

**For release:  
October 26, 2007**

**Contact: Charles B. Henderson  
(314) 444-8311**

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, acting pursuant to delegated authority for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, today approved the application by M&P Community Bancshares, Inc. Employee Stock Ownership Plan, Newport, Arkansas, to increase its ownership from 25.07 percent to between 27.2 percent and 32.0 percent of the voting shares of M&P Community Bancshares, Inc., Newport, Arkansas, and thereby control Merchants and Planters Bank, Newport, Arkansas, and Greers Ferry Lake State Bank, Heber Springs, Arkansas.

\* \* \*