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Pastor found guilty in sex abuse of teen girl

By The Associated Press

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FAIRBANKS -- A former Alaska pastor has been convicted of sexually abusing a teenage girl.

Shawn Anthony Justice, 32, was found guilty earlier this month of eight counts of sexual abuse of a minor, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported.

Justice met the victim, now 15, when he was pastor of Corinthian Baptist Church in Fairbanks in 2007. Justice was dismissed as pastor of the church in August 2008. He then led a satellite church, also in Fairbanks.

The girl testified during Justice's trial that he began sending her text messages of a sexual nature and they began a relationship in 2009.

She testified that she would often delete texts from her cell phone when she returned it to her parents, who did not discover her messages to Justice until they confiscated the phone when she used it without permission in November 2008.

Her parents began monitoring her phone and computer use, but she said she sneaked out of her house on multiple occasions in 2009 to have sex with Justice at his apartment.

During the trial, jurors also heard about Justice's 2003 misdemeanor conviction for contributing to the delinquency of a minor in Virginia.

In that case, Justice, then 24 and a church choir director, had sex with a 15-year-old member of the choir.

Justice was remanded to Fairbanks Correctional Center immediately after last week's verdict, Fairbanks District Attorney Mike Gray said in an e-mail.

Sentencing was set for March 24 before Superior Court Judge Michael McConahy.

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