

North American Baptist Heritage Commission

# Church Histories



## **Victor Baptist Church, Victor, Iowa**

By faith, a group of persecuted Baptist believers left Germany for America, in search of a place where they could follow their religious practices without fear of being punished by the State Church. They settled in Iowa and began having services in the homes of the faithful believers. On March 26, 1876, the German Baptist Church was organized with help from the Muscatine Baptists, whose pastor ministered to the Victor group once every six weeks. On other Sundays the men of the church took turns in alphabetical order.

For 27 years, services were held in homes and rural school buildings. A Sunday School was established. The German language was used until the twenties, when it was gradually changed to English.

As a result of much prayer, labor and sacrifice, the first church was built three miles southeast of Victor in 1903. It was dedicated, debt free, and was used as a place of worship for 63 years. In 1911, the church united with the North American Baptist General Conference. This brought involvement in missionary endeavors on numerous levels. In January 1922, it was voted to have all future

## 1876

business meetings conducted in English. The congregation discontinued its pastor supply arrangement with the Muscatine Baptist Church in 1930. Rev. and Mrs. Elmer J. Hutchinson became the first full time resident pastor and wife in 1933. Twenty years later, in September, 1953, the church name was changed to Victor Baptist.

In 1950 serious discussion centered on the possibility of moving the church to town but this did not come to fruition until a ballot in 1964 resulted in an overwhelming “yes” vote. Construction began in May, 1966 and the dedication took place on January 29, 1967. Those involved felt as though they had been “eating, sleeping and living the project.”

The hope and desire of the Victor Baptist Church is that in the years to come the Spirit of God will lead the church as He has led in the past toward dedicated, fruitful service and ministry in His name. “That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord that it is mighty.” (Joshua 4:24)

Written by Lucille Lengefeld, NAB Heritage Commission [August, 2015]

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**Bibliographical sources: [Published articles – Baptist Herald & Other]**

Mortgage Burning Ceremony and dedication service articles in *The Pioneer Republican*, Marengo, IA Jan 26, 1967, Jan 29, 1967

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

Victor Baptist Church History 1876-1976

Centennial schedule of Events March 261-218, 1976

Victor Baptist Church dedication program 1967



First building used 1903-1967