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Údarás Forfheidhmithe Corparáideach  
Corporate Enforcement Authority

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**KILDARE-BASED PASTOR CONVICTED  
OF 87 COMPANY LAW AND THEFT AND FRAUD  
OFFENCES INVOLVING OVER €125,000**

Mr. Ebenezer Oduntan, a Kildare-based pastor of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) (City of David), with an address in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, has been convicted of 9 company law offences (namely, providing false information), as well as 73 counts of theft, and 5 counts of deception. The aggregate amount involved in the theft charges is in excess of €125,000.

Following an investigation conducted by the Corporate Enforcement Authority (CEA), the Director of Public Prosecutions directed that Mr. Oduntan be charged with company law, theft, and deception offences.

During the course of the trial, which took place over the course of three weeks at Naas Circuit Court, the jury heard evidence from witnesses from the Charities Regulator, the Companies Registration Office, the Revenue Commissioners, AIB, Bank of Ireland, and Life Credit Union, as well as from the current pastor and a number of members of the RCCG (City of David).

The jury also heard evidence from CEA officers, including a Senior Forensic Accountant and a member of An Garda Síochána seconded to the CEA. In addition, the jury had to consider evidence relating to hundreds of documents relating to transactions involving multiple bank accounts.

In addition to the theft of Church funds, which included cheques from RCCG (City of David) bank accounts made payable to cash, as well as cheques for as much as €20,000 made payable to Mr. Oduntan, witnesses from the Revenue Commissioners gave evidence in relation to the workings of an elaborate fraud, under which Mr. Oduntan inflated the amount of qualifying donations made to the Church, which resulted in the Revenue Commissioners reimbursing more than ought to have been the case under the Charitable Donation Scheme.

A Senior Forensic Accountant from the CEA gave evidence in which he described the total absence of standard financial controls and corporate governance procedures within the RCCG (City of David), which is a limited company and, as such, is subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2014. The CEA accountant gave evidence of his analysis of Mr. Oduntan's bank accounts, and of his finding that, for the years 2012 to 2018, the combined lodgements to those accounts amounted to approximately five times Mr. Oduntan's declared income for that period.

Midway through the trial, Mr. Oduntan pleaded guilty to 4 counts of furnishing false information to the Companies Registration Office contrary to section 242 of the Companies Act 1990, 5 counts of furnishing false information to the Companies Registration Office contrary to section 876 of the Companies Act 2014, 5 counts of deception contrary to section 6 of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001, and 19 counts of theft contrary to section 4 of the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001.

The trial continued on the remaining counts. On 13 March 2024, the jury returned verdicts of guilty on all 54 outstanding counts on the indictment.

Having received the jury's verdicts, Her Honour Judge Martina Baxter remanded Mr. Oduntan in custody to 10 April.

ENDS/

**CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY  
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## NOTE FOR EDITORS

### **Corporate Enforcement Authority**

The Corporate Enforcement Authority (CEA) is Ireland's company law enforcement agency. The CEA's functions include to:

- promote compliance with company law,
- investigate instances of suspected breaches of company law,
- take appropriate enforcement action in response to identified breaches of company law,
- supervise the activities of liquidators of insolvent companies, and
- operate a regime of restriction and disqualification in respect of directors of insolvent companies.

The CEA discharges its mandate to promote compliance with company law through a range of activities, including developing and publishing accessible guidance materials and through its outreach activities.

The CEA's enforcement remit is both civil and criminal in nature and, in discharging that mandate, the CEA has at its disposal an extensive suite of statutory powers including:

- the power to require the production of documents, including electronic documents, by companies and relevant third parties,
- powers of search and seizure,
- the power of arrest, i.e., by CEA officers who are seconded members of An Garda Síochána, and
- powers to request the courts to order certain additional investigative measures.

The CEA is a multi-disciplinary agency whose staff complement includes, amongst others, accounting and legal professionals, seconded members of An Garda Síochána, and digital forensics experts.

### **Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG)**

The RCCG is a Pentecostal denomination founded in Lagos, Nigeria. It has churches worldwide, with dozens of parishes across Ireland.