



JACKSON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CARBONDALE PASTOR SENTENCED TO SIX YEARS IN PRISON

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that a Carbondale pastor of The View Church was sentenced to a total of six (6) years in prison by a Jackson County Circuit Judge on Monday, March 30, 2015, for his involvement in theft of money from the Church, Aggravated Identity Theft from a member of the church, and Loan Fraud involving the church.

Josh D. Swain, 34, of Carbondale, IL, previously pled guilty on January 7, 2015, in Jackson County Circuit Court to the charges and was sentenced on Monday. In Count One, Theft, the defendant was sentenced to serve six (6) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The defendant will serve a three (3) year sentence on Count Two, Aggravated Identity Theft, and a four (4) year sentence on Count Three, Loan Fraud. All sentences are to run at the same time for a total of not more than six (6) years. The defendant is eligible to receive one day off of his sentence for every day that he serves without incident. Upon release, he must also serve a two (2) year period of Mandatory Supervised Release in this case.

The evidence established that Swain developed a scheme to divert church funds for his personal use. This scheme involved paying \$18,500 for his rent with church funds, taking out a \$40,000 loan from a bank without authorization and spending it without authority on a variety of personal and non-authorized uses, and opening a checking account and diverting over \$40,000 in church money which had previously been set aside for mission work. In addition to his theft from the church, he also opened a credit card account in the name of a church member and ran up \$17,779.95 in charges without telling the member that he had done so. This offense was discovered when the church member was unable to obtain credit because of the failure by Swain to make payments on the account which he had opened without telling the member. The investigation discovered that Swain obtained the information to open the credit card in the church member's name through information kept on file at the church. Swain had avoided detection by falsely conveying to board members that financial records were unavailable and that the church bookkeeper could not meet with the board because she was fighting cancer. There was no bookkeeper, and Swain's story about cancer was also false. The board's attempts to meet with her and offer her support were thwarted by Swain who provided contact information for a phone which he had purchased and monitored to conceal the fraud.

As part of his sentence the court ordered Swain to pay back the \$18,500 used to pay his rent and the \$40,000 loan which he obtained without authorization. He was also ordered to pay \$17, 777.95 to the credit card company.

This investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department. State's Attorney Michael C. Carr prosecuted this case.