

OUR HISTORY

The Trinity Christian Reformed Church had its beginnings in May of the year 1970 when a number of families from the First and Calvin Christian Reformed Churches of Rock Valley began meeting together in the Christian School gym. The two mother churches had continued to grow over the years, and especially the First Church could no longer accommodate all of its members during the worship services.

It was therefore decided to see if a third Christian Reformed Church could be started in Rock Valley. Trial services were held in the gym for almost five months, from May to September of 1970. There was a good turn-out and a good spirit among the interested families. They were well served during their first months by three ministers from Dordt College, Revs. Haan, Hulst and Kistemaker.

On September 30, 1970, a milestone was reached. In an impressive service, the congregation was officially organized. Rev. Van Drunen of the First Church presided and preached the sermon entitled "I Will Build My Church." After worship, the certificates of membership of 42 families and 5 individuals were presented and received as charter members of the new church. Next the first office-bearers were elected. From nominations, Robert Mulder, Peter Kooima, and Floyd Terpstra were chosen for elders, and James Van Engen, Donald Ter Haar, and James Van Maanen were chosen for deacons. The office-bearers were installed in their office by Rev. Engbers of Calvin Church. And thus, the third Christian Reformed Church in Rock Valley was born.

As one can imagine, many decisions had to be made by the new congregation and consistory. Catechism and Sunday School classes were started. Societies were organized. Various personnel were appointed. A budget was set up.

Already after one month, the need for an additional elder and deacon was felt. And in the first annual congregational meeting, Leonard Vanden Bosch was elected elder and Donald Driesen as deacon. Also at this meeting, the first minister was called. And last but not least, the members chose a name for themselves. Trinity Christian Reformed Church became the name of the congregation.

It was a time of growth and development which followed that first year, 1970. Many new members joined the church, so that by the end of 1971, there were 57 families and 5 individuals, a gain of 15 families.

In the meantime, the congregation was waiting for its first pastor. Three ministers were called, but all declined. Seminarian William Ver Hoef served the congregation for the summer of 1971. And then the call was extended to the Candidate James Admiraal from Marion, New York.

When the good news was received that Candidate Admiraal had accepted the call, the church entered into a new phase of its life. On September 26, 1971, he was ordained and installed in Trinity Church as its first pastor. A parsonage was built for him and his family on property donated by John Vanden Bosch. This property was also intended for a future church.

Steady growth continued in 1972. The church rolls increased to 63 families. But most of all, this was the year when a decision was made to build a new church. The time was ready. By unanimous vote, it was moved and adopted by the congregation to erect a building in 1973. A building committee was appointed, consisting of Peter Kooima, Gerald Vis, Donald Driesen, John Van Holland, and Marvin Vanden Bosch. In February of 1973, a specific plan was approved, and Mr. Charles Stienstra from Hull was hired as the general contractor. Work on the new building began in the Spring. A ground-breaking was held on Saturday, March 24, and the work proceeded. Cost of the building was approximately \$160,000. Seating capacity was 528. There were 10 classrooms, a kitchen and fellowship hall.

Work was completed and we moved into the new church in Dec. of 1973. Our first worship service was held on Christmas Day. The dedication of the new church was held Jan. 9, 1974.

In 1976, 3 more lots south of the church were purchased from John Vanden Bosch for additional parking. The cost was \$5000. It was decided to change the time of the evening service from 7:30 to 7:00 P.M.

In Feb. of 1976, Rev. Admiraal accepted a call to be pastor of Pleasant Street C.R.C. in Whitensville, Mass. Our student pastor for the summer was Gary Bekker. Candidate Dan De Groot accepted the call to be our pastor and was ordained and installed into the ministry on Oct. 24, 1976.

In Sept. of 1976, the Artley house was purchased to make 8 extra classrooms. It was later sold to Art Kooima who still lives there today.

In July of 1982, Pastor Dan De Groot left Trinity to become pastor of St. Catherine's C.R.C. in Ontario, Canada. Mark and Sheryl Beech came for the summer of 1983. Aug. 21, 1983, Pastor Robert Timmer was installed as our new minister.

At the congregational meeting of Dec. 7, 1987, it was approved to build a new fellowship hall and second floor classrooms at a cost of \$237,000. Dedication was held on Thanksgiving Day with an Open House on Nov. 27, 1988.

In 1988, Rev. Bill Van Dyken accepted the position as assistant pastor. In May of 1990, Rev. Timmer left us to accept a call to Noordeloos, Michigan.

Our fourth pastor was Rev. Jelmer Groenewold who accepted our call to come and serve us. He arrived in the first part of May, 1991. He was installed May 9.

Sept. 9, 1991, it was approved to purchase a used Moller organ from the old Congregational Church in Sheldon at a cost of app. \$45,000. Our old organ, which was donated by Ben Husiken, was now donated to the Trinity Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Bridgewater, South Dakota.