

A TRUE CRIME STORY

How New Prospect Got Robbed. Twice.

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH · CINCINNATI, OHIO

HAMILTON COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

State of Ohio v.
Carolyn Brown a.k.a. Carolyn Smith
Case No. B2502384

GUILTY PLEA

Sentencing
Nov. 20, 2026

ROBBERY #2 · TAKEN FROM OUR CHURCH

\$702,968.80

Jan. 2017 to June 2023 · 6½ years
our tithes & offerings

BILL OF PARTICULARS · FILED JAN. 20, 2026

She deceived the church "by providing false and misleading representations to the board of trustees and the pastors, and by submitting fraudulent balance sheets."

5 COUNTS: Telecommunications fraud · Theft without consent · Theft beyond consent · Theft by deception · Unauthorized use of property

BANK RECORD

Center Bank

ACCOUNT ...6153
TAKEN **\$427,963.87**

Cash, ATM, debit card, Amazon

BANK RECORD

JP Morgan Chase

ACCOUNT ...9017
TAKEN **\$215,512.45**

Cash & ATM withdrawals

BANK RECORD

US Bank

ACCOUNT ...2892
TAKEN **\$59,492.48**

Cash, ATM, debit card

HOW IT WAS TAKEN

Cash withdrawals	\$525,466.92
ATM withdrawals	\$91,210.00
Debit card & online	\$86,291.88

ATMs as far away as Augusta & Hephzibah, Georgia

1951

A minister was put over the money without church approval.
\$6,000 stolen (≈ \$75,000 today)
Robbery #1

1930 CHARTER · OHIO SEC. OF STATE

Trustees serve "until the first annual meeting or other meeting called to elect trustees."
The members elect!

EXHIBIT A

Executive Pastor role

Vote to create: **NONE**
Vote to appoint: **NONE**
Vote on pay: **NONE**

EXHIBIT B

Control of the money

Given to one person.
Church vote: **NONE**
Minutes: **NONE**

EXHIBIT C

Trustee Board

Required by Ohio law. Placed under staff. Fake balance sheets went unchecked.

6½ years. Nobody checked.

"Amen goes right there."

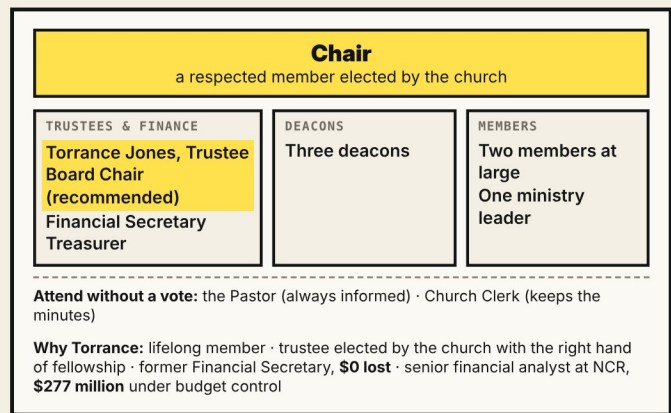
No church vote!

Who approved this?

Where were the safeguards?

The fix: The Stewardship Council

Every seat elected by the members. No one person ever controls the money again. Reports to the church every quarter.



WHAT WENT WRONG

Positions created with no church vote

One person controlled the money

Trustees placed under staff

Fake balance sheets went unchecked

No reports to the members

HOW THE COUNCIL FIXES IT

Every seat and every paid position approved by the members

Four different people count, approve, pay and check

Trustee Board answers only to the church

Monthly bank reconciliation and a yearly outside audit

A written report to every member each quarter

Count
Two unrelated trustees

→ **Approve**
Financial Secretary, in writing

→ **Pay**
Treasurer, only when approved

→ **Check**
Someone independent, monthly

→ **Report**
To every member, quarterly