

Historical Sketch

With the discovery of the Silver King Mine and the construction of the Columbia and Kootenay Railway, Nelson, one of its terminal points, came into prominence, and with characteristic zeal the Presbyterian church arose to meet the needs of this important pioneer field.

Although a student missionary sent in by the Presbytery of Calgary was the first to come to the work, the honor of establishing the congregation falls to Rev. Thomas H. Rogers, B.A. who had just been graduated from Knox College, Toronto, and who reached Nelson to take up his duties on May 24th, 1891. Recognising the necessity of a centre from which to organise the forces, he rallied a corps of volunteer workers, who with enthusiasm, erected a temporary building on Baker Street, on the site now occupied by the Canadian Explosives, Limited. That this building related itself to the conditions of the new community, and filled a large place in its life is apparent from the fact that it was also used as a Union Church, Public School, Public Hall, Reading Room and Social Centre.

In less than three months the congregation was organised with a Session of two elders—D. C. McMorris and John Reith—and a Board of Managers of four members—D. C. McMorris, Dr. E. C. Arthur, D. McCallum and John Robson—choosing the name: First Presbyterian Church of Nelson.

The young and enterprising congregation at once approached the Provincial Government with a view