

RENASANT CORP
Form S-3
September 05, 2012
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As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 5, 2012

Registration No. 333-_____

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Renasant Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Mississippi
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)

64-0676974
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

209 Troy Street

Tupelo, Mississippi 38804-4827

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(662) 680-1001

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

E. Robinson McGraw

Renasant Corporation

209 Troy Street

Tupelo, Mississippi 38804-4827

(662) 680-1001

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

Copy to:

Mark A. Fullmer, Esq.

Mark W. Jeanfreau, Esq.

Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P.

365 Canal Street, Suite 2000

New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

(504) 566-1311

Approximate Date of Commencement of Proposed Sale to the Public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

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

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

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

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

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

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Proposed maximum offering price per unit ⁽²⁾	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	Amount of registration fee ⁽⁴⁾
Common Stock				
Preferred Stock				
Debt Securities				
Warrants				
Units				
TOTAL:			\$150,000,000	\$8,820

- (1) There are being registered hereunder such indeterminate number of shares of common stock, shares of preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units that Renasant Corporation (the Registrant) may sell pursuant to this registration statement as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$150,000,000. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or as units with the other securities registered hereunder. There are also being registered hereunder an indeterminate amount and number of securities registered hereunder as may be issuable upon conversion, exchange or exercise of any of the securities being registered hereby that provide for that issuance. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), the shares being registered hereunder include such indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends and similar transactions.
- (2) Omitted pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3. The proposed maximum offering price per class of security will be determined from time to time by the Registrant in connection with, and at the time of, the issuance by the Registrant of the securities registered hereunder.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act. In no event will the aggregate initial offering price of the securities issued under this registration statement exceed the amount listed above.
- (4) The Registrant previously paid a registration fee of \$8,370 pursuant to its previously-filed Registration Statement on Form S-3, File No. 333-160482 (the Prior Registration Statement), originally filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 8, 2009 and subsequently declared effective on July 15, 2009. None of the \$150,000,000 of the Registrant's securities registered pursuant to the Prior Registration Statement were sold at the time of its expiration on July 15, 2012. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 457(p) under the Securities Act, the Registrant is applying the filing fee of \$8,370 associated with the unsold securities under the Prior Registration Statement against the total filing fee of \$17,190 due in connection with this registration statement.

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

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell any of these securities or accept your offer to buy any of them until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to these securities is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities or our solicitation of your offer to buy these securities in any state or other jurisdiction where that is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

PROSPECTUS

\$150,000,000

Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Debt Securities, Warrants and Units

We may offer from time to time, in one or more offerings, together or separately, the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units that we describe in this prospectus having an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$150,000,000.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. We will offer the securities in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of the offering. We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is traded on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol RNST.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. If an offering of securities involves any underwriters, dealers or agents, then the prospectus supplement will name the underwriters, dealers or agents and will provide information regarding any fee, commission or discount arrangements made with those underwriters, dealers or agents.

Investing in our securities involves risk. You should refer to the Risk Factors section included in the applicable prospectus supplement and in our periodic reports and other information we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission and carefully consider that information before investing in any of these securities.

These securities will be our equity and debt securities, will not be deposits, savings accounts or other obligations of any bank, and will not be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or instrumentality.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense in the United States.

This prospectus is dated _____, 2012.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using the shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration statement, from time to time, we may sell, either separately or together, common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units, in one or more offerings. We may use the shelf registration statement to sell, in one or more offerings, up to \$150,000,000 of any securities registered, in any combination.

This prospectus only provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the terms of the securities and the offering. A prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to those securities or to us. The supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement. You should carefully read both this prospectus and any supplement, together with the additional information described under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

The registration statement containing this prospectus, including exhibits to the registration statement, provides additional information about us and the securities offered under this prospectus. That registration statement can be read at our website (www.renasant.com), the SEC website (www.sec.gov) or at the SEC offices mentioned under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** below.

We may sell securities to underwriters who will sell the securities to the public on terms fixed at the time of sale. In addition, the securities may be sold by us from time to time directly to the public or through dealers or designated agents. If we, directly or through agents, solicit offers to purchase the securities, we reserve the sole right to accept and, together with any agents, to reject, in whole or in part, any of those offers. Any prospectus supplement will contain the names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, together with the terms of offering, the compensation of those underwriters and the net proceeds to us.

Unless we indicate otherwise, references to **we**, **our**, **us**, **the Company** and **Renasant** are to Renasant Corporation and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis, and references to **the Bank** or **our Bank** are to Renasant Bank.

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CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplements contain or incorporate by reference various forward-looking statements about us within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). Forward-looking statements include information concerning our future financial performance, business strategy, projected plans and objectives. Statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words believes, expects, anticipates, intends, estimates, plans, may increase, may fluctuate, will likely result, and similar expressions, or future or conditional v as will, should, would, and could, are generally forward-looking in nature and not historical facts. You should understand that the following important factors, in addition to those discussed elsewhere in this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement, as well as in the documents which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and in any accompanying prospectus supplement, could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in such forward-looking statements:

the strength of the economies in our current markets and our target markets, as well as general economic, market or business conditions;

the effect of economic conditions and interest rates on a national, regional or international basis;

the timing of the implementation of changes in operations to achieve enhanced earnings or effect cost savings;

competitive pressures in the consumer finance, commercial finance, insurance, financial services, asset management, wealth management, retail banking, mortgage lending and auto lending industries;

the financial resources of, and products available to, competitors;

changes in laws and regulations, including changes in accounting standards;

changes in policy by regulatory agencies;

changes in the securities and foreign exchange markets;

our potential growth, including our entrance or expansion into new markets, and the need for sufficient capital to support that growth;

our ability to integrate acquisitions into our operations, retain the customers of acquired businesses and grow the acquired operations;

changes in the quality or composition of our loan or investment portfolios, including adverse developments in borrower industries or in the repayment ability of individual borrowers;

an insufficient allowance for loan losses as a result of inaccurate assumptions;

changes in demand for loan products and financial and wealth management services;

concentration of credit exposure;

changes or the lack of changes in interest rates, yield curves and interest rate spread relationship; and

other circumstances, many of which are beyond our control.

Our management believes the forward-looking statements about us are reasonable. However, you should not place undue reliance on them. Any forward-looking statements in the prospectus are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions, and actual results, developments and business decisions may differ from those contemplated by those forward-looking statements. Many of the factors that will determine these results are beyond our ability to control or predict. We disclaim any duty to update any forward-looking statements, all of which are expressly qualified by the statements in this section.

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RENASANT CORPORATION

We are a bank holding company headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi. Through our wholly-owned bank subsidiary, Renasant Bank, and its subsidiary, Renasant Insurance, Inc., we operate forty-six branches, one financial services office and three insurance offices throughout north and north central Mississippi, ten branches throughout Tennessee, ten branches throughout north and central Alabama and twelve branches throughout north Georgia. Our Community Banks and Wealth Management segments operate out of all of these offices. Our Bank was originally founded in 1904 as The Peoples Bank & Trust Company. In 1982, we reorganized as a bank holding company. In 2005, we changed our name from The Peoples Holding Company to Renasant Corporation.

Through Renasant Bank, we offer a complete range of banking and financial services, as well as fiduciary and other wealth management services, to individuals and to small to medium-size businesses. Our banking and financial services include checking and savings accounts, business and personal loans, interim construction loans, equipment leasing, as well as safe deposit and night depository facilities. Automated teller machines are located throughout our market area, and our Online and Mobile Banking products and call center provide 24-hour banking services. Accounts receivable financing is also available to qualified businesses. Through our Wealth Management business, we offer a wide variety of fiduciary services and administer (as trustee or in other fiduciary or representative capacities) qualified retirement plans, profit sharing and other employee benefit plans, personal trusts and estates. Our Wealth Management products include annuities, mutual funds and other investment services through a third party broker-dealer. Through Renasant Insurance, we also offer all lines of commercial and personal insurance through major carriers.

Our primary asset is our investment in Renasant Bank. At June 30, 2012, our consolidated total assets were approximately \$4.11 billion, our total loans (net of unearned income) were approximately \$2.68 billion, our total deposits were approximately \$3.40 billion, and our total shareholders' equity was approximately \$492 million. Our principle executive offices are located at 209 Troy Street, Tupelo, Mississippi 38804-4827. Our telephone number at that address is (662) 680-1001. Our internet address is www.renasant.com.

Table of Contents**RISK FACTORS**

An investment in our securities involves risk. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully read and consider the risk factors incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as well as those contained in any applicable prospectus supplement. These risk factors may also be updated from time to time by our future filings with the SEC under the Exchange Act. You should also refer to other information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, including our financial statements and the related notes incorporated by reference herein. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us at this time or that we currently deem immaterial may also materially and adversely affect our business and operations.

RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends including interest on deposits and our ratio of earnings to fixed charges excluding interest on deposits for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2011 and for the six-month period ended June 30, 2012. No shares of our preferred stock were outstanding, and we did not pay dividends on preferred stock, during these periods. As a result, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends are the same as the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for these periods.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges						
Excluding interest on deposits	4.76	4.30	3.82	1.97	2.14	3.35
Including interest on deposits	2.09	1.82	1.76	1.34	1.35	1.44

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we indicate otherwise in an applicable prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities described in this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of existing indebtedness, future acquisitions in the financial services industry, capital expenditures and additions to working capital. Pending such use, we may temporarily invest the proceeds or use them to reduce short-term indebtedness. The applicable prospectus supplement will provide more details on the use of proceeds of any specific offering.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units that we may offer from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. The applicable prospectus supplement and other offering material will describe particular terms of any security we offer, and it may add, update or change the terms and conditions of the securities as described in this prospectus.

In addition, for certain types of securities we offer, as discussed below, we may also adopt an amendment to our articles of incorporation or enter into an agreement that will govern the terms of such securities. We will file any such amendment or agreement with the SEC in connection with the offering of the applicable securities. For more information on how you can obtain copies of documents we file with the SEC, see [Where You Can Find More Information](#) below.

In the descriptions of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units, the terms *we*, *our* and *us* refer only to Renasant Corporation and not to its subsidiaries.

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DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

This section describes the material terms and provisions of our \$5.00 par value common stock, or common stock, that we may offer from time to time. The following description of our common stock is only a summary and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to our articles of incorporation, as amended (our articles of incorporation), our restated bylaws, as amended (our bylaws), and the Mississippi Business Corporation Act (the MBCA) and other applicable provisions of Mississippi law. You should refer to, and read this summary together with, our articles of incorporation and bylaws to review all of the terms of our common stock. When we offer to sell shares of our common stock, we will describe the specific terms of the offering and the shares in a prospectus supplement.

General

Our articles of incorporation authorize the issuance of up to 75,000,000 shares of common stock. A total of 25,113,894 shares were issued and outstanding as of July 31, 2012. Our common stock trades on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol RNST. As of July 31, 2012, approximately 1,778,006 shares of common stock were reserved for issuance under various employee and director benefit plans that we maintain. Registrar & Transfer Company serves as the registrar and transfer agent of our common stock.

You should note that the rights and privileges of holders of our common stock are subject to any preferences that our board of directors may set for any series of preferred stock that we may issue in the future. These preferences may relate to voting, dividend and liquidation rights, among other things.

Voting Rights

Holders of shares of our common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of directors. In general, a majority of votes cast on a matter, whether in person or by proxy, at a meeting of shareholders at which a quorum is present is sufficient to take action on such matter, except that supermajority votes are required to approve specified business combinations and other actions, as discussed below. Directors are elected by a plurality of votes cast, and shareholders do not have cumulative voting rights.

Supermajority Voting Provisions

Our articles of incorporation contain a fair price provision. This provision requires the approval by the holders of not less than 80% of our outstanding voting stock, and the approval of the holders of not less than 67% of our outstanding voting stock held by shareholders other than a controlling party (defined to mean a shareholder owning or controlling 20% or more of our outstanding voting stock at the time of the proposed transaction), of any merger, consolidation or sale or lease of all or substantially all of our assets involving the controlling party. For purposes of the fair price provisions, substantially all of our assets means assets having a fair market value or book value, whichever is greater, that is at least 25% of the value of our total assets, as set forth on a balance sheet that is as of a date no more than 45 days prior to the proposed transaction. The elevated approval requirements do not apply if (1) the proposed transaction is approved by a majority of our board of directors or (2) the consideration our shareholders will receive in the proposed transaction meets certain minimum price requirements set forth in the articles of incorporation.

Under our articles of incorporation, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the total outstanding shares of our common stock is required to alter, amend, repeal or adopt any provision inconsistent with these fair price provisions.

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Dividend Rights

Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends or distributions, whether payable in cash or otherwise, if, as and when declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available for these payments. Under the MBCA, we may not pay a dividend if, after paying such dividend, (1) we would not be able to pay our debts as they become due or (2) our total assets would be less than the sum of our total liabilities plus the amount that would be needed to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders, if any, whose rights are superior to those receiving the distribution.

As a bank holding company, our ability to pay dividends is substantially dependent on the ability of Renasant Bank to transfer funds to us in the form of dividends, loans and advances. Accordingly, our declaration and payment of dividends depends upon Renasant Bank's earnings and financial condition, as well as upon general economic conditions and other factors. In addition, under Mississippi law, a Mississippi bank may not pay dividends unless its earned surplus is in excess of three times capital stock. A Mississippi bank with earned surplus in excess of three times capital stock may pay a dividend, subject to the approval of the Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance. Accordingly, the approval of this supervisory authority is required prior to Renasant Bank paying dividends to us. Finally, Federal Reserve regulations limit the amount Renasant Bank may transfer to us in the form of a loan unless such loan is collateralized by specific obligations. The Company maintains a line of credit collateralized by cash with the Bank totaling \$3,000,000 of which \$1,500,000 was outstanding as of the date of this prospectus.

Classified Board of Directors; Filling Board Vacancies

Our board of directors is divided into three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. Each class of directors consists, as nearly as possible, of one-third of the total number of directors. Under our articles of incorporation, the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the total outstanding shares of our common stock entitled to vote in the election of directors is required to alter, amend, repeal or adopt any provision inconsistent with the provisions of the articles of incorporation governing our classified board of directors.

The board may fill a vacancy on the board of directors, including a vacancy created by an increase in the number of directors. Any director elected to the board of directors to fill a vacancy on the board will hold office until the next annual meeting of shareholders. Under the MBCA, shareholders may remove a director with or without cause, but only at a meeting of shareholders called specifically for the purpose of removing such director (our shareholders' rights to call a meeting are discussed below).

Liquidation and Other Rights

Our shareholders are entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our shareholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, after payment of, or adequate provision for, all of our known debts and liabilities.

Holders of shares of our common stock have no preference, conversion or exchange rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. There are no sinking fund provisions applicable to our common stock. All outstanding common stock is, when issued, fully paid and non-assessable. Such shares are not redeemable at the option of Renasant or holders thereof. Finally, our board of directors may issue additional shares of our common stock or rights to purchase shares of our common stock without the approval of our shareholders.

Restrictions on Ownership

The Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, or the BHC Act, generally prohibits any company that is not engaged in banking activities and activities that are permissible for a bank holding company or a

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financial holding company from acquiring control of Renasant. Control is generally defined as ownership of 25% or more of the voting stock of a company, the ability to control the election of a majority of the company's board of directors or the other exercise of a controlling influence over a company. Under the BHC Act, any existing bank holding company must obtain the prior approval of the Federal Reserve Board before acquiring 5% or more of our voting stock. In addition, the Change in Bank Control Act of 1978, as amended, prohibits a person or group of persons from acquiring control of a bank holding company unless the Federal Reserve Board has been notified and has not objected to the transaction. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve Board, the acquisition of 10% or more of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, such as Renasant, where no other person holds a greater percentage of that class of voting stock, constitutes acquisition of control of the bank holding company.

Anti-Takeover Provisions of Our Articles of Incorporation

Our articles of incorporation contain certain provisions that may make it more difficult to acquire control of us by means of a tender offer, open market purchase, proxy contest or otherwise. These provisions, which are summarized below, are designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to negotiate with our directors. We believe that, as a general rule, the interests of our shareholders are best served if any change in control results from negotiations with our directors.

Classified Board of Directors. As described above, our board of directors is divided into three classes, with directors serving staggered three-year terms. The classification of our board of directors has the effect of making it more difficult for shareholders to change the composition of our board of directors. At least two annual meetings of shareholders, instead of one, will generally be required to effect a change in a majority of our board of directors. We believe that this delay may help ensure that our directors, confronted by a holder attempting to force a proxy contest, a tender or exchange offer, or an extraordinary corporate transaction, will have sufficient time to review the proposal as well as any available alternatives to the proposal and act in what they believe to be the best interests of our shareholders. The classification provisions, however, apply to every election of directors regardless of whether a change in the composition of our board of directors would be beneficial to us and our shareholders and whether or not a majority of our shareholders believe that such a change would be desirable.

The classification of our board of directors could also have the effect of discouraging a third party from initiating a proxy contest, making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us, even though such an attempt might be beneficial to us and our shareholders. The classification of our board of directors could thus increase the likelihood that incumbent directors will retain their positions. In addition, because the classification of our board of directors may discourage accumulations of large blocks of our stock by purchasers whose objective is to take control of us and remove a majority of our board of directors, the classification of our board of directors could tend to reduce the likelihood of fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that might result from accumulations of large blocks of our common stock for such a purpose. Accordingly, our shareholders could be deprived of certain opportunities to sell their shares at a higher market price than might otherwise be the case.

Fair Price Provision. The fair price provision of our articles of incorporation is described above. Subject to certain exceptions, this provision requires the approval by the holders of not less than 80% of our outstanding voting stock, and the approval by the holders of not less than 67% of our outstanding voting stock excluding shareholders constituting a controlling party, of any merger, consolidation or sale or lease of all or substantially all of our assets involving the controlling party. This fair price provision makes it more difficult for a third party to obtain approval of a business combination transaction.

Authority to Issue Blank Check Preferred Stock. Our board of directors is authorized to issue, without any further approval from our shareholders, a series of preferred stock with the designations, preferences and relative

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participating, optional or other special rights, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions, as the board determines in its discretion. See Description of Preferred Stock below for more information about the terms of any series of preferred stock that the board may decide to issue.

This authorization may operate to provide anti-takeover protection for us. In the event of a proposed merger, tender offer or other attempt to gain control of us that the board of directors does not believe is in our or our shareholders' best interests, the board has the ability to quickly issue shares of preferred stock with certain rights, preferences and limitations that could make the proposed takeover attempt more difficult to complete. Such preferred stock may also be used in connection with the issuance of a shareholder rights plan, sometimes called a "poison pill."

The authorization to issue preferred stock may also benefit present management. A potential acquiror may be discouraged from attempting a takeover because the board possesses the authority to issue preferred stock. Thus, management may be able to retain its position more easily. The board, however, does not intend to issue any preferred stock except on terms that the board of directors deems to be in the best interest of Renasant and its shareholders.

Shareholder's Right to Call a Special Meeting. Our bylaws provide that a shareholder may not call a special meeting of shareholders unless such shareholder owns at least 50% of Renasant's issued and outstanding stock. This requirement makes it more difficult for a third-party acquiror to call a shareholders' meeting to vote on corporate matters.

Advance Notice Requirements. Our bylaws require a shareholder who desires to nominate a candidate for election to the board of directors or to raise new business at an annual shareholders' meeting to provide us advance notice not earlier than 120 days and not later than 90 days before the scheduled date of the meeting. If the date of the annual meeting is advanced by more than 30 days or delayed by more than 90 days from the anniversary date of the previous year's meeting, to be timely a shareholder must deliver advance notice not earlier than the 120th day prior to the annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or the 10th day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made.

Under our bylaws, a shareholder must also provide detailed information about the nominee or business and satisfy certain other conditions.

Amendment of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Under Mississippi law, our articles of incorporation generally may be amended if the votes cast by shareholders in favor of the amendment exceed the votes cast opposing the amendment, unless a greater number is specified in the articles of incorporation. The affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the total outstanding shares of our common stock is required to amend the provisions governing our classified board of directors and the fair price provisions of our articles of incorporation.

Our bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of our board of directors or our shareholders.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

This section outlines the general provisions of the shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, or "preferred stock," that we may offer from time to time. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of any series of preferred stock that we issue. The prospectus supplement will also indicate whether the terms and provisions described in this prospectus apply to the particular series of preferred stock to which the prospectus supplement relates.

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The following description of the preferred stock, and any description of preferred stock in a prospectus supplement, is only a summary and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the articles of amendment to our articles of incorporation that our board will adopt relating to the particular series of preferred stock, as well as to applicable provisions of our bylaws, the MBCA and other applicable provisions of Mississippi law. We will file a copy of the articles of amendment with the SEC in connection with the sale of any series of preferred stock. You should refer to, and read this summary together with, such articles of amendment, as well as our articles of incorporation and bylaws, to understand all of the terms of any shares of preferred stock we offer.

Finally, the information in **Description of Common Stock** above discussing our classified board of directors and the anti-takeover provisions of our articles of incorporation are equally applicable to the discussion of the terms of our preferred stock.

General

Under our articles of incorporation, our board of directors is authorized, without shareholder approval, to adopt resolutions providing for the issuance of up to 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, in one or more series. Our board of directors may fix the designations, preferences and relative participating, optional or other special rights of, and the qualifications, limitations or restrictions of, each series of preferred stock. As of the date of this prospectus, no series of preferred stock has been designated, and no shares of our preferred stock are issued or outstanding.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock will contain a description of the specific terms of that series, including, as applicable:

the title, designation and number of shares of the series of preferred stock;

the dividend rate, or the amount or method of calculation of dividends, the payment dates for dividends, whether dividends will be cumulative or non-cumulative, and, if cumulative, the date or dates from and after which dividends will begin to accumulate;

whether the shares will be convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common or preferred stock, and, if so, the price and other terms and conditions of conversion or exchange;

whether or not the shares of preferred stock will be redeemable and, if redeemable, the redemption price (or the method for calculating the redemption price) and the other terms and conditions relating to the redemption of the shares of preferred stock (including any restriction on redemption when the payment of dividends is in arrears);

the amount, if any, payable on the shares of such series of preferred stock in the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up;

any requirements that a sinking fund or purchase fund be provided for the redemption or purchase of the shares of such series;

the exchange or market, if any, where the preferred stock will be listed or traded; and

any other powers, preferences and relative participating, optional or other special rights, or qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereon, to the extent not inconsistent with the terms of our articles of incorporation.

Upon the issuance and payment for shares of preferred stock, the shares will be fully paid and nonassessable. Except as otherwise may be specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, holders of preferred stock will not have any preemptive or subscription rights to acquire any class or series of our capital stock.

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The rights of holders of our preferred stock may be adversely affected in the future by the rights of holders of any new shares of preferred stock that may be issued by us in the future. Our board of directors may cause shares of preferred stock to be issued in public or private transactions for any proper corporate purposes. Proper corporate purposes include, among other things, issuances to obtain additional financing in connection with acquisitions, in connection with a shareholders' right plan or otherwise.

Rank

Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock, each series of preferred stock will rank on an equal basis with each other series of our preferred stock and prior to our common stock as to dividends and any distribution of our assets.

Dividends

Holders of each series of preferred stock will be entitled to receive cash dividends only if, as and when declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for dividends. The prospectus supplement will describe the dividend rates and the dates on which we will pay dividends as to each series of preferred stock. Dividends will be payable to holders of record of preferred stock on the record dates our board of directors fixes. Dividends on any series of preferred stock may be fixed or variable, or both, and may be cumulative or non-cumulative, in each case as described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our board of directors may not declare, pay or set apart funds for payment of dividends on a particular series of preferred stock unless full dividends on any other series of preferred stock that ranks equally with or senior to such series of preferred stock have been paid or sufficient funds have been set aside for payment. If dividends are not paid in full to each series of preferred stock, we will declare any dividends pro rata among the preferred stock of each series and any series of preferred stock that ranks equally with or senior to such series of preferred stock. A pro rata declaration means that the dividends we declare per share on each series of preferred stock will bear the same relationship to each other that the full accrued dividends per share on each series of the preferred stock bear to each other.

Unless all dividends on the preferred stock of each series issued have been paid in full, we will not declare or pay any dividends, or set aside sums for payment of dividends or distributions, on any common stock or on any class of security ranking junior to a series of preferred stock, except for dividends or distributions paid in the form of securities ranking junior to the preferred stock. We will also not redeem, purchase or otherwise acquire any securities ranking junior to a series of preferred stock as to dividends or liquidation preferences, except by conversion into or exchange for stock ranking junior to the series of preferred stock.

Conversion or Exchange

The applicable prospectus supplement for any series of preferred stock will state the terms, if any, on which shares of that series are convertible or exchangeable into shares of our common stock or another series of our preferred stock. The terms of any such conversion or exchange (and any such preferred stock issuable in connection therewith) will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series of preferred stock.

Redemption

If so specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, a series of preferred stock may be redeemable at any time, in whole or in part, at our option or at the option of the holder thereof, and may be mandatorily redeemable or convertible. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the restrictions, if any, on the repurchase or redemption by us of any series of our preferred stock. Any partial redemptions of preferred stock will be made in a way that our board of directors decides is equitable.

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On the redemption date of shares of preferred stock called for redemption or upon our earlier call and deposit of the redemption price, all rights of holders of the preferred stock called for redemption will terminate, except for the right to receive the redemption price.

Liquidation Preference

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary, holders of each series of preferred stock will have the right to receive distributions upon liquidation in the amount described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to each series of preferred stock, plus an amount equal to any accrued but unpaid dividends. These distributions will be made before any distribution is made on our common stock or on any securities ranking junior to such preferred stock.

If the liquidation amounts payable to holders of preferred stock of all series ranking on a parity regarding liquidation are not paid in full, the holders of the preferred stock of these series will have the right to a pro rata portion of our available assets up to the full liquidation preference. Holders of these series of preferred stock or such other securities will not be entitled to any other amounts from us after they have received their full liquidation preference.

Voting Rights

The holders of shares of preferred stock will have no voting rights, except:

as otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement;

as otherwise stated in the articles of amendment to our articles of incorporation establishing the series of such preferred stock; and

as required by applicable law.

Under regulations adopted by the Federal Reserve Board, if the holders of the preferred stock of any series become entitled to vote for the election of directors, whether because dividends on the preferred stock of such series are in arrears or otherwise, preferred stock of such series could be deemed a class of voting securities. In this instance, a holder of 25% or more of the preferred stock of such series likely would then be subject to regulation as a bank holding company in accordance with the BHC Act. In addition, a holder of such series that exercises a controlling influence over us, as determined by the Federal Reserve Board based on the holder's total equity investment and other relevant facts and circumstances, could also be subject to regulation under the BHC Act. To the extent a series of the preferred stock is deemed a class of voting securities, acquisitions of shares of such series of preferred stock may be subject to the requirements described above under the heading

Description of Common Stock Restrictions on Ownership.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The applicable prospectus supplement will name the transfer agent, registrar, dividend paying agent and depository, if any, for shares of each series of preferred stock.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

We may offer from time to time debt securities in the form of either senior debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities. Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be our direct, unsecured obligations and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. We will issue debt securities under one or more separate indentures between us and a trustee to be identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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The following summary of the general terms and provisions of the indenture is not complete (the text below refers to both indentures as the form of indenture). Forms of indentures for senior indebtedness and subordinated indebtedness are included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. The indentures are substantially identical except as described below under Subordinated Debt Securities in this section. You should read the indentures for provisions that may be important to you.

When we offer to sell a particular series of debt securities, the prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the series, and it will also address whether the general terms and provisions described below apply to the particular series of debt securities. Capitalized terms used in the summary have the meanings specified in the forms of indenture.

General

Unless otherwise provided in a supplemental indenture, our board of directors will set the particular terms of each series of debt securities, which will be described in a prospectus supplement relating to such series. We can issue an unlimited amount of debt securities under the indenture, in one or more series with the same or various maturities, at par, at a premium or at a discount. Among other things, the prospectus supplement relating to a series of debt securities being offered will address the following terms of the debt securities:

the title of the debt securities;

the price(s), expressed as a percentage of the principal amount, at which we will sell the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated, and, if subordinated, any such provisions that are different from those described below under Subordinated Debt Securities ;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the date(s) when principal payments are due on the debt securities;

the interest rate(s) on the debt securities, which may be fixed or variable, per annum or otherwise, and the method used to determine the rate(s), the dates on which interest will begin to accrue and be payable, and any regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date;

the place(s) where principal of, premium and interest on the debt securities will be payable;

provisions governing redemption of the debt securities, including any redemption or purchase requirements pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities, and the redemption price and other detailed terms and provisions of such repurchase obligations;

the denominations in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities or global debt securities;

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the portion of the principal of the debt securities payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date, if other than the entire principal amount;

any additional or modified events of default from those described in this prospectus or in the indenture and any change in the acceleration provisions described in this prospectus or in the indenture;

any additional or modified covenants from those described in this prospectus or in the indenture with respect to the debt securities;

any depositaries, interest rate calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents with respect to the debt securities;
and

any other specific terms of such debt securities.

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In addition, we may issue convertible debt securities. Any conversion provisions of a particular series of debt securities will be set forth in the officer's certificate or supplemental indenture related to that series of debt securities and will be described in the relevant prospectus supplement. To the extent applicable, conversion may be mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option, in which case the number of shares of common or preferred stock to be received upon conversion would be calculated as of a time and in the manner stated in the prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will provide an overview of the U.S. federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to any debt securities we offer for sale.

Transfer and Exchange

As described in the applicable prospectus supplement, each debt security will be represented by either a certificate issued in definitive registered form (we will refer to any debt security represented by a certificated security as a *certificated debt security*) or one or more global securities registered in the name of a depository, or its nominee (we will refer to any debt security represented by a global debt security as a *book-entry debt security*), in the aggregate principal amount of the series of debt securities. Except as described below under the heading *Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System*, *book-entry debt securities* will not be certificated.

Certificated Debt Securities

You can transfer certificated debt securities (and the right to receive the principal of, premium and interest thereon) only by surrendering the certificate representing those certificated debt securities. Either we or the trustee will reissue the existing certificate, or issue a new certificate, to the new holder.

You may transfer or exchange certificated debt securities at any office we maintain for this purpose in accordance with the terms of the indenture. There is no service charge, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any taxes or other governmental charges payable in connection with a transfer or exchange.

Global Debt Securities and Book-Entry System

Each global debt security representing book-entry debt securities will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company (which we refer to below as *DTC* or the *depository*), as the depository, and registered in its (or its nominee's) name. DTC is a limited-purpose trust company and a banking organization organized under New York law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within in the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to Section 17A of the Exchange Act. We understand that DTC intends to follow the following procedures with respect to book-entry debt securities.

Ownership of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities will be limited to *participants* or persons that may hold interests through *participants* (sometimes called *indirect participants*). A participant is a person having an account with the depository for the related global debt security, typically broker-dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Upon the issuance of a global debt security, the depository will credit the *participants*' accounts on its book-entry registration and transfer system with the respective principal amounts of the book-entry debt securities owned by such *participants*; the depository will have no knowledge of the underlying beneficial owners of the book-entry debt securities owned by *participants*. Any dealers, underwriters or agents participating in the distribution of the book-entry debt securities will designate accounts to be credited. Ownership of book-entry debt securities will be shown on, and the transfer of such ownership interests will be effected only through, records maintained by the depository for the related global debt security (with respect to interests of *participants*) and on the records of *participants* (with respect to

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interests of indirect participants). Some states may legally require certain purchasers to take physical delivery of such securities, which may impair your ability to own, transfer or pledge beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities.

So long as DTC (or its nominee) is the registered owner of a global debt security, DTC or its nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the book-entry debt securities represented by such global debt security for all purposes under the indenture. This means that, except as described below, beneficial owners of book-entry debt securities will not be entitled to have securities registered in their names or to receive physical delivery of a certificate in definitive form nor will such beneficial owners be considered the owners or holders of those securities under the indenture. Accordingly, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indenture each person beneficially owning book-entry debt securities must rely on DTC's procedures for the related global debt security and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest. As a beneficial owner of book-entry debt securities, information regarding your holdings will come through the participant, or indirect participant, through which you own such securities.

Notwithstanding the above, under existing industry practice, the depository may authorize persons on whose behalf it holds a global debt security to exercise certain of a holder's rights. For purposes of obtaining any consents or directions required to be given by holders of the debt securities under the indenture, we, the trustee and our respective agents will treat as the holder of a debt security any persons specified in a written statement of the depository with respect to that global debt security.

All payments of principal of, and premium and interest on book-entry debt securities will be paid to DTC (or its nominee) as the registered holder of the related global debt security, and any redemption notices will be sent directly to DTC. Neither we, the trustee nor any other agent of ours or agent of the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global debt security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to beneficial ownership interests. We expect DTC, upon receipt of any payment of principal of, premium or interest on a global debt security, to immediately credit participants' accounts with payments ratably according to the respective amounts of book-entry debt securities held by each participant. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in book-entry debt securities held through those participants will be governed by standing customer instructions and customary practices, similar to those for securities held in street name.

We will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for each global debt security if the depository at any time cannot or will not continue as depository or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and we fail to appoint a successor depository registered as a clearing agency under the Exchange Act within 90 days. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion decide not to have the book-entry debt securities represented by global debt securities; in that event, we will issue certificated debt securities in exchange for the global debt securities of that series. If an event of default with respect to the book-entry debt securities represented by those global debt securities has occurred and is continuing, holders may exchange global debt securities for certificated debt securities.

We have obtained the foregoing information concerning DTC and its book-entry system from sources we believe to be reliable, but we take no responsibility for the accuracy of this information.

No Protection in the Event of a Change of Control

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not contain any provisions affording holders of the debt securities protection, such as prior consent or acceleration rights, in the event we agree to a change in control or a highly leveraged transaction (whether or not such transaction results in a change in control), which could adversely affect holders of debt securities.

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Covenants

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any restrictive covenants applicable to any debt securities we offer for sale.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets

We may not consolidate or merge with, or sell or lease all or substantially all of our properties and assets to, any person, which we refer to as a successor, unless:

we are the surviving corporation or the successor (if not us) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of any U.S. domestic jurisdiction and expressly assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture;

immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default, and no event which after the giving of notice or lapse of time or both, would become an event of default, shall have occurred and be continuing under the indenture; and

certain other conditions are met.

Events of Default

For any series of debt securities, in addition to any event of default described in the prospectus supplement applicable to that series, an event of default will include the following events:

default in the payment when due of any installment of interest on any debt security of that series, which default is not cured within 30 days (unless we deposit the entire amount of the interest installment with the trustee or with a paying agent prior to the expiration of this 30-day period);

default in the payment when due of principal of or premium on any debt security of that series;

default in the deposit when due of any sinking fund payment in respect of any debt security of that series;

our breach of any covenant or warranty in the indenture (other than a covenant or warranty included in the indenture solely for the benefit of a series of debt securities other than that series), which breach is not cured within 60 days after delivery of written notice thereof from the trustee to us or from the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series to us or the trustee, as provided in the indenture; and

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization involving us.

The applicable prospectus supplement will explain whether or not an event of default with respect to one series of debt securities will constitute a cross-default with respect to any other series of debt securities (except that certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization will always constitute cross-defaults).

If an event of default with respect to any outstanding debt securities occurs and is continuing, then the trustee or the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may, by written notice to us (and to the trustee if given by the holders), accelerate the payment of the principal (or, if the debt securities of that series are discount securities, that portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all debt securities of that series. Such acceleration is

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automatic (without no notice required) in the case of an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization. Following acceleration, Payments on our subordinated debt securities, if any, will be subject to the subordination provisions described below under Subordinated Debt Securities. At any time after acceleration with respect to debt securities of any series, but before the trustee has obtained a court judgment or decree for payment of the amounts due, the holders of a

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majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may rescind and annul the acceleration if all events of default, other than the non-payment of accelerated principal and interest, if any, with respect to debt securities of that series, have been cured or waived as provided in the indenture. The prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities that are discount securities will contain particular provisions relating to acceleration of a portion of the principal amount of such discount securities upon the occurrence of an event of default.

The indenture provides that the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any rights or powers under the indenture at the request of any holder of outstanding debt securities unless the trustee is indemnified against any loss, liability or expense. Subject to certain rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee with respect to the debt securities of that series.

No holder of any debt security may institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee, or for any remedy under the indenture, unless:

that holder has previously given to the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default with respect to debt securities of that series; and

the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have requested the trustee in writing (and offered reasonable indemnity to the trustee) to institute the proceeding (and have not subsequently given contrary instructions), and the trustee has failed to institute the proceeding within 60 days.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of, premium and any interest on that debt security on or after the due dates expressed in that debt security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment.

Under the indenture we must furnish the trustee a statement as to compliance with the indenture within 120 days after the end of our fiscal year. The indenture provides that, other than with respect to payment defaults, the trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any series of a default or event of default if it in good faith determines that withholding notice is in the interest of the holders of those debt securities.

Modification and Waiver

We may amend the indenture if the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series affected by the modifications or amendments consent thereto. We may not make any amendment without the consent of the specific holder of an affected debt security then outstanding if that amendment will:

reduce the amount of such holders' debt securities;

reduce the interest rate of, or extend the time for payment of, interest (including default interest) on any debt security;

reduce the principal of or premium on or change the fixed maturity of any debt security or reduce the amount of, or postpone the date fixed for, the payment of any sinking fund with respect to any series of debt securities;

reduce the principal amount of discount securities payable upon acceleration of maturity;

waive a payment default on any debt security (except a rescission of acceleration by the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of that series and a waiver of the payment default that resulted from such

acceleration);

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make any payment on any debt security in currency other than that stated in the debt security;

adversely affect the right to convert any debt security;

make any change to certain provisions of the indenture relating to, among other things, holders' rights to receive payment of the principal of, premium and interest on those debt securities and to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment and to waivers or amendments; or

waive a redemption payment with respect to any debt security.

Except for certain specified provisions, the holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may on behalf of all holders waive our compliance with provisions of the indenture. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may on behalf of all holders waive any past default under the indenture with respect to that series and its consequences, except a payment default or a default of a covenant or provision which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding debt security of the series affected; provided, however, that the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series may rescind an acceleration and its consequences, including any related payment default that resulted from the acceleration.

Defeasance of Debt Securities and Certain Covenants in Certain Circumstances

Legal Defeasance

We may deposit with the trustee, in trust, cash or cash equivalents in an amount that, through the payment of interest and principal in accordance with their terms, is sufficient in the opinion of our independent public accountants to make all payments of principal, premium and interest on, and any mandatory sinking fund payments in respect of, the debt securities of that series on the due dates for such payments in accordance with the terms of the indenture and those debt securities. If we make such a deposit, unless otherwise provided under the applicable series of debt securities, we will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of such series (except for obligations relating to the transfer or exchange of debt securities and the replacement of stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities and relating to maintaining paying agencies and the treatment of funds held by paying agents). However, this discharge may occur only if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee a legal opinion stating that we have received from, or there has been published by, the United States Internal Revenue Service a ruling or, since the date of execution of the indenture, there has been a change in the applicable U.S. federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and, based thereon confirming that, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of the deposit, defeasance and discharge and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if the deposit, defeasance and discharge had not occurred.

Defeasance of Certain Covenants

Under the indenture (and unless otherwise provided by the terms of the applicable series of debt securities), upon making the deposit and delivering the legal opinion described in *Legal Defeasance* above, we will not need to comply with the covenants described under the heading *Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets* and certain other covenants set forth in the indenture, as well as any additional covenants that may be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and any such noncompliance will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series, or covenant defeasance.

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Covenant Defeasance and Events of Default

If we exercise our option to effect covenant defeasance with respect to any series of debt securities and the debt securities of that series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default, the amounts on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of their stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on the debt securities of that series at the time of the acceleration resulting from the event of default. We will remain liable for those payments.

The Trustee

The indentures limit the right of the trustee, should it become a creditor of us, to obtain payment of claims or secure its claims. The trustee is permitted to engage in certain other transactions. However, if the trustee acquires any conflicting interest, and there is a default under the debt securities of any series for which they are trustee, the trustee must eliminate the conflict or resign.

Subordinated Debt Securities

The indenture will govern the extent to which payment on any subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness. The subordinated debt securities also are effectively subordinated to all debt and other liabilities, including trade payables and lease obligations, if any, of our subsidiaries.

Upon any distribution of our assets upon any dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of principal and interest on subordinated debt securities will be subordinated to the prior payment in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of senior indebtedness of all senior indebtedness. If subordinated debt securities are accelerated because of an event of default, the holders of any senior indebtedness would be entitled to payment in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to such holders of all senior indebtedness obligations before the holders of the subordinated debt securities are entitled to receive any payment or distribution. The indenture requires us or the trustee to promptly notify holders of designated senior indebtedness of any acceleration of payment of the subordinated debt securities.

We may not make any payment on the subordinated debt securities, including upon redemption (whether at the holder's or our option) if:

a default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, interest, rent or other obligations in respect of designated senior indebtedness occurs and is continuing beyond any applicable grace period (called a *payment default*); or

a default (other than a payment default) that permits holders of designated senior indebtedness to accelerate its maturity occurs and is continuing, and the trustee receives a notice of such default (called a *payment blockage notice*) from us or any other person permitted to give such notice under the indenture (called a *non-payment default*).

We may resume payments and distributions on the subordinated debt securities, in the case of a payment default, upon the date on which such default is cured or waived or ceases to exist; and, in the case of a non-payment default, the earlier of the date on which such nonpayment default is cured or waived and 179 days after the date on which the payment blockage notice is received, if the maturity of the designated senior indebtedness has not been accelerated.

No new payment blockage period may be commenced pursuant to a payment blockage notice unless 365 days have elapsed since the initial effectiveness of the immediately prior payment blockage notice and all

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scheduled payments, including any liquidated damages, on the debt securities that have come due have been paid in full in cash. Generally, a non-payment default existing or continuing on the date of delivery of any payment blockage notice cannot be the basis for any later payment blockage notice.

If the trustee or any holder of the notes receives any payment or distribution of our assets in contravention of the foregoing subordination provisions, then such payment or distribution will be held in trust for the benefit of holders of senior indebtedness or their representatives to the extent necessary to make payment in full in cash or payment satisfactory to the holders of senior indebtedness of all unpaid senior indebtedness.

In the event of our bankruptcy, dissolution or reorganization, holders of senior indebtedness may receive more, ratably, and holders of the subordinated debt securities may receive less, ratably, than our other creditors (including our trade creditors). This subordination will not prevent the occurrence of any event of default under the indenture.

The indenture does not prohibit us from incurring debt, including senior indebtedness. We may from time to time incur additional debt, including senior indebtedness.

We are obligated to pay reasonable compensation to the trustee and to indemnify it against certain losses, liabilities or expenses it incurs in connection with its duties relating to the subordinated debt securities. The trustee's claims for these payments will generally be senior to those of noteholders in respect of all funds collected or held by the trustee.

Certain Definitions

indebtedness means:

- (1) all indebtedness, obligations and other liabilities for borrowed money, including overdrafts, currency exchange agreements, interest rate protection agreement, and any loans or advances from banks, or evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or similar instruments, other than any account payable or other accrued current liability or obligation incurred in the ordinary course of business;
- (2) all reimbursement obligations and other liabilities with respect to letters of credit, bank guarantees or bankers' acceptances;
- (3) all obligations and liabilities under leases required by generally accepted accounting principles to be accounted for as capitalized lease obligations on our balance sheet;
- (4) all obligations and other liabilities under any real property lease or related document which contractually obligates us to purchase or cause a third party to purchase the leased property and thereby guarantee a minimum residual value of the leased property to the lessor;
- (5) all obligations under interest rate or other swaps, caps or collar agreements or other similar instruments or agreements;
- (6) all direct or indirect guaranties or similar agreements in respect of indebtedness, obligations or liabilities of others of the type described in (1) through (5) above;
- (7) any indebtedness or other obligations described in (1) through (6) above secured by any mortgage, pledge, lien or other encumbrance existing on property which we own or hold; and

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- (8) any and all refinancings, replacements, deferrals, renewals, extensions and refundings of, or amendments, modifications or supplements to, any indebtedness or other obligation described in clauses (1) through (7) above.

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senior indebtedness means the principal, premium, if any, interest, including any interest accruing after bankruptcy, and rent or termination payment on or other amounts due on our current or future indebtedness, whether created, incurred, assumed, guaranteed or in effect guaranteed by us, including any deferrals, renewals, extensions, refundings, amendments, modifications or supplements to the above. Senior indebtedness does not include:

indebtedness that expressly provides that it shall not be senior in right of payment to subordinated debt securities or expressly provides that it is on the same basis or junior to subordinated debt securities; and

our indebtedness to any of our majority-owned subsidiaries.

Governing Law

Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement applicable to the particular series of debt securities, the indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Mississippi.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

In this section, we describe the general terms and provisions of the warrants for the purchase of preferred stock or common stock that we may offer from time to time. We will issue each series of warrants under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent who will be specified in the warrant agreement and in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of that series and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The following description of the warrants we offer, and any description of such warrants in a prospectus supplement, is only a summary and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable warrant agreement and related warrant certificate, both of which we will file with the SEC in connection with any offers of warrants. You should refer to, and read this summary and the prospectus supplement together with, the warrant agreement, including the forms of warrant certificates representing the warrants, relating to the specific warrants that we may offer to understand all of the terms of the warrant agreement and the warrants.

General

Warrants issued pursuant to this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement may be issued independently or together with any preferred stock or common stock. Warrants sold with other securities may be attached to or separate from the other securities.

The applicable prospectus supplement related to an issuance of warrants will describe the terms of such warrants, including the following, as applicable:

the title of the warrants;

the total number of warrants to be issued;

the price or prices at which we will issue the warrants;

the designation, amount and terms of the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

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the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which such right will expire;

the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of the warrants;

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the minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

anti-dilution and any other provisions to adjust the number or amount of securities to be delivered upon exercise of the warrants;

the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable;

the price or prices at which, and the currency or currencies in which, investors may purchase the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants;

whether the warrants will be in registered or bearer form;

information with respect to book-entry registration and transfer procedures, if any;

a discussion of material considerations relating to U.S. federal income tax laws and the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended;

the identity of the warrant agent; and

any other terms of the warrants.

Prior to the exercise of their warrants, holders of warrants exercisable for shares of common stock or preferred stock will not have any rights of holders of the common stock or preferred stock purchasable upon such exercise, including any rights to vote such shares or to receive any distributions or dividends thereon.

Warrant certificates may be exchanged for new warrant certificates of different denominations.

Exercise of Warrants

Each warrant will entitle the holder to purchase the number of shares of preferred stock or common stock for cash at the exercise price stated in, or calculable as described in, the applicable prospectus supplement and warrant agreement. Warrants may be exercised at the warrant agent's corporate trust office or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement and otherwise in accordance with the procedures set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Upon the proper exercise of the warrants and our receipt of the full exercise price, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the purchased securities. If less than all of the warrants are exercised, a new warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining warrants.

Warrants may be exercised at any time prior to the close of business on the expiration date. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will be void and have no further force, effect or value.

Enforceability of Rights; Governing Law

The holders of warrants, without the consent of the warrant agent, may, on their own behalf and for their own benefit, enforce, and may institute and maintain any suit, action or proceeding against us to enforce, their rights to exercise and receive the securities purchasable upon exercise of their warrants. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each issue of warrants and the applicable warrant agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Mississippi.

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

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This section outlines the general terms and provisions of the units that we may offer from time to time. We may issue units comprising one or more of the securities described in this prospectus in any combination. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms and conditions of any units that we issue.

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We will issue each unit so that the holder of the unit also is the holder of each security included in the unit. Thus, the holder of a unit will have the rights and obligations of a holder of each included security. A unit agreement will govern the terms of any units we issue. This unit agreement may provide that the securities included in the unit may not be held or transferred separately at any time or before a specified date. There may or may not be an active market for units or the underlying securities, and not all the securities comprising a unit may be listed or traded on a securities exchange or market.

Among other things, the prospectus supplement relating to any units that we issue will specify the following terms of such units:

the terms of the units, and the terms of any of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and warrants comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the units may be traded separately;

a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units;

a description of the provisions for payment, settlement, transfer or exchange of the units or the securities comprising the units; and

whether the units will be issued fully registered or in global form.

You should note that the description of any units we offer in the applicable prospectus supplement will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable unit agreement, which we will file with the SEC in connection with any offer of units. We urge you to read the applicable unit agreement and the applicable prospectus supplement in their entirety.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

General

We may sell the securities offered under this prospectus through one or more underwriters, dealers or agents, directly to one or more purchasers (including our existing shareholders), or through a combination of these methods, on a continuous or delayed basis. The name of any such underwriter, dealer or agent involved in the offer and sale of the securities, the amounts underwritten and the nature of its obligation to take the securities will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The distribution of the securities may be effected from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed from time to time, at market prices prevailing at the times of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices.

Each time that we use this prospectus to sell our securities, we will also provide a prospectus supplement. For each type and series of securities offered, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the terms of the offering, including:

the public offering price;

the names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the securities;

the proceeds from the sale of the securities to us, and the uses thereof;

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any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any underwriting discounts or commissions, agency fees or other compensation payable to underwriters or agents;

any discounts or concessions allowed or re-allowed or repaid to dealers; and

the securities exchanges or markets on which the securities will be listed, if any.

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Underwriters, Dealers and Agents

If we use one or more underwriters in any sale of securities offered under this prospectus, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may then resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The underwriters may offer the securities to the public directly or through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. The underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities offered if they purchase any securities. The underwriters may change from time to time any public offering price and any discounts or concessions they allow or reallow or pay to dealers. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe the nature of any such relationship in any prospectus supplement naming such underwriter.

If we use dealers in any sale of securities offered under this prospectus, we will sell the securities to such dealers as principals. The dealers may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealers at the time of resale or at a fixed price agreed to with us at the time of sale. In addition, we may designate agents who agree to use their reasonable efforts to solicit purchases of our securities for the period of their appointment or to sell our securities on a continuing basis. If required, the prospectus supplement relating to any particular offering of securities will name any agents designated to solicit offers and will include information about any commissions they may be paid in that offering.

Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of securities may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the Securities Act. Any discounts, commissions or profits they receive when they resell the securities may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Only underwriters named in the prospectus supplement are underwriters of the securities offered in such prospectus supplement, and we will describe their compensation in the prospectus supplement.

We may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers from certain institutions whereby the institution contractually agrees to purchase the securities offered under this prospectus from us on a future date at a specific price. This type of contract may be made only with institutions that we specifically approve. Such institutions could include banks, insurance companies, pension funds, investment companies and educational and charitable institutions. The underwriters, dealers or agents will not be responsible for the validity or performance of these contracts. The prospectus supplement relating to the contracts will set forth the price to be paid for offered securities pursuant to such contracts, the commission payable for solicitation of the contracts and the date or dates in the future for delivery of offered securities pursuant to the contracts.

We may also effect sales of securities offered under this prospectus from time to time in one or more types of transactions (which may include block transactions, special offerings, exchange distributions, secondary distributions or purchases by a broker or dealer) on The NASDAQ Global Select Market or any other national securities exchange or automated trading and quotation system on which our common stock or other securities are listed, in the over-the-counter market, in transactions otherwise than on such exchanges and systems or the over-the-counter market, including negotiated transactions, through options transactions relating to the shares, or a combination of such methods of sale, at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at negotiated prices or at fixed prices. Such transactions may or may not involve brokers or dealers.

Direct Sales

If we sell the securities offered under this prospectus directly, no underwriters, dealers or agents would be involved except as otherwise indicated in a prospectus supplement. We may sell the securities offered under this prospectus directly to institutional or other investors, who may be deemed underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to resales of those securities. The terms of these sales will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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Stabilization Activities

In order to facilitate the offering of any of the securities offered under this prospectus, we may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities an option to purchase additional securities to cover overallocments, if any, in connection with the distribution. Any underwriter may engage in overallocation, stabilizing transactions, syndicate short covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with SEC orders, rules and regulations, including Regulation M, and applicable law. To the extent permitted by applicable law and SEC orders, rules and regulations, an overallocation involves sales in excess of the offering size, which creates a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum. To the extent permitted by applicable law and SEC orders, rules and regulations, syndicate short covering transactions involve purchases of the securities in the open market after the distribution is completed to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a covering transaction to cover short positions. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of these securities above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time, all as will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Passive Market Making

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on the NASDAQ Stock Market may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock on the NASDAQ Stock Market in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the common stock. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded.

Trading Markets and Listing of Securities

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, each series of securities will be a new issue with no established trading market, other than our common stock, which is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market. Any shares of common stock sold hereunder will be listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market. We may elect to list any other series of securities on any additional exchange or market, but we are not obligated to do so unless stated otherwise in a prospectus supplement. It is possible that one or more underwriters may make a market in a class or series of securities, but the underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot give any assurance as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

Limitations under State Law

Under the securities law of various states, the securities offered under this prospectus may be sold in those states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in various states the securities offered under this prospectus may not be offered and sold unless such securities have been registered or qualified for sale in the state or an exemption from such registration or qualification is available and is complied with. We are not making an offer of securities in any state that does not permit such an offer.

Indemnification

We expect that any agreements we may enter into with underwriters, dealers and agents will include provisions entitling them to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including certain liabilities under the Securities Act, or providing for contribution from us with respect to payments which the underwriters,

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dealers or agents may be required to make in respect of such civil liabilities. Underwriters, dealers or agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us or our subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business.

LEGAL MATTERS

Phelps Dunbar LLP, our counsel, will pass upon certain legal matters with respect to the securities offered by us from time to time pursuant to this prospectus, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. William M. Beasley, a partner of Phelps Dunbar LLP, is one of our directors. Phelps Dunbar LLP also provides legal advice to us on a regular basis. As of the date of this prospectus, members of Phelps Dunbar LLP participating in the matters described in this paragraph as being passed upon by Phelps Dunbar LLP for Renasant owned in the aggregate approximately 62,000 shares of our common stock.

Any underwriters will be represented by their own legal counsel.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Renasant Corporation and its subsidiaries as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and for the three-year period ended December 31, 2011, included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 and the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been audited by Horne LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in its report thereon, which is incorporated herein by reference. Such consolidated financial statements have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon such report and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

This prospectus is a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 filed by us with the SEC under the Securities Act. This prospectus does not contain all the information set forth in the registration statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. For further information with respect to us and the securities offered by this prospectus, reference is made to the registration statement. Statements contained in this prospectus concerning the provisions of such documents are necessarily summaries of such documents and each such statement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the copy of the applicable document filed with the SEC.

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our SEC filings are available to the public over the Internet at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may read and copy any document that we file at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You can request copies of these documents, upon payment of a duplicating fee, by writing to the SEC. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, and later information that we file with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below

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and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (other than current reports or portions thereof furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K), until we or any underwriters sell all of the securities offered by this prospectus:

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed on March 8, 2012, including the portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed on March 8, 2012 that are incorporated therein;

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2012, filed on May 10, 2012, and for the quarter ended June 30, 2012, filed on August 9, 2012;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 17, 2012, January 23, 2012, March 7, 2012, April 25, 2012, April 26, 2012, April 30, 2012 and July 17, 2012; and

The description of our common stock contained in our Form 8-A Registration Statement filed with the SEC on April 28, 2005, as amended by Amendment No. 1 to Form 8-A Registration Statement filed with the SEC on April 19, 2007, and including any other amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost (other than for a copy of an exhibit to a filing, unless that exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference in the filing), by writing or telephoning us at the following address and telephone number:

Renasant Corporation

209 Troy Street

Tupelo, Mississippi 38804-4827

Telephone: (662) 680-1001

Attention: Investor Relations

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with additional or different information, and you should not rely on any such information delivered to you by anyone else. We may only use this prospectus to sell securities if it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement. We are only offering to sell these securities in jurisdictions where the offer and sale is permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the applicable prospectus supplement or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the dates of the applicable documents.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.**

The following table sets forth the expenses to be incurred in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered, all of which will be paid by Renasant Corporation (the Registrant). With the exception of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration fee, all amounts shown are estimates.

SEC registration fee	\$ 8,820*
Legal fees and expenses	25,000
Accounting fees and expenses	3,000
Miscellaneous	3,000
Total	\$ 39,820

* Represents the balance of the SEC registration fee due in connection with the registration of securities effected hereby after giving effect to the offset described in footnote 4 to the Calculation of Registration Fee table.

**Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.
Mississippi Business Corporation Act**

The Mississippi Business Corporation Act (MBCA) empowers a corporation to indemnify an individual who is a party to a proceeding because he is a director against liability incurred in the proceeding if

he conducted himself in good faith;

he reasonably believed in the case of conduct in his official capacity, that his conduct was in the best interests of the corporation, and in all other cases, that his conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the corporation; and

in the case of any criminal proceeding, he had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

A corporation may also indemnify an individual who engaged in conduct for which broader indemnification has been made permissible or obligatory under a provision of the articles of incorporation as authorized by Section 79-4-2.02(b)(5) of the MBCA. The termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent is not, of itself, determinative that the director did not meet the relevant standard of conduct.

Unless ordered by a court under Section 79-4-8.54(a)(3) of the MBCA, a corporation may not indemnify a director in connection with

a proceeding by or in the right of the corporation except for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding if it is determined that the director has met the relevant standard of conduct under the MBCA; or

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any proceeding with respect to conduct for which he was adjudged liable on the basis that he received a financial benefit to which he was not entitled, whether or not involving action in his official capacity.

The MBCA further provides that a corporation shall indemnify a director who was wholly successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding to which he was a party because he was a director of the corporation against reasonable expenses incurred by him in connection with the proceeding.

A corporation may, before final disposition of a proceeding, advance funds to pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by a director who is a party to a proceeding because he is a director. The director must deliver to the corporation: (1) a written affirmation of his good faith belief that he has met the relevant standard of conduct described in the MBCA or that the proceeding involves conduct for which liability has been

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eliminated under a provision of the articles of incorporation as authorized by the MBCA; and (2) his written undertaking to repay any funds advanced if he is not entitled to mandatory indemnification under the MBCA and it is ultimately determined under the MBCA that he has not met the relevant standard of conduct described in the MBCA. The undertaking required must be an unlimited general obligation of the director. It need not be secured and may be accepted without reference to the financial ability of the director to make repayment.

A corporation may not indemnify a director as described above unless authorized by:

the board of directors if there are two or more qualified directors, by a majority vote of all the qualified directors (a majority of whom shall for such purpose constitute a quorum) or by a majority of the members of a committee of two or more qualified directors appointed by such a vote;

special legal counsel selected in accordance with the MBCA; or

the shareholders, but shares owned by or voted under the control of a director who at the time does not qualify as a qualified director may not be voted on the authorization.

A corporation may also indemnify and advance expenses to an officer of the corporation who is a party to a proceeding because he is an officer to the same extent as for a director.

Renasant Bylaws

The bylaws of the Registrant, as amended, contain indemnification provisions that require the Registrant to indemnify any director or officer made party to any proceeding if such director or officer met the requisite standard of conduct and such indemnification is not otherwise prohibited by Mississippi or federal law. The required standard of conduct under the bylaws is the same as that under the MBCA. Under the bylaws, the determination whether a director or officer met the required standard of conduct is made by the board of directors, special legal counsel, if there are fewer than two disinterested directors on the board of directors, or by the Registrant's shareholders. The advancement of expenses is also mandatory under the Registrant's bylaws, provided that the director or officer makes deliveries analogous to those required under the MBCA and such advancement is authorized as provided under the MBCA.

The Registrant also maintains an insurance policy insuring the Registrant and its directors and officers against certain liabilities.

Item 16. Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Common Stock*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Preferred Stock*
1.3	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Units (including Unit Certificate)*
4.1	Articles of Incorporation of Renasant Corporation, as amended (filed as exhibit 3.1 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 9, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.2	Restated Bylaws of Renasant Corporation, as amended (filed as exhibit 3(ii) to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 21, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.3	Specimen Common Stock Certificate
4.4	Form of Articles of Amendment Establishing a Series of Preferred Stock*

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Exhibit No.	<u>Description of Exhibit</u>
4.5	Form of Senior Indenture
4.6	Form of Subordinated Indenture
4.7	Form of Senior Debt Security*
4.8	Form of Subordinated Debt Security*
4.9	Form of Warrant Agreement*
4.10	Form of Warrant*
5.1	Opinion of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. as to the validity of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units of Renasant Corporation
12.1	Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges
23.1	Consent of Horne LLP
23.2	Consent of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this registration statement)
25.1	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 under the Senior Debt Indenture*
25.2	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 under the Subordinated Debt Indenture*

* To be filed, if necessary, by amendment or as an exhibit to a document incorporated herein by reference for the specific offering of securities, if any, to which it relates.

The Registrant does not have any long-term debt instruments under which securities are authorized exceeding 10% of the total assets of the Registrant and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis. The Registrant will furnish to the SEC, upon its request, a copy of all long-term debt instruments.

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended;
 - (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and
 - (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

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provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to any purchaser:
 - (i) Each prospectus filed by a Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

 - (ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:
 - (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

 - (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;

 - (iii)

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The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

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(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

(6) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended), that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of each Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by a Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of a Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act (Act) in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Securities and Exchange Commission under Section 305(b)2 of the Act.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Tupelo, State of Mississippi, on this 5th day of September, 2012.

RENASANT CORPORATION

By: */s/ E. ROBINSON MCGRAW*
E. Robinson McGraw
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that we, the undersigned directors and officers of Renasant Corporation, a Mississippi corporation (Renasant), do hereby name, constitute and appoint E. Robinson McGraw, Kevin D. Chapman and Stuart R. Johnson, and each or either of them (with full power to each of them to act alone), our true and lawful agents and attorneys-in-fact, for us and on our behalf and in our name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign, execute, acknowledge, deliver, and file (a) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (or any other governmental or regulatory authority), any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement and any additional registration statements relating to the registration of additional securities pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, with any and all exhibits and any and all other documents required to be filed with respect thereto or in connection therewith, and (b) with the securities agencies or officials of various jurisdictions, all applications, qualifications, registrations or exemptions relating to such offering under the laws of any such jurisdiction, including any amendments thereto or other documents required to be filed with respect thereto or in connection therewith, granting unto said agents and attorneys, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises in order to effectuate the same as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, and the undersigned hereby ratify and confirm all that said agents and attorneys-in-fact, or any of them, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
<i>/s/ E. ROBINSON MCGRAW</i> E. Robinson McGraw	Chairman of the Board, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	September 5, 2012
<i>/s/ KEVIN D. CHAPMAN</i> Kevin D. Chapman	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Co-Principal Financial Officer)	September 5, 2012
<i>/s/ STUART R. JOHNSON</i> Stuart R. Johnson	Executive Vice President and Treasurer (Co-Principal Financial Officer)	September 5, 2012

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/s/ WILLIAM M. BEASLEY	Director	September 5, 2012
William M. Beasley		
/s/ GEORGE H. BOOTH, II	Director	September 5, 2012
George H. Booth, II		
/s/ FRANK B. BROOKS	Director	September 5, 2012
Frank B. Brooks		
/s/ JOHN M. CREEKMORE	Director	September 5, 2012
John M. Creekmore		
/s/ ALBERT J. DALE, III	Director	September 5, 2012
Albert J. Dale, III		
/s/ JILL V. DEER	Director	September 5, 2012
Jill V. Deer		
/s/ MARSHALL H. DICKERSON	Director	September 5, 2012
Marshall H. Dickerson		
/s/ JOHN T. FOY	Director	September 5, 2012
John T. Foy		
/s/ T. MICHAEL GLENN	Director	September 5, 2012
T. Michael Glenn		
/s/ R. RICK HART	Executive Vice President and Director	September 5, 2012
R. Rick Hart		
/s/ RICHARD L. HEYER, JR.	Director	September 5, 2012
Richard L. Heyer, Jr.		
/s/ NEAL A. HOLLAND, JR.	Director	September 5, 2012
Neal A. Holland, Jr.		
/s/ JACK C. JOHNSON	Director	September 5, 2012
Jack C. Johnson		
/s/ J. NILES McNEEL	Director	September 5, 2012

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J. Niles McNeel

/s/ THEODORE S. MOLL

Director

September 5, 2012

Theodore S. Moll

/s/ MICHAEL D. SHMERLING

Director

September 5, 2012

Michael D. Shmerling

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Common Stock*
1.2	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Preferred Stock*
1.3	Form of Underwriting Agreement for Units (including Unit Certificate)*
4.1	Articles of Incorporation of Renasant Corporation, as amended (filed as exhibit 3.1 to Registrant's Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 9, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.2	Restated Bylaws of Renasant Corporation, as amended (filed as exhibit 3(ii) to Registrant's Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 21, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference).
4.3	Specimen Common Stock Certificate
4.4	Form of Articles of Amendment Establishing a Series of Preferred Stock*
4.5	Form of Senior Indenture
4.6	Form of Subordinated Indenture
4.7	Form of Senior Debt Security*
4.8	Form of Subordinated Debt Security*
4.9	Form of Warrant Agreement*
4.10	Form of Warrant*
5.1	Opinion of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. as to the validity of the common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants and units of Renasant Corporation
12.1	Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges
23.1	Consent of Horne LLP
23.2	Consent of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney (included on the signature page of this registration statement)
25.1	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 under the Senior Debt Indenture*
25.2	Statement of Eligibility of Trustee on Form T-1 under the Subordinated Debt Indenture*

* To be filed, if necessary, by amendment or as an exhibit to a document incorporated herein by reference for the specific offering of securities, if any, to which it relates.