

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



Present building dedicated 1972

East Side Community Church, Chicago, Illinois

East Side Community Church had its beginning in 1873, when several German Baptist families started meeting informally in their homes. In 1876, their first church building was constructed for a total cost of \$780.00 on land given to the members by the Canal and Dock Company. Known as the Colehour Church, it remained a mission outreach of the First German Baptist Church of Chicago until April 18, 1882, when it was officially recognized as a self-governing church.

The first pastor of the church was Rev. Gotthard Mengel who served from 1882 to 1891. Around 1900, the name of the church was changed to South Chicago German Baptist Church, and in 1930 the name was changed once again, to East Side Baptist Church. In June of 1956, Ogden Park Baptist church merged with East Side, offering new members, finances, and some furnishings. The latest name change was to East Side Community in 2004.

As the church building aged and maintenance issues appeared, several times the congregation voted to remodel or rebuild, but encountered difficulties in securing a building permit. On July 15, 1970, the church voted to accept a bid from the Wydeveld Construction Company and with the building permit finally approved by the city on March 25, 1971, the demolition was soon underway. The new structure was dedicated to the glory of God on Sunday, February 13, 1972. The congregation has since celebrated their 100th anniversary.

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

1882

Bibliographical sources:

Archival sources in North American Baptist Heritage Center:

60th Anniversary 1882-1942 book

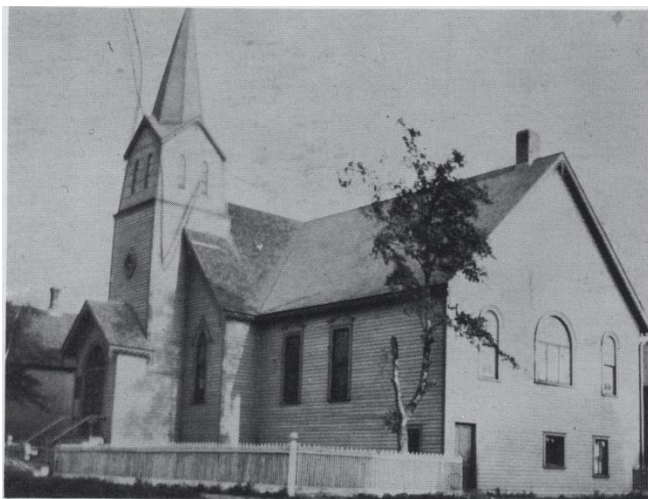
70th Anniversary Program, June 15, 1952

Dedication Program and Booklet, February 13, 1972

100th Anniversary Sunday bulletin, September 26, 1982

Burning of the Mortgage Papers, May 6, 1990 Bulletin

Assorted programs, bulletins, and photographs



East Side Baptist Church from 1909 to 1916. The original church unit was built in 1876 and did not include the wing to the right in the photo above.

First building with addition - 1876-1916



East Side Baptist Church in May, 1971 just before it was taken down to make room for the new church.

Remodeled building - 1917-1971