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## **Indecent exposure charge mirrors episode years ago.**



A local pastor arrested in a city park Oct. 19 on an indecent exposure charge received probation for the same charge, in the same park, 18 years ago.

Both arrests in McAllister Park resulted from a police sting operation prompted by complaints of lewd activity there.

[Glenn Masters III](#), 58, the pastor of [Los Angeles Heights Presbyterian Church](#), was released on \$3,400 bail. He said by phone last week that he is on administrative leave to deal with the charge and declined further comment.

According to a police report, he parked his vehicle next to an undercover officer's car at 11:20 a.m. and "continuously looked" in the officer's direction. The officer got out of his car and began to walk toward a wooded trail.

Masters followed him, exposed himself later to the officer in a secluded area and engaged in lewd conduct, the report states.

## CALIFORNIA: Pastor in trouble — again, indecent exposure

Written by Abe Levy

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An official with Mission Presbytery, the church's regional governing body, said no criminal background check was done before Masters was hired because he was a temporary, contract pastor not ordained in the [Presbyterian Church USA](#) like most of its other clergy.

The presbytery spans most of South Central Texas with about 155 congregations and more than 300 ministers. Its directory listed Masters as the Los Angeles Heights pastor as early as 2005.

His freelance status has helped the small congregation in Olmos Park afford a pastor, said Karen Stocks, the presbytery's stated clerk, a high-ranking elected position for church administration. The organization will let the judicial process play out before deciding what action to take, she said

In 2011, the congregation reported 59 members and nearly \$68,000 in donations, according to denominational records. That's down from its peak of 350 members in the 1960s when nearby residents walked to the church for two Sunday services, said its former pastor of 22 years, the Rev. [Leslie Ellison](#), who is filling in at the pulpit today.

He described Masters as an unmarried man who is an eloquent speaker with above-average biblical scholarship, including an expertise in ancient Greek and Hebrew.

"I like Glenn and had a good relationship with him through the years," Ellison said. "He's a very bright fellow and a good preacher. It'd be a shame to waste his talents."

Stocks said the presbytery's 27-member Committee on Ministry has been the key agency reviewing contract pastors like Masters and also supports churches in covering pulpit vacancies.

"The committee is looking into what's best for the church, the circumstances with him and what this relationship was and whether it can continue with the church," Stocks said. "I think it's

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certainly alerted us to start doing what our committees are supposed to do.”

“I don't see a difference, if it was him or another minister or lay member, it's still an allegation that needs to be taken seriously,” she said. “We can't ignore that as a possibility, but we also know the judicial process is there for everyone, and he's due that right to defend himself.”

On May 17, 1994, Masters was arrested for indecent exposure during an undercover police sting at McAllister, one of several local parks in the three-month operation, according to court records and an Express-News account that year.

Police held a press conference then to publicize 134 arrests, including three clergy. Masters pleaded no contest, court records indicate, and was given a two-year probation.

[Sherry Disdier](#), a member of the congregation's “session” or governing body, said she was “taken aback” by the recent charge and had been unaware of the earlier incident. Still, the church has strong leadership in place and hopes one day he returns as pastor, she said.

“We're working through it. ... We feel very confident that our pastor is innocent, and he'll be cleared of his charge,” Disdier said. “We don't rush to judge. That's not our job. We just feel it is in God's hands.”

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