

CHURCH HISTORY **(Toddville Free Methodist)**

Faithful spiritual and dedicated people have brought us up to the 100th anniversary of the Toddville Free Methodist Church, even though, as noted in the Conference History, the Iowa Conference was organized some years before the Toddville Society came to be, in approximately 1890. Until 1902 the worship services were held in the Toddville School House which was situated near where the present schoolhouse stands. In 1902 the original church was erected with two additions being added at later dates.

How can a church history be written without noting the joyous times of fellowship, the serious trial with building projects and financial troubles, the exhilaration of new converts and members being added? This is what makes history and growth as we will see this growth in progression:

As we have already noted, the original church was built in 1902, but, first since two churches were involved, we want to note the first day of the No. 1 Church or Society. The No. 1 Community Church, located three and one-half miles west and south of Toddville, was organized in the year 1888 and worship services were held in the No. 1 school house until a church was erected in 1900 and burned down when completed. The story concerning the burning of this church at No. 1 is interesting and as only bits of the situation are really known, we only note that an individual was asked to give a donation for the bell and for an unknown reason, objected to the church. A new church was erected in 1901 and was the site of many revivals. This building was used until the Toddville and No. 1 Societies were merged in the late summer of 1955.

A committee was elected, according to the minutes, on May 28, 1904, to see about building or buying a parsonage in the Toddville area for the churches. The deed to the first Toddville parsonage was presented to the board on July 21, 1906. This building is the present T. J. Olinger residence.

The first stewards were elected on August 17, 1902 as follows: Toddville, Henry Hepker and Phoebe Wright; No. 1: A. J. Trimble and L. O. Hepker.

In 1903 two gentlemen were asked to withdraw from the church because they were walking disorderly. One withdrew.

On August 22, 1904, the first song books were purchased. The total cost was \$6.50.

In 1904 the Toddville and No.1 pastor also had charge of the Marion, Iowa, work. In 1904 a man was elected from this circuit to repair the Marion parsonage. In 1905 the minutes read, "The Toddville, No. 1 and Marion Circuit."

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Toddville and No.1 churches was organized October 5, 1907. The following officers were elected: Minnie Martin, President; Stella Hepker, Vice President; Ella Hepker, Secretary; Nellie Hepker, Treasurer. There were seven members, including two honorary members and life members. Nellie Hepker is the only living member of the original seven members. In 1921 a collection of five cents was taken.

Sometime in 1941, during the pastorate of Rev. and Mrs. J. K. French, a small replica of the present church building, plus a new addition was made by Rev. French. Each Sunday, as the congregation passed by and dropped both change and folding money in the little church tower to the ring of a bell, the addition plans were formulated. Finally in 1942, while Rev. French was here, a bell tower and a 14-foot addition were built on the south side of the original building. Mr. A. J. Rose was the head carpenter and many others donated all the labor.

The present parsonage property was purchased from Mrs. Beggs in 1943. The original parsonage property was sold to T. J. Olinger the same year. The Beggs' house was used as a parsonage until a new one was built in 1948 – 1949. Mr. L. O. Hepker and Mack Newman were the carpenters.

Soon after the new parsonage was finished, a dedication service was held on Sunday, May 22, 1956 at 2:30 p. m. for a new chancel finished in oak, an electric organ, new pews, a new red velvet carpet and improvements to the building itself. Many of these new furnishings were dedicated as memorials. Bishop Leslie R. Marston was the speaker for this service and Rev. Guy Pickering was our pastor. Added to the above a short time later were the porch and steps at the parking lot entrance.

A new church basement entrance was constructed in 1971.

In retrospect we have reviewed our past, and the future is yours--- under the leadership of our Heavenly Father.

CONFERENCE HISTORY

The Iowa Annual Conference was originally a part of the Illinois Conference. The minutes of this conference in 1868 show the following appointments: Cedar Rapids Mission, Isaac Bliss; DeWitt, B. F. Doughty; Fairfield, W. F. Manley.

In 1869 the Illinois Conference at its annual session at Amboy, Illinois, held October 12-16, appointed three preachers to the work in the state of Iowa, namely: J. W. Cain, DeWitt; Isaac Bliss, Otter Creek; and B. F. Doughty, Fairfield. Free Methodism continued to grow in Iowa, and in 1874 it was comprised in two districts, the Northern Iowa and the Southern Iowa. At the session of the Illinois Conference in this same year, a resolution was passed requesting the General Conference, which was to meet October 14, 1874, at Albion, New York, to organize an Iowa Conference. This was to embrace all of the state of Iowa except that portion included in the Minnesota Conference.

The first session of the Iowa Conference convened at Birmingham, Iowa September 23, 1875, with General Superintendent E. P. Hart presiding. There were only six preachers in full connection. The statistical reports of the preachers at this session show 365 full members and 59 probationers. Thus, briefly stated, those proceeding made up the first year of the Iowa Conference.

During the first four years of the conference, the number of appointments were doubled and the membership increased to more than twice its original number. Twenty-four appointments, 910 memberships and 198 probationers were listed.

A fourth district called the Cedar Rapids District was added by the 1880 Annual Conference held at Burlington, Iowa, September 15 – 19. The Conference Chairmen in their report gave a warning against the increasing practice of “publicizing and popularizing our Class Meetings by throwing them open to the public,” which they felt would render them unfit places for the brethren and sisters to unburden their hearts that they might counsel, advise, reprove, comfort and encourage another.

In 1885 the West Iowa Conference was organized; therefore, because of this loss, the statistics show a lesser number on the report.

The committee reporting on the state of the work to the 1890 conference states that “the Iowa Conference is not retrograding in respect to the position it takes on doctrine, experience and personal godliness,” yet fear was expressed that a secular spirit was obtaining among pastors and laymen in excessive interest in money making.

In 1912 much concern was expressed for the youth of the church as follows: “The work among our young people is sadly deficient. We need to keep a steady hand on our young people while directing them in regular and systematic effort which shall tend to qualify them to stand erect on holy principles when they take the reign of church government.”

R. T. Fine, the Conference Superintendent from 1938-1942, carried the forward movement and E. W. Walls continued.

The securing of a permanent Conference Camp Ground and developing it, the improvement of our church and parsonage properties, the building of first a new, modern conference parsonage in Cedar Rapids, and a second one in Des Moines and the establishing of the "Light & Life Hour" radio project over WMT shows the material progress made.

Camp meeting during the summer months have been one of the principle means of promoting our work during the whole history of the Iowa Conference. A few of the favorite camp grounds in the conference were the ones on Cedar Creek near Marion, the old "Bear Creek Camp Ground," the "Eldon Camp Ground," "Otter Creek Camp Ground," and the "Birmingham Camp Ground."

The Birmingham Camp Ground was deeded to the Iowa Conference in 1942 by the Fairfield District Conference as a permanent camp ground, with the condition that the conference would gradually improve the property.

HISTORY

ILLIONIS CONFERENCE

- 1868 Cedar Rapids Mission
- 1869 Otter Creek, Iowa, Isaac Bliss
- 1870 Otter Creek and Cedar Rapids, J. W. Cain & J. Scott, supply
- 1871 Otter Creek, J. W. Cain & J. Scott, supply
- 1872 Otter Creek, T. B. Arnold (3 Sunday Schools reported)
- 1873 Otter Creek, T. B. Arnold, one to be supplied (4 Sunday Schools)
- 1874 Otter Creek, Thomas Vipon, supply
(Resolution passed that Iowa & Wisconsin areas become separate conferences)

IOWA CONFERENCE

- 1875 Otter Creek, S. S. Steward (1 Sunday School)
- 1876 Otter Creek, W. C. Thompson
(Conf. held Otter Creek Campground in timber belonging to J. Millburn)
- 1877 Otter Creek, W. C. Thompson (2 Sunday Schools)
- 1878 Otter Creek, S. Mills, supply
- 1879 Cedar Rapids and Otter Creek, L. Mendenhall, one to be supplied (1 S.S.)
(evidently “one to be supplied” means another pastor to be supplied because there was a Recommendation to Stationing Committee that larger circuits have local pastors appointed under the ordained pastor)
- 1880 No mention of Otter Creek. Cedar Rapids, C. E. Harroun, Jr & A. F. Hall
(Also in Statistical Report there was no mention of Otter creek, but 2 Sunday Schools listed)
- 1881 Marion and Cedar Rapids, O. P. Crawford
Uniontown & Otter Creek, C. E. Harroun, Jr.
- 1882 Cedar Rapids, Marion & Otter Creek, T. H. Allen
- 1883 Cedar Rapids, Otter Creek, J. C. Long
- 1884 Cedar Rapids (no mention of Otter Creek), L. O. Smith
- 1885 Cedar Rapids & Marion (no mention of Otter Creek), J. M. Scott
- 1886 Cedar Rapids & Marion (no mention of Otter Creek), M. L. Winegarden
- 1887 Cedar Rapids & Otter Creek, A. Zaring (next year’s statistical report
Showed “supplied” – no name – evidently he didn’t go or didn’t stay long)
- 1888 Cedar Rapids & Marion, W. C. Thompson (no mention of Otter Creek)
- 1889 Cedar Rapids & Marion, W. C. Thompson (no mention of Otter Creek)
5 Sunday Schools
- 1890 Cedar Rapids, Otter Creek and Toddville, W. C. Thompson (3 S.S.)
(First mention of Toddville, Otter Creek still listed too.)
- 1891 Cedar Rapids, Otter Creek and Toddville, G. B. Hall
- 1892 Cedar Rapids & Toddville, G. B. Hall (Otter Creek disappears)
- 1893 Cedar Rapids & Marion, W. C. Thompson (Toddville not mentioned)
- 1894 Cedar Rapids & Marion, W. C. Thompson (Toddville not mentioned)

- 1895 Cedar Rapids & Marion, C. W. Carnes (Toddville not mentioned)
- 1896 Cedar Rapids & Marion, J. Q. Murray (Toddville not mentioned)
- 1897 Cedar Rapids, Marion & Toddville, J. A. Murray
- 1898 Cedar Rapids & Marion, W. E. Boger
Toddville & No. 1 S. H., W. C. Thompson (lived in Marion)
- 1899 No. 1 and Toddville, W. C. Thompson
- 1900 Toddville and No. 1, Eugene A. Clark, supply, total membership: 40
- 1901 Toddville and No. 1, i. H. Garrell – 49 members, 90 in Sunday School
- 1902 Toddville and No. 1, G. G. Booton
- 1903 Toddville and No. 1, E. E. Hall
- 1904 Toddville, No. 1 and Marion, C. W. Carnes, one to be supplied
- 1905 Toddville and No. 1, C. W. Carnes
- 1906 Toddville and No. 1, James Jamison, supply
- 1907 Toddville and No. 1, G. G. Booton
- 1908 Toddville and No. 1, G. G. Booton
- 1909 Toddville and No. 1, J. B. Smith
- 1910 Toddville, No. 1, and Palo, G. E. Lair – 42 members, 100 in S. S.
- 1911 Toddville and No. 1, G. E. Lair
- 1912 Toddville and No. 1, G. E. Lair
- 1913 Toddville and No. 1, W. H. McDonald
- 1914 Toddville and No. 1, W. H. McDonald, 62 members, 137 Sunday School
- 1915 Toddville and No. 1, W. H. McDonald
- 1916 Toddville and No. 1, F. M. Smith
- 1917 Toddville and No. 1, S. L. Gilkison
- 1918 Toddville and No. 1, S. L. Gilkison
- 1919 Toddville and No. 1, Charles Monroe, supply
- 1920 Toddville and No. 1, to be supplied, members: 46; S.S. 70
- 1921 Toddville and No. 1, Carl Cunningham
- 1922 Toddville and No. 1, Carl Cunningham
- 1923 Toddville and No. 1, Carl Cunningham
- 1924 Toddville and No. 1, W. J. Trimble
- 1925 Toddville and No. 1, W. J. Trimble
- 1926 Toddville and No. 1, John Watterson
- 1927 Toddville and No. 1, John Watterson
- 1928 Toddville and No. 1, Elzie Orman
- 1929 Toddville and No. 1, Elzie Orman
- 1930 Toddville and No. 1, Elize Orman, Members: 42, S.S. 88
- 1931 Toddville and No. 1, W. H. McDonald
- 1932 Toddville, No. 1 & Cedar Bend, W. H. McDonald, Eula McDonald, supply
- 1933 Toddville, No. 1 & Cedar Bend, W. H. McDonald, Eula McDonald, supply
- 1934 Toddville, No. 1 & Cedar Bend, H. R. Eveland
- 1935 Toddville and No. 1, H. R. Eveland
- 1936 Toddville and No. 1, H. R. Eveland

- 1937 Toddville and No. 1, George Reichert
- 1938 Toddville and No. 1, George Reichert
- 1939 Toddville and No. 1, George Reichert
- 1940 Toddville and No. 1, George Reichert – members: 56, 135 S.S. enrolled
- 1941 Toddville and No. 1, J. Kenneth French
- 1942 Toddville and No. 1, J. Kenneth French
- 1943 Toddville and No. 1, J. Kenneth French
- 1944 Toddville and No. 1, J. Kenneth French
- 1945 Toddville and No. 1, C. B. Patrick; Margaret Patrick, assistant
- 1946 Toddville and No. 1, Glenn Stewart
- 1947 Toddville and No. 1, Walter Vander Linden
- 1948 Toddville and No. 1, Walter Vander Linden
- 1949 Toddville and No. 1, Walter Vander Linden
- 1950 Toddville and No. 1, E. Milo Martin, members: 70; 160 enrolled in S.S.
- 1951 Toddville and No. 1, E. Milo Martin
- 1952 Toddville and No. 1, E. Milo Martin
- 1953 Toddville and No. 1, Guy Pickering, supply
- 1954 Toddville and No. 1, Guy Pickering
- 1955 Toddville and No. 1, Guy Pickering
- 1956 Toddville and No. 1, Guy Pickering (no longer supply)
- 1957 Toddville and No. 1, Guy Pickering
- 1958 Toddville and No. 1, Richard L. Baxter
- 1959 Toddville (No. 1 was dropped), Richard L. Baxter
- 1960 Toddville, Leslie Wilcox, supply (members: 53, S.S. enrollment: 131)
- 1961 Toddville, Leslie Wilcox
- 1962 Toddville, Charles Keller
- 1963 Toddville, To be supplied
- 1964 Toddville, Victor Parson, supply
- 1965 Toddville, Victor Parson
- 1966 Toddville, Victor Parson
- 1967 Toddville, John C. Harrell
- 1968 Toddville, John C. Harrell
- 1969 Toddville, Stanley Long
- 1970 Toddville, John Green

[The following updated, from Yearbook appointments (from Annual Conf to the next Annual Conf.) 7-7-17]

- 1970-1977 John Green
- 1977-1981 Donald Brail
- 1981-1993 Eugene McDaniel
- 1993-1995 Jerry Blakley
- 1995-2001 Jay Davis
- 2001-2007 Douglas Morris
- 2003-2005 Ray Leach, Assistant

2006-2008 Larry Myers, Jr
2008-2016 Mark Lofquist
2016- Timothy DeVries

Note: This was copied from a copy that a church member had, to a computer file so that updates can be made as time goes by.

TODDVILLE FREE METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

The Toddville Free Methodist Church was organized a few years before the church was erected. Prior to this services were held in the Toddville School. The church was erected in 1902.

The first Pastor	1902-1903	E. E. Hall
First Pastor's Salary		\$325.00 for the year
Second Pastor	1903-1904	G. S. Booten
First recorded S.S. Supt.	1904	Phoeba Wright
Third Pastor	1904-1906	C. W. Carns
S. S. Superintendent	1905	Philip Cress
Fourth Pastor	1906-1910	G. G. Booten
S. S. Supt.	1907	A. L. Blackford
S. S. Supt.	1908	Henry Hepker
S. S. Supt.	1909	Alta Roy
Pastor/s Salary	1910	\$400.00
Fifth Pastor	1910-1913	G. E. Lair
Sixth Pastor	1913-1916	W. H. McDonald
Seventh Pastor	1916-1917	F. M. Smith
Pastor's Salary	1917	\$500.00
Eight Pastor	1917-1919	S. L. Gilkison
Pastor's Salary	1919	\$600.00
S. S. Supt.	1919	Edna Newman
Ninth Pastor	1919-1920	Charles Monroe
S. S. Supt.	1920	Martha Auman
Tenth Pastor	1920-1921	H. R. Eveland
Pastor's Salary	1920	\$1000.00
Eleventh Pastor	1921-1924	C. M. Cunningham
Pastor's Salary	1921	\$700.00
S. S. Supt.	1922	Faith Rose
S. S. Supt.	1923	Alta Roy
S. S. Supt.	1924	Ivan Notbohm
Pastor's Salary	1924	\$500.00
Twelfth Pastor	1924-1926	W. J. Trimble
Thirteenth Pastor	1926-1928	John Waterson
Pastor's Salary	1926	\$750.00
Telephone installed in parsonage in 1926		
Fourteenth Pastor	1928-1931	Elize Orman
Pastor's Salary	1928	\$900.00
S. S. Supt.	1928	Alta Roy
S. S. Supt.	1930	R. B. Schmickle
Fifteenth Pastor	1931-1935	W. H. McDonald

Sixteenth Pastor	1935-1937	H. R. Eveland
Seventeenth Pastor	1937-1941	George Reichert
Eighteenth Pastor	1941-1945	J. K. French

A tower and 14 ft. addition was built on the south side of the church in 1942 while Brother French was pastor.

Pastor's Salary	1943	\$1290.00
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The present parsonage property was purchased from Mrs. Beggs in 1943.

The original parsonage property was sold to T. J. Olinger the same year.

Nineteenth Pastor	1945-1946	C. B. Patrick
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C. B. Patrick was given a leave of absence because of ill health in 1946. The Circuit was supplied by Rev. Mayhew the rest of 1946.

Twentieth Pastor	1946-1947	Glenn Stewart
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Twenty-first Pastor	1947-1950	Walter VanderLinden
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The old parsonage was moved to the back of the lot and sold. In its place a new one was built in 1948-1949.

Twenty-second Pastor	1950-1953	E. M. Martin
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The church platform was remodeled and new furniture installed in 1952.

Twenty-third Pastor	1953-1958	Guy Pickering
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The church was redecorated and new pews installed in 1954.

S. S. Supt.	1954	Virginia Hepker
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S. S. Supt.	1955	Phyllis Matheny
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The second addition to the church and full basement was built in 1957.

Twenty-fourth Pastor	1958-1960	Richard Baxter
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S. S. Supt.	1958	Robert Neece
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Twenty-fifth Pastor	1960-1962	Leslie Wilcox
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S. S. Supt.	1959	Orlean Bohrer
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S. S. Supt.	1960	Melvin McBurney
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Twenty-seventh Pastor	1962-1963	Charles Keller
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The church was without a pastor from August of 1963 to August of 1964.

Twenty-eighth Pastor	1964-	Victor W. Parson
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The church Parking Lot was blacktopped in 1964.

[See above "History" for "Pastoral Assignments, to date"]

MY CHURCH

My church is a gate of heaven where the eternal world meets the temporal world and they become.

My church is a calm harbor where souls may find refuge from the storms and renew their strength for the further voyage of life.

My church is a society of souls in which all common social distinctions are transcended by “a royal priesthood” of believers.

When I partake of the feast of grace at the table of the church I am prompted to say to those who perish with hunger, “O, taste and see that the Lord is good.”

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