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) cancel the outstanding RSUs that are not yet vested or with respect to which Shares have not yet been issued to the Grantee, and (ii) require the Grantee to return to the Company any Shares issued to the Grantee pursuant to vesting of the RSUs (or to pay to the Company the then current value of such Shares) that occurred (or will occur) during the period six (6) months prior to and one (1) year after the Date of Termination.

8.2 The Grantee will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person other than the Company or a Subsidiary:

(i) solicit any Customers for the purpose of providing services identical to or reasonably substitutable for the Company's Business;

(ii) solicit or induce, or in any manner attempt to solicit or induce, any Person employed by the Company to leave such employment, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company or any Subsidiary or is at will;

(iii) engage in any Restricted Activities within the Territory or from a business location servicing any part of the Territory;

(iv) manage any personnel engaging in any Restricted Activities within the Territory; or

(v) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company, any Subsidiary, the Company's Business or the Company's or any Subsidiary's suppliers, employees, patrons, customers, and others who may at any time have or have had relations with the Company or any Subsidiary.

If any term of this Section 8 shall be held to be illegal or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms shall remain in full force and effect. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of this Section 8 or the application thereof are unenforceable in whole or in part because of the time, geographic area or scope of such restriction or provision, the parties hereto agree that such court in making such determination shall have the power to modify the time, geographic area or scope of such restriction or provision to the extent necessary to make it enforceable, and that the restriction or provision in its modified form shall be valid and enforceable to the full extent permitted by law.

The Grantee further agrees that he or she will not, except as necessary to carry out his duties as an employee of the Company, disclose or use Confidential Information. The Grantee further agrees that, upon termination or expiration of employment with the Company for any reason whatsoever or at any time, the Grantee will upon request by the Company deliver promptly to the Company all materials (including electronically-stored materials), documents, plans, records, notes, or other papers, and any copies in the Grantee's possession or control, relating in any way to the Company's Business, which at all times shall be the property of the Company.

8.3 For purposes of this Section 8, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

(i) **"Company's Business"** means the business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

(ii) **"Confidential Information"** means information, without regard to form, relating to the Company's or any Subsidiary's customers, operation, finances, and business that derives economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other Persons, including, but not limited to, technical or non-technical data (including personnel data), formulas, patterns, compilations (including compilations of customer information), programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, financial data or lists of actual or potential customers (including identifying information about customers), whether or not in writing. Confidential Information includes information disclosed to the Company or any Subsidiary by third parties that the Company or any Subsidiary is obligated to maintain as confidential. Confidential Information subject to this Agreement may include information that is not a trade secret under applicable law, but information not constituting a trade secret only shall be treated as Confidential Information under this Agreement for a two (2) year period after the Date of Termination.

(iii) **"Customers"** means all Persons that (1) the Grantee serviced or solicited on behalf of the Company or any Subsidiary, (2) whose dealings with the Company or any Subsidiary were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by the Grantee, or (3) about whom the Grantee obtained Confidential Information, in each case during the term of this Agreement or while otherwise employed by the Company.

(iv) **"Date of Termination"** means the date upon which the Grantee's employment with the Company ceases for any reason.

(v) **"Person"** means any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

(vi) **"Restricted Activities"** means serving as a director, officer, executive, manager, employee or business consultant for a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

9. Governing Law

The validity, interpretation, construction, and performance of this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state of Georgia without giving effect to the conflicts of laws principles thereof.

10. Successors in Interest

This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the Company and its successors and assigns, whether by merger, consolidation, reorganization, sale of assets, or otherwise. This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of the Grantee's legal representatives. All obligations imposed upon the Grantee and all rights granted to the Company under this Agreement shall be final, binding, and conclusive upon the Grantee's heirs, executors, administrators, and successors.

11. Entire Agreement

This Agreement and the Plan contain the entire agreement and understanding of the parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein and supersede all prior communications, representations and negotiations in respect thereto. Wherever appropriate in this Agreement, personal pronouns shall be deemed to include the other genders and the singular to include the plural. Wherever used in this Agreement, the term "including" means "including, without limitation."

12. Resolution of Disputes

12.1 Any dispute or disagreement which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement and the Plan shall be determined by the Committee. Any determination made by the Committee shall be final, binding and conclusive on the Grantee and the Company and their successors, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators and legal representatives for all purposes.

12.2 To the extent permitted by applicable law, any dispute, disagreement or claim which may arise under, or as a result of, or in any way relate to, the interpretation, construction or application of this Agreement or the Plan, any breach hereof or thereof, or relating to the enforcement or arbitrability of any provision hereof or thereof, shall be settled by binding arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia by the American Arbitration Association. Judgment on the arbitrator's award shall be final and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Except as may otherwise be determined by the arbitrator(s), each party shall be solely responsible for any expenses (including attorneys' fees and disbursements, court costs and expert witness fees) incurred by it or on its behalf in investigating and enforcing any rights under this Agreement, and each party shall bear one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s) in connection with any arbitration or other proceeding.

12.3 THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS AN ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES AGREE THAT EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE THE OTHER PARTY IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS. THE ARBITRATOR(S) DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD. THE ARBITRATION RULES MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION COULD HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BROUGHT IN COURT.

[EXECUTION PAGE FOLLOWS]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the date first above written.

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By signing below, the Grantee hereby accepts the RSU grant subject to all its terms and provisions and agrees to be bound by the terms and provisions of this Agreement, including Exhibit A and Section 8, and the Plan. The Grantee hereby agrees to accept as binding, conclusive and final all decisions or interpretations of the Board of Directors of the Company, or the Compensation Committee or other Committee responsible for the administration of the Plan, upon any questions arising under the Plan.

GRANTEE

By: _____

Name: _____

[EXHIBIT A FOLLOWS]

**UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.
CHANGE IN CONTROL SEVERANCE AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT (this "**Agreement**"), is made and entered into as of this _____ day of _____ 20__, by and between **UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.**, a Georgia corporation (the "**Company**"), and _____ ("**Executive**").

WHEREAS, Executive is a key employee of the Company and an integral part of the Company's management;

WHEREAS, the Company desires to assure both itself and its key employees of continuity of management and objective judgment in the event of any Change in Control of the Company, and to induce its key employees to remain employed by the Company; and

WHEREAS, the Company desires to provide certain compensation and benefits to Executive in the event of the termination of his employment under certain circumstances;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. **TERM OF AGREEMENT.** This Agreement shall commence on the date hereof and shall terminate on the later of (i) Executive's termination of employment without entitlement to any benefits hereunder and (ii) six (6) months after Executive's termination of employment if there has been no Change in Control by that time; provided, however, this Agreement may be terminated by mutual written agreement of Executive and the Company. This Agreement shall not be considered an employment agreement and in no way guarantees Executive the right to continue in the employment of the Company. Executive's employment is considered employment at will, subject to Executive's right to receive payments and benefits upon certain terminations of employment as provided below.

2. **DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

2.1 "**Affiliate.**" Any entity that is part of a controlled group of corporations or is under common control with the Company within the meaning of Sections 1563(a), 414(b) or 414(c) of the Code, except that, in making any such determination, fifty percent (50%) shall be substituted for eighty percent (80%) under such Code sections.

2.2 "**Base Salary.**" Executive's annual salary in effect on his Date of Termination or, if greater, Executive's highest rate of annual salary in effect during the six (6) month period prior to his Date of Termination.

2.3 "**Board**" or "**Board of Directors.**" The Board of Directors of the Company, or its successor.

2.4 "**Cause.**" The involuntary termination of Executive by the Company for the following reasons shall constitute a termination for Cause:

(a) If termination shall have been the result of an act or acts by Executive which have been found in an applicable court of law to constitute a felony (other than traffic-related offenses);

(b) If termination shall have been the result of an act or acts by Executive which are in the good faith judgment of the Board determined to be in violation of law or of policies of the

Company and which result in demonstrably material injury to the Company;

(c) If termination shall have been the result of an act or acts of proven or unadmitted dishonesty by Executive resulting or intended to result directly or indirectly in significant gain or personal enrichment to Executive at the expense of the Company; or

(d) Upon the willful and continued failure by Executive substantially to perform his duties with the Company (other than any such failure resulting from incapacity due to mental or physical illness whether or not constituting a Disability) for a period of thirty (30) days after a demand in writing for substantial performance is delivered by the Board or President, which demand specifically identifies the manner in which the Board or President believes that Executive has not substantially performed his duties, and such failure results in demonstrably material injury to the Company.

With respect to clauses (b), (c) or (d) above of this Section 2.4, Executive shall not be deemed to have been involuntarily terminated for Cause unless and until there shall have been delivered to him a copy of a resolution duly adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than three-quarters (3/4) of the entire membership of the Board at a meeting of the Board, finding that, in the good faith opinion of the Board, Executive was guilty of conduct set forth above in clauses (b), (c) or (d) and specifying the particulars thereof in detail. For purposes of this Agreement, no act or failure to act by Executive shall be deemed to be "willful" unless done or omitted to be done by Executive not in good faith and without reasonable belief that Executive's action or omission was in the best interests of the Company.

2.5 "Change in Control." A Change in Control of the Company means any one of the following events:

(a) The acquisition (other than from the Company) during the twelve (12) month period ending on the date of the most recent acquisition by any Person of Beneficial Ownership of thirty percent (30%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding voting securities; provided, however, that for purposes of this definition, Person shall not include any person who as of the date hereof owned ten percent (10%) or more of the Company's outstanding securities, and a Change in Control shall not be deemed to occur solely because thirty percent (30%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding securities is acquired by (i) a trustee or other fiduciary holding securities under one (1) or more employee benefit plans maintained by the Company or any of its subsidiaries, or (ii) any corporation, which, immediately prior to such acquisition, is owned directly or indirectly by the shareholders of the Company in the same proportion as their ownership of stock in the Company immediately prior to such acquisition.

(b) Approval by shareholders of the Company of (1) a merger or consolidation involving the Company if the shareholders of the Company, immediately before such merger or consolidation do not, as a result of such merger or consolidation, own, directly or indirectly, more than fifty percent (50%) of the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities of the corporation resulting from such merger or consolidation in substantially the same proportion as their ownership of the combined voting power of the voting securities of the Company outstanding immediately before such merger or consolidation (and provided no person acquires Beneficial Ownership of the Company's then outstanding voting securities as described in (a) above), or (2) a complete liquidation or dissolution of the Company or an agreement for the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company.

(c) A change in the composition of the Board during any twelve (12) month period such that the individuals who, as of the date hereof, constitute the Board (such Board shall be hereinafter referred to as the "**Incumbent Board**") cease for any reason to constitute at least a majority of the Board;

provided, however, for purposes of this definition that any individual who becomes a member of the Board subsequent to the date hereof whose election, or nomination for election by the Company's shareholders, was approved by a vote of at least a majority of those individuals who are members of the Board and who were also members of the Incumbent Board (or deemed to be such pursuant to this proviso) shall be considered as though such individual were a member of the Incumbent Board; but, provided, further, that any such individual whose initial assumption of office occurs as a result of either an actual or threatened election contest (as such terms are used in Rule 14a-11 of Regulation 14A promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including any successor to such Rule), or other actual or threatened solicitation of proxies or consents by or on behalf of a Person other than the Board, shall not be so considered as a member of the Incumbent Board.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Change in Control shall only be deemed to have occurred if the Change in Control otherwise constitutes a change in the ownership or effective control of the Company, or a change in the ownership of a substantial portion of the assets of the Company, within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code and the regulations and rulings thereunder ("**Section 409A**").

2.6 "**CIC Severance Period.**" A period equal to thirty-six (36) months following (i) the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control or (ii) Executive's Date of Termination if Executive's employment is terminated on or within eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control.

2.7 "**Code.**" The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as it may be amended from time to time.

2.8 "**Company.**" United Community Banks, Inc., a Georgia corporation, or any successor to its business and/or assets, and all of its and their respective Affiliates.

2.9 "**Company's Business.**" The business of operating a commercial or retail bank, savings association, mutual thrift, credit union, trust company, securities brokerage or insurance agency.

2.10 "**Customers.**" All Persons (i) provided products or services by the Company with whom Executive had material contact during the last two (2) years of Executive's employment, or (ii) whose dealings with the Company were coordinated or supervised, in whole or in part, by Executive.

2.11 "**Date of Termination.**" The date specified in the Notice of Termination (which, unless otherwise required by this Agreement, may be immediate) on which Executive's employment with the Company is to cease. In the case of termination by Executive for Good Reason, the Date of Termination shall not be less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days from the date the notice of termination is given. For purposes of this Agreement, termination of employment shall mean a "separation from service" within the meaning of Section 409A where it is reasonably anticipated that no further services will be performed after such date or that the level of bona fide services Executive will perform after that date (whether as an employee or an independent contractor) will permanently decrease to no more than twenty percent (20%) of the average level of bona fide services performed over the immediately preceding thirty-six (36) month period (or, if lesser, Executive's period of service).

2.12 "**Disability.**" Disability shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in the Company's long-term disability plan covering Executive, or in the absence of such plan or Executive's participation therein, a meaning consistent with Section 22(e)(3) of the Code.

2.13 "**Good Reason.**" A Good Reason for termination by Executive of Executive's employment shall mean the occurrence (without Executive's express written consent) during the six (6) month period prior to, or within the eighteen (18) month period following, the date of a Change in

Control of any one of the following acts by the Company, or failures by the Company to act, unless, in the case of any act or failure to act described in paragraphs (a), (c), or (d) below, such act or failure to act is corrected prior to the Date of Termination specified in the Notice of Termination given in respect thereof:

- (a) the substantial adverse change in Executive's responsibilities at the Company from those in effect immediately prior to the Measurement Date;
- (b) the required relocation of Executive to a location outside of the market area of the Company on the Measurement Date;
- (c) a material reduction from those in effect on the Measurement Date in the levels of coverage of Executive under the Company's director and officer liability insurance policy or indemnification commitments; or
- (d) after the Measurement Date, a reduction in Executive's Base Salary, a reduction in his incentive compensation or the failure by the Company to continue to provide Executive with benefits substantially similar to those enjoyed by Executive under any of the Company's pension, deferred compensation, life insurance, medical, health and accident or disability plans in which Executive was participating at the Measurement Date, the taking of any action by the Company which would directly or indirectly reduce any of such benefits or deprive Executive of any material fringe benefit enjoyed by Executive at the Measurement Date.

Executive's right to terminate Executive's employment for Good Reason shall not be affected by Executive's incapacity due to physical or mental illness, except for a Disability. Executive's continued employment shall not constitute consent to, or a waiver of rights with respect to, any act or failure to act constituting Good Reason hereunder.

2.14 "Measurement Date." The date six (6) months prior to the date of a Change in Control.

2.15 "Notice of Termination." A written notice from one party to the other party specifying the Date of Termination and which sets forth in reasonable detail the facts and circumstances relating to the basis for termination of Executive's employment.

2.16 "Person." Any individual, corporation, bank, partnership, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or other entity.

3. SCOPE OF AGREEMENT. This Agreement provides for the payment of compensation and benefits to Executive in the event in connection with a Change in Control his employment is involuntarily terminated by the Company without Cause or if Executive terminates his employment for Good Reason. If Executive is terminated by the Company for Cause, dies, incurs a Disability or voluntarily terminates employment (other than for Good Reason), this Agreement shall terminate, and Executive shall be entitled to no payments of compensation or benefits pursuant to the terms of this Agreement; provided that in such event, Executive will be entitled to whatever benefits are payable pursuant to the terms of any health, life insurance, disability, welfare, retirement, deferred compensation, or other plan or program maintained by the Company, in which Executive participates, in accordance with the terms of such plans and programs.

4. BENEFITS UPON TERMINATION IN CONNECTION WITH A CHANGE IN CONTROL. If a Change in Control occurs during the term of this Agreement and Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to or eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control, and if such termination is an involuntary termination by the Company without Cause (and does not arise as a result of Executive's death or Disability) or a termination by Executive for Good Reason, Executive shall be entitled to the following compensation:

4.1 Base Salary. Executive shall continue to receive his Base Salary (subject to withholding of all applicable taxes) for the CIC Severance Period in accordance with the Company's normal payroll practices (but no less frequently than monthly) beginning on (i) the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control or (ii) Executive's Date of Termination if Executive's employment is terminated on or within eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control.

4.2 Annual Bonus. Executive shall be entitled to bonus payments from the Company as follows:

(a) Notwithstanding any terms of any applicable plan to the contrary, for the fiscal year that ended immediately prior to Executive's Date of Termination, but for which no annual bonus payments have been paid as of his Date of Termination, Executive shall receive a bonus calculated using the actual results for all performance criteria for such fiscal year. Such amount shall be paid (subject to withholding of all applicable taxes) on (i) the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control or (ii) Executive's Date of Termination if Executive's employment is terminated on or within eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control.

(b) For the fiscal year during which Executive's Date of Termination occurs after June 30th of such fiscal year, Executive shall receive a prorated bonus (based on the number of days that he was employed during such fiscal year), calculated as if Executive's target award level (including any personal performance component) under the Company's annual incentive plan had been achieved for such year. Such amount shall be paid (subject to withholding of all applicable taxes) on (i) the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control or (ii) Executive's Date of Termination if Executive's employment is terminated on or within eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control.

(c) In addition to the bonus payment payable under subsection (a) or (b) above, if any, Executive shall be entitled to an additional bonus amount equal to the average of the bonuses paid to him with respect to the two (2) fiscal years in which annual bonuses were paid to Executive most recently preceding the year in which his Date of Termination occurs (counting the bonus, if any, payable under subsection (a) above), multiplied by three (3). If a bonus was not paid to Executive in any two (2) such prior years, for purposes of calculating Executive's average bonus, an amount equal to Executive's potential bonus for the fiscal year during which Executive's Date of Termination occurs, calculated as if Executive's target award level (including any personal performance criteria) under the Company's annual incentive plan had been achieved for such year, shall be used for any missing year(s). Such bonus amount shall be paid (subject to withholding of all applicable taxes) in thirty-six (36) equal monthly payments beginning on (i) the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control or (ii) Executive's Date of Termination if Executive's employment is terminated on or within eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control.

4.3 Health and Life Insurance Coverages.

(a) The group health care (including any executive medical plan) and group term life insurance benefits coverages provided to Executive at his Date of Termination shall be continued on a monthly basis during the CIC Severance Period at the same level as for active executives and in the same manner as if his employment under this Agreement had not terminated, beginning on (1) the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control or (2) Executive's Date of Termination if Executive's employment is terminated on or within eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control. Any additional coverage Executive had at termination, including dependent coverage, will also be continued on a monthly basis for such period on the same terms, to the extent permitted by the applicable policies or contracts. Any costs Executive was paying for such coverages at the time of termination shall be paid by Executive by separate check payable to the Company each month in advance. Executive will be required to pay the full cost for such coverages by separate check payable to the Company each month in advance for all such coverage from Executive's Date of Termination until the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control. If the terms of any life insurance plan referred to in this Section 4.3, or the laws applicable to such plan, do not permit continued participation by Executive after Executive's Date of Termination and for the full term contemplated herein, then the Company will arrange for other life insurance coverage(s) satisfactory to Executive at Company's expense which provides substantially similar benefits or will pay Executive a lump sum amount equal to the cost of such coverage(s) for the CIC Severance Period within thirty (30) days following his Date of Termination.

If the terms of the health care plan referred to in this subsection (a) do not permit continued participation by Executive through the CIC Severance Period as required by this subsection or if the healthcare benefits to be provided to Executive and his dependents pursuant to this subsection (a) cannot be provided in a manner such that the benefit payments will be tax-free to Executive and his dependents, then the Company shall (i) pay to Executive within thirty (30) days after Executive's Date of Termination a lump sum amount equal to the monthly rate for COBRA coverage at the date of Executive's Date of Termination under the healthcare plan that is then being paid by former active employees for the level of coverage that applies to Executive and his dependents, minus the amount active employees are then paying for such coverage, multiplied by the number of months in the CIC Severance Period, and (ii) permit Executive and his dependents to elect to participate in the healthcare plan for the COBRA continuation period upon payment of the applicable rate for COBRA coverage during the COBRA continuation period.

(b) For purposes of any individual executive life insurance policy (or policies) maintained by the Company for Executive, the Company shall continue to pay, on a monthly basis, the premiums for such policy or policies during the CIC Severance Period.

4.4 Retiree Medical Coverage. If Executive has satisfied the requirements for receiving Retiree Medical Coverage on his Date of Termination or would have satisfied such requirements prior to the last day of the CIC Severance Period had Executive's employment not terminated, Executive (and his dependents) shall be covered by, and receive benefits under, the Company's Retiree Medical Coverage program for executives at his level. Executive's Retiree Medical Coverage shall commence on the date his group health care coverage terminates under Section 4.3 above, and shall continue for the life of Executive (and his dependents) (i.e., the coverage shall be vested and may not be terminated except as described below), subject only to such changes in the level of coverage that apply to executives at his level generally. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section 4.4, however, the Company expressly reserves the right to amend or terminate the Company's Retiree Medical Coverage program to the extent set forth therein.

4.5 Profit Sharing Plan. Executive will be treated as if he continued to participate, consistent

with past practices, for the CIC Severance Period in the Profit Sharing Plan (or any successor or replacement plan) as in effect as of his Date of Termination. The compensation payable to Executive under Sections 4.1 and 4.2(c) above shall be treated (unless otherwise excluded) as compensation under the applicable plan as if it were paid on a monthly basis. Executive will be entitled to receive an amount equal to the Company's contributions to the Profit Sharing Plan (or any successor or replacement plan), assuming Executive had participated in such plan for the CIC Severance Period at the maximum permissible contributions level. The Company shall pay to Executive or, if applicable, his beneficiary, the amount equal to the Present Value on the Date of Termination (calculated as provided in the applicable plan) of the excess of (i) the benefit Executive would have been paid under such plan if he had continued to be covered for the CIC Severance Period (less any amounts Executive would have been required to contribute), over (ii) the benefit actually payable under such plan. The Company shall pay such additional amount in a lump sum within thirty (30) days of (1) the date of the Change in Control if Executive's employment is terminated within six (6) months prior to the Change in Control or (2) Executive's Date of Termination if Executive's employment is terminated on or within eighteen (18) months following the date of the Change in Control.

4.6 Automobile, Club Dues. Executive shall be provided for the CIC Severance Period at the Company's expense with an automobile or automobile allowance (and reimbursement of related automobile expenses) commensurate with the practice in effect for executives at the date of the Change in Control, and reimbursement of club dues and assessments in accordance with the practice in effect for executives at the date of the Change in Control. The amount of reimbursable expenses under this Section 4.6 for one (1) calendar year shall not affect the amount of reimbursable expenses in any other calendar year and the reimbursement payment shall be made no later than thirty (30) days following the calendar year during which the expense is incurred.

4.7 Section 409A Compliance. This Agreement shall at all times be operated in accordance with the requirements of Section 409A. The Company shall have authority to take action, or refrain from taking any action, with respect to any payments and benefits under this Agreement that is reasonably necessary to comply with Section 409A. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Agreement, it is intended that any payment which is provided pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement which is considered to be non-qualified deferred compensation subject to Section 409A shall be provided and paid in a manner, and at such time, as complies with the applicable requirements of Section 409A to avoid the unfavorable tax consequences provided therein for non-compliance. For purposes of this Agreement, all rights to payments shall be treated as rights to receive a series of separate payments to the fullest extent permitted by Section 409A. If Executive is a key employee (as defined in Section 416(i) without regard to paragraph (5) thereof), and any of the Company's stock is publicly traded on an established securities market or otherwise, then payment of any amount under this Agreement which is considered non-qualified deferred compensation subject to Section 409A shall be deferred for six (6) months after Executive's Date of Termination or, if earlier, Executive's death, as and to the extent required by Section 409A (the "**409A Deferral Period**"). In the event such payments are otherwise due to be made in installments or periodically during the 409A Deferral Period, the payments which would otherwise have been made in the 409A Deferral Period shall be accumulated and paid in a lump sum as soon as the 409A Deferral Period ends, and the balance of the payments shall be made as otherwise scheduled.

4.8 Other Benefits. Except as expressly provided herein, all other benefits provided to Executive as an active employee of the Company (e.g., long-term disability, AD&D, etc.), shall cease on his Date of Termination, provided that any conversion or extension rights applicable to such benefits shall be made available to Executive at his Date of Termination or when such coverages otherwise cease in accordance with the terms of the applicable plans or programs, including, with respect to any options, restricted stock units or other awards granted under any equity compensation plan, the terms of such plan and any applicable award agreement.

5. LIMITATION ON BENEFITS.

5.1 If any payment or distribution by the Company to or for the benefit of Executive, whether paid or payable or distributed or distributable pursuant to the terms of this Agreement or otherwise pursuant to or by reason of any other agreement, policy, plan, program or arrangement, including without limitation any stock option, stock appreciation right, restricted stock unit or similar right, or the lapse or termination of any restriction on or the vesting or exercisability of any of the foregoing (a "**Payment**"), would be subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Code or to any similar tax imposed by state or local law, or any interest or penalties with respect to such tax (such tax or taxes, together with any such interest and penalties, being hereafter collectively referred to as the "**Excise Tax**"), then the benefits payable or provided under this Agreement (or other Payments as described above) shall be reduced (but not in excess of the amount of the benefits payable or provided under this Agreement) if, and only to the extent that, such reduction will allow Executive to receive a greater Net After Tax Amount than such Executive would receive absent such reduction.

5.2 The Accounting Firm (as defined below) will first determine the amount of any Parachute Payments (as defined below) that are payable to Executive. The Accounting Firm also will determine the Net After Tax Amount attributable to Executive's total Parachute Payments.

5.3 The Accounting Firm will next determine the largest amount of payments that may be made to Executive without subjecting Executive to the Excise Tax (the "**Capped Payments**"). Thereafter, the Accounting Firm will determine the Net After Tax Amount attributable to the Capped Payments.

5.4 Executive then will receive the total Parachute Payments or the total Capped Payments, whichever provides Executive with the higher Net After Tax Amount; if reductions are necessary, then the total Payments will be adjusted by first reducing, on a pro rata basis, the amount of any cash benefits under this Agreement, then cash benefits under any other plan, agreement or arrangement, then any noncash payments under this Agreement and finally any noncash payments under any other plan agreement or arrangement. The Accounting Firm will notify Executive and the Company if it determines that the Parachute Payments must be reduced and will send Executive and the Company a copy of its detailed calculations supporting that determination.

5.5 Section 6 of this Agreement provides certain non-compete terms in which the Executive agrees to refrain from certain activities deemed harmful to the Company for a set period of time in exchange for the promises contained herein. If Executive is deemed eligible to receive benefits under Section 4 of this Agreement, the Company shall seek a valuation from the Accounting Firm to determine the value, if any, of the non-compete arrangement contained in Section 6.1 and such amount shall be allocated to the non-compete arrangement and be excluded from treatment as a Parachute Payment. For the avoidance of doubt, it is the intention of this Agreement that the value assigned to the non-compete contained in Section 6 by the Accounting Firm not be considered a Parachute Payment for purposes of this Section 5.

5.6 As a result of the uncertainty in the application of Sections 280G and 4999 of the Code at the time that the Accounting Firm makes its determinations under this Section 5, it is possible that Executive will have received Parachute Payments or Capped Payments in excess of the amount that should have been paid or distributed ("**Overpayments**"), or that additional Parachute Payments or Capped Payments should be paid or distributed to Executive ("**Underpayments**"). If the Accounting Firm determines, based on either the assertion of a deficiency by the Internal Revenue Service against the Company or Executive, which assertion the Accounting Firm believes has a high probability of success or controlling precedent or substantial authority, that an Overpayment has been made, that

Overpayment may, at Executive's discretion, be treated for all purposes as a loan ab initio that Executive must repay to the Company immediately together with interest at the applicable Federal rate under Section 7872 of the Code; *provided, however*, that no loan will be deemed to have been made and no amount will be payable by Executive to the Company unless, and then only to the extent that, the deemed loan and payment would either reduce the amount on which Executive is subject to tax under Section 4999 of the Code or generate a refund of tax imposed under Section 4999 of the Code and Executive will receive a greater Net After Tax Amount than such Executive would otherwise receive. If the Accounting Firm determines, based upon controlling precedent or substantial authority, that an Underpayment has occurred, the Accounting Firm will notify Executive and the Company of that determination and the amount of that Underpayment will be paid to Executive promptly by the Company after such determination.

5.7 For purposes of this Section 5, the following terms shall have their respective meanings:

(a) "Accounting Firm" means the independent accounting firm currently engaged by the Company, or a mutually agreed upon independent accounting firm if requested by Executive; and

(b) "Net After Tax Amount" means the amount of any Parachute Payments or Capped Payments, as applicable, net of taxes imposed under Sections 1, 3101 (b) and 4999 of the Code and any State or local income taxes applicable to Executive on the date of payment. The determination of the Net After Tax Amount shall be made using the highest combined effective rate imposed by the foregoing taxes on income of the same character as the Parachute Payments or Capped Payments, as applicable, in effect on the date of payment.

(c) "Parachute Payment" means a payment that is described in Section 280G(b)(2) of the Code, determined in accordance with Section 280G of the Code and the regulations promulgated or proposed thereunder.

5.8 The fees and expenses of the Accounting Firm for its services in connection with the determinations and calculations contemplated by the preceding subsections shall be borne by the Company.

5.9 The Company and Executive shall each provide the Accounting Firm access to and copies of any books, records and documents in the possession of the Company or Executive, as the case may be, reasonably requested by the Accounting Firm, and otherwise cooperate with the Accounting Firm in connection with the preparation and issuance of the determinations and calculations contemplated by the preceding subsections. Any determination by the Accounting Firm shall be binding upon the Company and Executive.

6. CANCELLATION OF BENEFIT; RETURN OF PREVIOUS PAYMENTS.

6.1 After Executive's Date of Termination and until the expiration of the CIC Severance Period, if Executive is entitled to any payment or benefit under this Agreement, Executive will not directly or indirectly, individually, or on behalf of any Person (except on behalf of or with the prior written consent of the Company):

(a) solicit, divert or appropriate or attempt to solicit, divert or appropriate, any business from any of the Company's Customers, including prospective Customers actively sought by the Company, for purposes of providing products or services that are competitive with those provided by the Company;

(b) solicit, recruit or hire away or attempt to solicit, recruit or hire away, any employee

of the Company, whether or not such employment is pursuant to a written contract with the Company is at will; or

(c) knowingly or intentionally damage or destroy the goodwill and esteem of the Company or the Company's Business.

6.2 Executive agrees that the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 6.1 of this Agreement are of the essence of this Agreement; that each of the covenants is reasonable and necessary to protect the business, interests and properties of the Company, and that irreparable loss and damage will be suffered by the Company should Executive breach any of such covenants. Therefore, if at any time after Executive's Date of Termination and until the expiration of the CIC Severance Period, Executive violates the restrictive covenants set forth in Section 6.1, then notwithstanding any other provision in this Agreement to the contrary, (i) Executive shall immediately forfeit any payment that is or may become due under Section 4 and all such payments shall immediately terminate, and (ii) Executive shall immediately return to the Company the gross amount of any previous payments made to Executive pursuant to Section 4. In addition, Executive agrees and consents that the Company shall be entitled to a temporary restraining order and temporary and permanent injunctions to prevent a breach or contemplated breach of any of such covenants. The Company and Executive agree that all remedies shall be cumulative.

6.3 If any term of this Section 6 shall be held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms shall remain in full force and effect. If any court of competent jurisdiction shall determine that the restrictions set forth in any provision of this Section 6 are overbroad or unreasonable as applied to Executive, the parties hereto acknowledge their mutual intention and agreement that those restrictions be enforced to the fullest extent the court deems reasonable, and this Agreement shall be modified to that extent.

7. MISCELLANEOUS.

7.1 No Obligation to Mitigate. Executive shall not be required to mitigate the amount of any payment provided for under this Agreement by seeking other employment, nor shall the amount of any payment provided for under this Agreement be reduced by any compensation earned by Executive as a result of employment by another employer after the Date of Termination or otherwise.

7.2 Contract Non-Assignable. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement has been entered into due to, among other things, the special skills and knowledge of Executive, and agree that this Agreement may not be assigned or transferred by Executive.

7.3 Successors; Binding Agreement.

(a) In addition to any obligations imposed by law upon any successor to the Company, the Company will require any successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise) to all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company or that acquires a controlling stock interest in the Company to expressly assume and agree to perform this Agreement, in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform it if no such succession had taken place. Failure of the Company to obtain such assumption and agreement prior to the effective date of such succession shall be a breach of this Agreement and shall entitle Executive to terminate his employment for Good Reason as described above.

(b) This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by Executive's personal or legal representative, executors, administrators, successors, heirs, distributees, devisees and legatees. If Executive shall die while any amount is still payable to Executive hereunder (other than

amounts which, by their terms, terminate upon the death of Executive), all such amounts, unless otherwise provided herein, shall be paid in accordance with the terms of this Agreement to the executors, personal representatives or administrators of Executive's estate.

7.4 Notices. All notices, requests, demands and other communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given when delivered or seven (7) days after mailing if mailed first class, certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

If to the Company: United Community Banks, Inc.
Attention: Secretary
125 Highway 515 East
Blairsville, GA 30512

If to Executive: _____

Any party may change the address to which notices, requests, demands and other communications shall be delivered or mailed by giving notice thereof to the other party in the same manner provided herein.

7.5 Provisions Severable. If any provision or covenant, or any part thereof, of this Agreement should be held by any court to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, either in whole or in part, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect the validity, legality or enforceability of the remaining provisions or covenants, or any part thereof, of this Agreement, all of which shall remain in full force and effect.

7.6 Waiver. Failure of either party to insist, in one or more instances, on performance by the other in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any right granted in this Agreement or the future performance of any such term or condition or of any other term or condition of this Agreement, unless such waiver is contained in a writing signed by the party making the waiver.

7.7 Amendments and Modifications. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a writing signed by both parties hereto, which makes specific reference to this Agreement.

7.8 Governing Law. The validity and effect of this Agreement shall be governed by and be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia.

7.9 Disputes. All claims by Executive for compensation and benefits under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be directed to and be determined by the Board. Any denial by the Board of a claim for benefits under this Agreement shall be provided in writing to Executive within thirty (30) days of such decision and shall set forth the specific reasons for the denial and the specific provisions of this Agreement relied upon. The Board shall afford a reasonable opportunity to Executive for a review of its decision denying a claim and shall further allow Executive to appeal in writing to the Board a decision of the Board within sixty (60) days after notification by the Board that Executive's claim has been denied. To the extent permitted by applicable law, any further dispute or controversy arising under or in connection with this Agreement shall be settled exclusively by arbitration in Atlanta, Georgia, in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association then in effect. Judgment may be entered on the arbitrator's award in any court having jurisdiction.

7.10 Legal Fees. If, in connection with a Change in Control, Executive terminates his

employment for Good Reason or if the Company involuntarily terminates Executive without Cause, then, in the event Executive incurs legal fees and other expenses in seeking to obtain or to enforce any rights or benefits provided by this Agreement and is successful, in whole or in part, in obtaining or enforcing any such rights or benefits through settlement, mediation, arbitration or otherwise, the Company shall pay Executive's reasonable legal fees and expenses and related costs incurred in enforcing this Agreement including, without limitation, attorneys fees and expenses, experts fees and expenses, investigative fees, and travel expenses. The legal fees, expenses and related costs payable to Executive under this Section 6.9(b) shall be paid within sixty (60) days after such amounts are determined to be payable pursuant to this Section 6.9(b). Except to the extent provided in the preceding sentences, each party shall pay its own legal fees and other expenses associated with any dispute under this Agreement.

7.11 Indemnification. During the Term of this Agreement and after Executive's termination, the Company shall indemnify Executive and hold Executive harmless from and against any claim, performance as an officer, director or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or other affiliates or in any other capacity, including any fiduciary capacity, in which Executive serves at the Company's request, in each case to the maximum extent permitted by law and under the Company's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws (the "**Governing Documents**"), provided that in no event shall the protection afforded to Executive hereunder be less than that afforded under the Governing Documents as in effect on the date of this Agreement except from changes mandated by law.

[Signature continued on next page]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the day and year first above written.

EXECUTIVE

By: _____
Name: _____

UNITED COMMUNITY BANKS, INC.

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

I, Jimmy C. Tallent, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of United Community Banks, Inc. (the "Registrant");
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a - 15(f) and 15d - 15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors:
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ Jimmy C. Tallent

Jimmy C. Tallent
President and Chief Executive Officer
of the Registrant

Date: May 9, 2014

I, Rex S. Schuette, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of United Community Banks, Inc. (the "Registrant");
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a - 15(f) and 15d - 15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors:
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

By: /s/ Rex S. Schuette

Rex S. Schuette
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
of the Registrant

Date: May 9, 2014

**CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO
SECTION 906 OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002**

In connection with the Quarterly Report of United Community Banks, Inc. ("United") on Form 10-Q for the period ending March 31, 2014 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), I, Jimmy C. Tallent, President and Chief Executive Officer of United, and I, Rex S. Schuette, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of United, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of United.

By: /s/ Jimmy C. Tallent

Jimmy C. Tallent
President and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Rex S. Schuette

Rex S. Schuette
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Date: May 9, 2014
