

Unity Baptist Church located five miles south of Humeston on the west side of highway No. 65 in the S.E. corner of Sec. 9-69-23 Clay township is one of the old churches of the county.

The land on which the church stands was donated by George Garton Sr., and when the church ceases to exist the land will revert to the present owner. The church was organized Sept., 1888 at the Maple Grove Ch. and the church was built in the summer of 1888 at a cost of approximately \$1200.00.

During the winter of 1889 a revival meeting was conducted by Rev. Beard, which lasted six weeks with a crowded house each night. The ground was covered with snow, and people came in Bob-sled loads for miles around to attend. A large number of people were converted and became members of the church. A Baptismal service was conducted by Rev. Nelson at the George Garton pond north of the church. They had to saw a hole in the ice to baptize the converts. The pond

has been filled in.

As no records are available before 1906, I could name very few charter members.

Rev. John Nelson and Rev. Lewis Greenlee filled the pulpit for a time. Rev. George Smith was the first regular pastor and Rev. M.S. Clark was our pastor for over twenty years. B.E. Nielson, 1958, Gale Dobbins, 1953. All together there were fifteen different pastors who served the church during the years of record.

Regular services have been discontinued since 1959 but a faithful group still conduct Sunday School. Mrs. Poland has been a member for 60 yrs., Daryl Carter 40 yrs. Mrs. Jay Greenlee, Mr. and Mrs. Lafe Gibson and Mr. and Mrs. Rea Helt are among those who still attend.

Unity Baptist Church

by
Rev. Roy E. Jones

Several families felt the need of divine government in Clay and surrounding townships. So it was that thirteen christian persons decided to form the Unity Baptist Church. Mr. Ben Coffey Sr., Mr. and Mrs. William Coffey, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Guipp, Mr. and Mrs. John Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams, Mr. and Mrs. George Garton Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Greenlee made up this devout group.

Sixteen pastors served this church through the years; Rev. George Smith was the FIRST pastor. 1889.

Rev. R.R. Sadler, 1899,	Rev. Edwards, 1895.
Rev. M.S. Clark, 1903 to 1920	Rev. L.B. Wilkenson, 1921.
Rev. R. Courts, 1924	Rev. Roscoe H. Burke, 1928
Rev. Valentine Hites, 1930	Rev. Floyd Smith, 1938
Rev. Earl Dale, 1942	Rev. P.H. Blunt, 1944

Rev. Harold Thomas, 1949-50	Rev. Gail Dobbins, 1952-3.
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Rev. B.E. Nielson, 1955 to 58, who was the last pastor to serve half time.

Rev. Elmer Clark, Rev. Noel Vose and Rev. Jerry Trowbridge dates of service not known.

By unanimous vote of the remaining members present in May 1967 they voted to proffer the building to the First Baptist Church of Leon, Iowa, and plans are in order for removal of building.

The Church gave to the Wayne County Historical Societies Museum, the hand carved walnut Lectern (pulpit) the Bell, Silver Collection Plate, Communion Set and the large church sign. All are on display since they were received in 1968.