

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CHURCH BOOKKEEPER ARRESTED FOR EMBEZZLING \$150K**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**September 17, 2013**

Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Lower Providence Township Police Chief Bud Carroll announce the arrest today of James Lee MOODY, 3501 Woodhaven Rd., Philadelphia, PA, for stealing \$156,041.75 from the Victory Fellowship Church ("VFC"), 2650 Audubon Road, while employed there as a bookkeeper from May 2011 through May 2013.

Under the terms of his employment, MOODY was responsible for managing and administering VFC finances in exchange for \$18.00/hour compensation. MOODY would submit an invoice to VFC for his time, and then receive payment in full directly from VFC, rather than from a payroll company.

MOODY committed Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds, Theft by Deception, Unlawful Use of Computer and related offenses by secretly directing that VFC's payroll company make regularly-scheduled deposits into his personal credit union accounts as compensation, even though he had already been directly paid by VFC in full for that same work. MOODY received fifty (50) such deposits without authorization to do so: 25 payments @ \$2,700.00 each (May 2011 – May 2012) and 25 payments @ \$3,541.67 each (June 2012 – May 2012).

Further investigation determined that MOODY also committed multiple counts of Identity Theft during the hiring process in 2011 by providing VFC with someone else's Social Security number, date of birth, and Pennsylvania Drivers' License number as his own, thereby impeding the accuracy of his pre-hire background investigation.

MOODY is being held at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in lieu of posting \$250,000 cash bail. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25th at 9:15 a.m. before the Honorable Cathleen Kelly Rebar, 133 Level Rd, Collegeville, PA. The case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Steven J. Latzer.

**Approved for Release:**

**Risa Vetri Ferman**