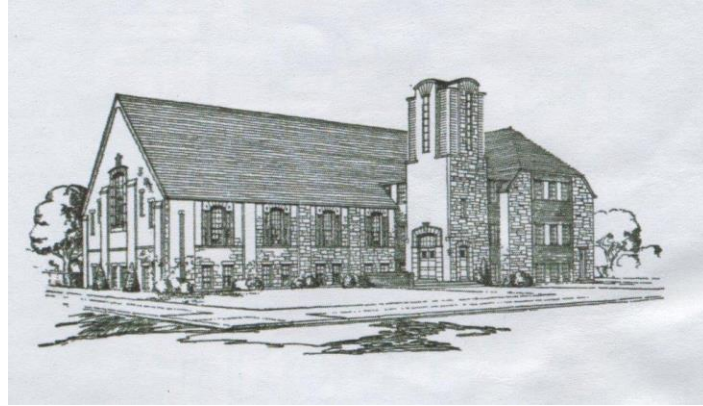


1858

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

# Church Histories

1



Current church 2015

## Northwest Fellowship Baptist, Chicago, Il.

The Northwest Fellowship Baptist Church had its beginning in October, 1858, as the First German Baptist Church. Sixteen German speaking Chicagoans joined together and met in a small frame chapel on Hastings Street, which they rented for Sunday afternoon services. Albert Becker, a medical doctor and an ordained clergyman, was the pastor for a number of years. The church made little progress until after the Civil War. At that time, with the aid of the Home Missionary Society, the church began to make substantial progress.



A small, frame church built in 1866, served as their house of worship for 22 years. In its first 20 years, the church grew in membership from 16 to 220 members. With a focus on establishing “mission churches,” by 1908 the church had grown to 2,000 German Baptists, comprising eight German congregations and two Bohemian congregations. In the year 1922 these eight churches gave almost \$19,000 for missionary purposes.

In the 1930’s and ‘40s, English youth ministries and English Sunday Services were added. In 1988, the first service under the name “Northwest Fellowship Baptist Church” was held in the Foster Avenue church facilities.

## 1858

The merger of Mayfair Park Baptist and Foster Avenue Baptist had taken place before the 1988 service. Prior to that, in the 1940's there had been a merger of First German Baptist with Gross Park Immanuel church.

Written by Phyllis Harms, NAB Heritage Commission [April,2015]

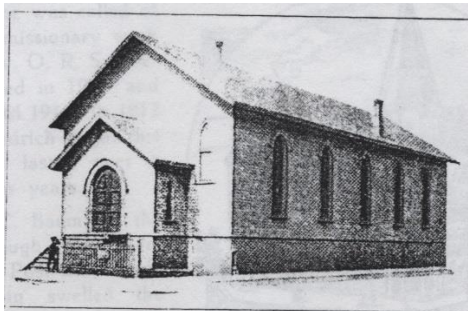
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**Bibliographical sources:**

Pankratz, Walter. "Chicago's Foster Ave Church Celebrates. Annual", 1958, pp.. 46-47.

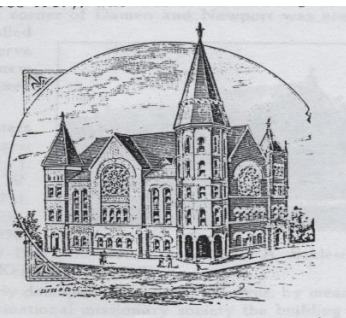
**Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:**

Program booklet. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Northwest Fellowship Baptist Church. (Oct 18-19, 2008)

Northwest Fellowship 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert Oct 17-19, 2008.



First German Baptist 1866



built in 1888 at Pauline & Superior St.