

— FIRST —
ANNUAL REPORT



Bethlehem Congregational Church,

WESTMOUNT.

(Organized 2nd June, 1896.)



PRESENTED AND ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
HELD IN THE CHURCH PARLOR

Wednesday Evening, 13th January, 1897.

BETHLEHEM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, WESTMOUNT.

ITS INCEPTION.

On the 19th of January, 1896, a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Sunday-school of the Congregational order, was held in Elm Hall, Elm Avenue. This was the first meeting held in connection with this place of worship. Shortly after the organization of the Sunday-school, Sunday evening worship, conducted by students of the Congregational College, was commenced. In the meantime a committee, composed of representatives from the different Congregational churches of the city, was appointed to discuss the advisability of proceeding at once with the organization of a church. This course was unanimously agreed upon, and steps were immediately taken to secure a suitable site, and proceed with the erection of a building. After much anxious thought and search, the committee eventually decided upon the lots on the corner of Clarke and Western Avenues, and purchased, and paid for, sufficient land to accommodate church, school and parsonage buildings. It was agreed to proceed as rapidly as possible with the erection of a building that would in every way be suitable for both purposes and also in connection with this at the same time a building suitable for a parsonage, which could in after years be used as a caretaker's residence. Mr. Andrew Taylor, architect, prepared plans for these buildings, and as soon as the frost was out of the ground the work of construction was commenced. The corner-stone of the new building was laid on Saturday evening, June 13th, 1896., under the auspices of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, which was meeting in Montreal at the time. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. M. Hill, of Calvary Church. The Rev. Hugh Pedley, of Winnipeg, and His Worship Mayor Evans of Westmount, delivered addresses.

THE CHURCH BUILDING.

The beautiful new building, which is an ornament architecturally to the town, was opened for public worship on Sunday, 25th October, 1896. The Revs. E. M. Hill, Dr. Evans, and Prof. Warriner, preached the opening sermons. The building will accommodate with church parlor, 450 persons, and is seated with comfortable folding chairs.

The church is not cursed with a "dim religious light," but has plenty of God's sunlight, coming in through delicately tinted windows. The church parlor is separated from the auditorium by folding doors, thus giving added accommodation to the church proper. In the parlor the meetings of the various societies are held, also mid-week worship, and the infant class of the Sunday-school.

The architectural design of the building is what is known as early pointed Gothic, and with its pillars and arches is indeed a work of beauty.

The first pastor of the church is the Rev. Robert Hopkin, late of Listowel, Ont., who was given a unanimous and urgent call to its leadership in April last, and who commenced work on the 17th of May following.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION.

On his arrival Mr. Hopkin immediately took steps towards the formation of a duly organized church, and on the first Sunday in June he had the privilege and pleasure of extending the right hand of fellowship to sixteen members. Every communion Sunday since then new members have been received until now the membership numbers 62. The church is Congregational in its polity, independent and self-governing, its government being vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastic body, and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel, and co-operation which are common among churches of the Congregational order.

No other confession than that of Jesus as a personal Saviour is required. The seats in the church are all free, and free to all. The expenses are met by voluntary offerings, and subscriptions.

No record of Bethlehem Congregational church would be complete without reference to the very generous gift of \$10,000 from the members of Calvary Church, indeed, it is safe to say that without this, it would not to-day be in existence. Bethlehem Church is an aggressive body, and is bound to go ahead.

COVENANT ADOPTED, 2ND JUNE, 1896, AT THE FIRST BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION.

"Acknowledging Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and Lord, and accepting the Holy Scriptures as our rule of faith and practice, and recognizing the privilege and duty of uniting ourselves for Christian fellowship and the enjoyment of Christian ordinances, and the public worship of God and the advancement of His kingdom in the world, we do now in the sight of God, and invoking His blessing, solemnly covenant and agree with others to associate ourselves to be a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, as warranted by the Word of God.

We agree to maintain the institutions of the Gospel, to submit ourselves to the orderly administration of the affairs of the church, and to walk together in brotherly love, and this we do depending upon the aid of our Heavenly Father, who so loved the world, that He gave His only Begotten Son for our Salvation, and of Jesus Christ, who hath redeemed us with His blood, and of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide."

FIRST OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.



Pastor :

REV. ROBERT HOPKIN.

Deacons :

W. F. LIGHTHALL.	GEORGE CLIMIE.
ARCHIBALD WRIGHT.	CHAS. B. POWTER.

Trustees :

LYNN T. LEET.	ARCHIBALD WRIGHT.
W. D. LIGHTHALL.	THOS. B. MACAULAY.

Ushers :

PHILLIP S. ANDREWS.	CHAS. E. BOX.
JAMES INNES.	CHAS. B. POWTER.

Superintendent of Sunday-school :

CHAS. B. POWTER.

Convener of Visiting Committee :

MRS. G. CLIMIE.

Church Board :

THE PASTOR, DEACONS, TRUSTEES, SECRETARY AND
TREASURER, MISS MARTHA WRIGHT, MRS. JAS.
INNES, AND MR. H. C. ANDREWS.

Secretary :

ALFRED A. ANDREWS.

Treasurer :

ARCHIBALD WRIGHT.

The first annual report of the Secretary, Mr. Alfred A. Andrews, showed that 16 persons in all attended the first business meeting for organization (2nd June, 1896), this number being increased to 54 members at the annual meeting held 13th January, 1897.

The following reports of the different funds of the church were presented by the Treasurer, Mr. Archibald Wright :—

BUILDING FUND.

Receipts from Calvary Church..	\$10,000 00
Mortgage Loan..	5,000 00
Other Sources..	82 76
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	\$15,082 76
Disbursements for Land..	\$6,570 85
Contractors..	7,530 50
Sundry..	225 64
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	\$14,336 99
Balance on Hand..	\$ 755 77

FURNISHING FUND.

Receipts collected by the Ladies and others..	\$263 50
Disbursements on Account..	229 00
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Balance on Hand..	\$ 34 50

FELLOWSHIP FUND.

Total Collections (still on hand).	\$ 14 76
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CURRENT ACCOUNT.

Receipts from Collections..	\$450 28
Other Sources..	25 46
Grant from C.C.M.S..	175 00
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	\$650 74
Disbursements—Pastor's Stipend..	\$395 50
Rent and other Expenses..	194 93
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	\$590 43
Balance on Hand..	\$ 60 31

REPORT OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY, MR. H. VALLANCE.

Collections..	\$245 86
Envelopes..	197 40
Other Subscriptions..	113 85
Ladies' Aid, for Furnishing..	229 00
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Total Receipts by the Financial Secretary..	\$786 11

The Sabbath-day plate collections, which were \$3.40, are now \$6.38 per Sabbath.

The Envelope system contributed in addition, \$3.80 per Sabbath, and now realizes \$9.10.

The average receipts per Sabbath from both sources now averaging \$17.30.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

(Organized 16th September, 1896.)

Hon. President..	MRS. HOPKIN.
President..	MISS M. J. WRIGHT.
1st Vice-President..	MRS. WM. RODDEN.
2nd Vice-President..	MRS. J. INNES.
Secretary..	MRS. G. CLIMIE.
Treasurer	MRS. H. VALLANCE.
Treasurer of Dime Fund	MISS ANDREWS.

This Society have realized \$229.00 towards the Furnishing Fund of the church, and is now engaged and will doubtless succeed in, paying off the carpet debt of about \$98.00.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Collections and Proceeds of Lecture..	\$258 30
Handed Church Treasurer..	\$229 00
Sundries..	1 00
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	\$230 00
Balance on Hand..	\$ 28 30
Collections for Christmas Tree..	\$15 18
Dime Fund, \$3.50, and Sales, .70..	4 20
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	\$19 38
Christmas Tree Presents..	\$13 53
Materials, etc..	3 57
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	\$17 10
Balance on Hand..	2 28

DIME FUND.

Collections..	\$5 60
Handed Ladics' Aid..	3 50
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Balance on Hand..	2 10

HELPERS' BAND.

President :—MISS ELIZABETH COCHRANE.

Although hardly started, have already contributed \$5.00 to the C. C. W. B. Missions, and \$2.00 to the Swedish Mission in Alberta.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY.

(Organized 21st November, 1896.)

Hon. PresidentREV. MR. HOPKIN.
 PresidentMR. W. DOUGALL.
 Vice-PresidentMISS L. CLIMIE.
 Secretary-TreasurerMISS FLO. TUCKER.

Nineteen members. Literary and religious meetings are held each Monday evening, in the church parlor.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL, BY MR. P. S. ANDREWS,
 SECRETARY-TREASURER.

Receipts from Collections, etc.	\$99 27
Dishbursements for Sunday-school papers . . .	\$17 90
Sundry Expenses	52 83
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	\$70 73
Balance on Hand	\$28 54

Members on roll, 70. Attendance is good.

OFFICERS FOR 1897.

SuperintendentCHAS. B. POWTER.
 Secretary-TreasurerCHAS. BOX.
 OrganistMISS ANDREWS.
 LibrarianMISS F. TUCKER.
 Assistant LibrarianMISS S. HOPKIN.

Teachers :—Misses Wright and Innes, Mrs. Hopkin, Messrs. Hopkin, Dougall and Powter.

OFFICERS FOR 1897.



Pastor:

REV. ROBERT HOPKIN.

Deacons:

W. D. LIDTHALL. GEO. CLIMIE.
HUGH VALLANCE. CHAS. B. POWTER.
E. R. EZARD.

Trustees:

WM. RODDEN (*Chairman*). W. D. LIDTHALL.
LYNN T. LEET. ARCHIBALD WRIGHT.

Wishers:

CHAS. BOX. GEO. HILL.
RUDOLPH VALLANCE. STANLEY ANDREWS.

Church Board:

THE PASTOR. DEACONS. TRUSTEES.
REC. AND FIN. SECRETARIES AND TREASURER.

WITH

MRS. INNES. H. C. ANDREWS. H. COWPER.

Secretary:

H. J. ROSS.

Financial Secretary:

HUGH VALLANCE.

Treasurer:

CHAS. BOLT.