

# Pastor Pleads Guilty to Embezzling Nearly \$300,000 From Pentecostal Church

Pastor Kenneth Emmett Hogue pleaded guilty yesterday to embezzling almost \$300,000 from the United Pentecostal Church in Butte, Montana, over a span of four years.

Hogue was acting as treasurer to the Rocky Mountain District of the denomination when he embezzled \$288,757 from 2012 to 2016, according to the *Missoulian*. His job included depositing offerings for the church in and writing checks for the church's expenses, reports the *Washington Times*. A \$5,000 transfer made authorities suspicious of Hogue's illegal activities.

The day after prosecutors charged Hogue with wire fraud, he agreed to pay back the money he took and sign a plea agreement.

The pastor may spend up to 20 years in prison and must pay a fine of \$250,000.