



For Immediate Release  
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## **32<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Year of Dividend Increases for United Bankshares**

WASHINGTON, DC and CHARLESTON, WV-- United Bankshares, Inc. (NASDAQ: UBSI) today announced that its Board of Directors declared a fourth quarter dividend of 27¢ per share for shareholders of record as of December 9, 2005. Dividends per share of \$1.05 for the year 2005 represents a 3% increase over the \$1.02 per share paid for 2004.

The dividend payout of approximately \$11.4 million on 42.1 million shares is payable January 3, 2006. The year 2005 is the 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year of dividend increases to United shareholders. During this time period, the dividend has increased from 6¢ to \$1.05, which represents an annual compound growth rate of 10%. The annualized fourth quarter 2005 dividend of \$1.08 equates to a yield of approximately 3% based on recent UBSI market prices.

United previously reported record earnings per share for the third quarter and first nine months of 2005. Diluted earnings per share were 59¢ for the third quarter of 2005, which represented a 5% increase from diluted earnings per share of 56¢ for the third quarter of 2004. United generated net income of \$25.4 million for the third quarter of 2005 as compared to \$24.5 million earned in the third quarter of 2004. Diluted earnings per share were \$1.73 for the first nine months of 2005, which was also a 5% increase from diluted earnings per share of \$1.64 for the first nine months of 2004. Net income for the first nine months of 2005 totaled \$74.7 million as compared to \$72.3 million for the prior year's first nine months.

United Bankshares, with \$6.6 billion in assets, has 90 full-service offices in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, and Washington, D.C. United Bankshares stock is traded on the NASDAQ Stock Market System under the quotation symbol "UBSI".