

Humeston Baptist

by
Ortha Green



The Baptist Church of Humeston, Iowa, was organized November 1882 with twenty-one Charter members. They held services in the old Presbyterian Church until 1885, which was located at the north west corner of the City Park.

Two pastors at this time were Dixon Given and F. Edward early organization ministers of the Eden Association of Iowa. Soon after this they maintained a small church on Lots 9-10 Original town plot, facing Winter Street. This was two blocks north of the city park.

On July 12, 1893 the church became incorporated. (ref. Book 1-page 165 in the office of Wayne County Recorder).

1. This is to certify a meeting of the First Baptist Church of Humeston was called by a majority vote of members.
2. The name and style of incorporation shall be First Baptist Church of Humeston, Iowa.
3. The purpose of this incorporation is to maintain and support a plan of Divine worship and promotion of Christian instruction and missionary labor in accordance with usage of Baptist Denominations.
4. To conduct and manage by a board of not less than three members which are required as a quorum, to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. The following trustees were elected the first year; A.P. Kirby, M.K. Barnes and L.L. Greenlee.
5. The annual meeting shall be held on Saturday

preceding the second Sunday in January each year.

6. The trustees to have charge of all property, conduct business, set pastors salary and call meetings.
7. Private property is not liable to pay debts.

Incorporators: L.T. Greenlee, Edward Patrick, M.K. Barnes, F.M. Garton, Eli Fletcher and A.P. Kirby. signed, July 13, 1893 Notary - M.G. Ratcliff

In 1939 the church sold Lots 9-10 to Perry D. Jones and moved their place of worship to the building bought of the Congregational church on Lots 90-91-92-93, at the corner of Third and Broad Streets, located at the south-west corner of the city park, across to the west. Here they still worship.

They celebrated their fiftieth year of incorporation on October 10, 1943. On January 22, 1953 the church held Memorial Services for Rev. Rollo C. Speer, who had been their pastor during some trying years.

The church was host to the Baptist State Association at different times throughout the years.

Some of the ministers serving the church were; Rollo C. Speer in 1908-11, Valentine Hites, 1931-2-3-4-5, Earl Dale, 1943, P.H. Blunt, 1949, J.F. Nielson, 1956-58. John Probasco, 1953, Clarence N. Lutt, 1960 to 64. Or Campbell 1915. Roy E. Jones, 1966-7-8-9-70-1-2.

On Oct. 6, 1968 the Church observed its 75th year, with Rev. Dale F. Kamrath of Kearney, Nebr. as speaker. A large crowd attended.