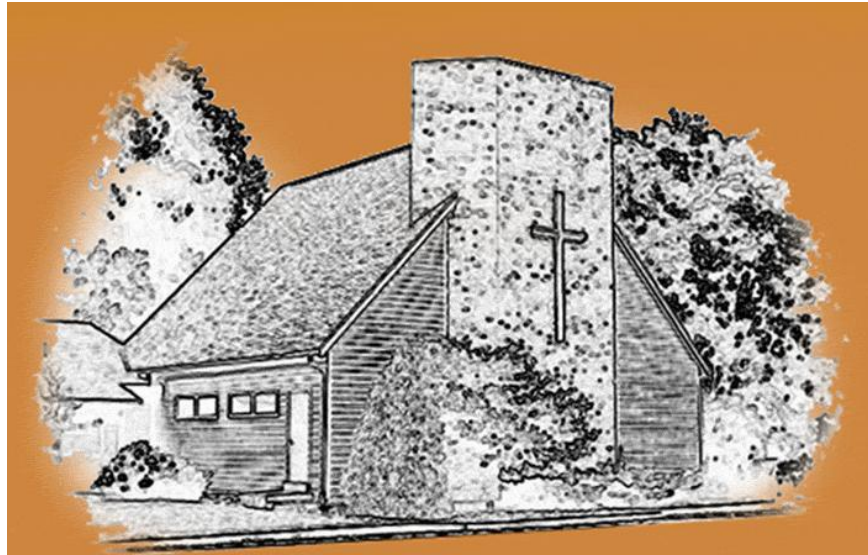


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories



From web site Sept 2015

North Avenue Baptist Church, Brookfield, WI [Named: Temple Baptist, Milwaukee – 1945-2004]

North Avenue Baptist Church of Brookfield had its beginning as a mission chapel of the First German Baptist Church. In 1887, a decision was made to form a separate organization which became the Second German Baptist Church of Milwaukee, WI. Rev. R. Machholz became the first pastor. After two years, the chapel was physically moved from 7th and Center Streets to the corner of West North Avenue and North Ninth Street. On Thanksgiving Day of 1891, the cornerstone of the new church was laid. After using a remodeled barn as a parsonage for a number of years, a spacious brick home was built in 1907.

The church observed its 25th anniversary in 1912. Membership at that time was 266, having grown from the original 80 in 25 years. When World War I broke out, the church changed its name to North Avenue Baptist Church, and English became the official language of worship. In 1935, various modernizing changes took place in the appearance of the building, including the removal of the steeple.

From 1945, the church experienced a few years of testing. The building had been sold but the government refused to issue permits for nonessential new construction. The congregation was able to meet in a Seventh Day Adventist Church. In December of 1946, the church voted to change its name to Temple Baptist Church, since they were no longer meeting on North Avenue. Finally, in September 1948, the church celebrated the laying of the cornerstone for what would become their new house of worship. The new Temple Baptist Church was dedicated with weekend services on January 13-15, 1950.

1887

The church celebrated its 85th anniversary in 1972 and its 100th anniversary in 1987. Fourteen pastors had served the church during those 100 years. In 2004 the name became North Avenue Baptist Church, located at 15400 North Avenue in Brookfield, WI.

Written by Phyllis Harms with Luci Lengefeld, NAB Heritage Commission [October, 2015]

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“Handbuch der Zweiten deutschen Baptisten Gemeinde”

Annual Directory and Telephone Register, 1936

Temple Baptist Church Dedication Program, January 15, 1950 (2 copies)

Program for 75th Anniversary activities, November 18, 1962

Program for Dedication Service, November 18, 1962

Program for 90th Anniversary activities, October 29-30, 1977

“Temple Baptist Church: Church History” 1977 (3 copies)

1887-1987 Temple Baptist Church; 100 Years Praising God’s Glory (booklet)

Centennial Program October 2-4, 1987

Assorted correspondence and photos



1892-1950



1950-