



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### **FORMER FINANCIAL SECRETARY SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DEFRAUDING ROCKFORD CHURCH**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and THOMAS J. KNEIR, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **JANNINE M. McKEE**, 36 (DOB: 1/25/68), 219 East Sixth Street, Pecatonica, Illinois, formerly employed as the financial secretary of a Rockford church, to 18 months in federal prison without parole for wire fraud arising from her unauthorized use of the church's credit card to make personal purchases from August 2000 through July 2003. In addition to her prison term, the court ordered McKee to serve three years of supervised release following her release from prison, and ordered her to pay restitution of \$191,763.

At the time of her guilty plea on May 26, 2004, McKee acknowledged that she was employed as the financial secretary of a Rockford church and was responsible for the church's bookkeeping, including maintaining and reconciling all of the church's computer-based accounting records and bank statements, preparing all financial statements for the church, and paying and recording all legitimate bills and expenses of the church. When paying a bill or expense of the church which exceeded \$250, McKee was required to obtain a second signature on the check from either the church's Pastor or a church officer, in addition to her own signature.

McKee admitted that from August 2000 through July 2003, she used the church's American Express business credit card to make unauthorized personal purchases totaling at least \$140,000. These purchases included such things as clothing, food, vacation lodging, entertainment, gifts, pet supplies, and gas for her personal vehicles. McKee admitted that she concealed these expenditures by making false entries in the church's computer-based accounting records that incorrectly indicated the purchases were made by other church employees or were for legitimate church expenses. McKee further admitted she attempted to conceal the personal expenditures by making unauthorized electronic transfers from the church's bank account to pay the American Express bills, thereby avoiding the requirement that she obtain the signature of the church's Pastor or Officer.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Keith C. Syfert.

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