

SHORT HISTORY OF LAKELAND BAPTIST CHURCH
Iron River, Michigan

FALL OF 1973:

Having a desire to be a part of a New Testament Baptist Church, a group met in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Terry Kreger to discuss the forming of such a church. Some came from a Conference Baptist Church and others from a Bible Church. We asked Rev Albert Stover of Hiawatha Baptist Missions to attend to give counsel. He offered some suggestions and guidance to help us get started.

JANUARY 2, 1974:

We met to elect officers and select a name. We called ourselves Lakeland Baptist Fellowship.

JANUARY 6, 1974:

We began with a full schedule of services, Sunday School, A.M. and P.M. services and a Wednesday evening Bible study and Prayer meeting. Our services were held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. David Wiseley because it was centrally located for the group. Rev. Albert Stover of Hiawatha Baptist Missions did our preaching and gave us guidance.

FEBRUARY 1974:

We rented the Seventh Day Adventist Church and began holding our services there except for the Mid-Week service, this continues to be held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. David Wiseley.

OCTOBER 1974:

We began Missionary giving with ten per cent of our offerings going to Missions.

JANUARY 1975:

Discussion of the need for a full time pastor. Sought help from Hiawatha Baptist Missions and began having candidates as they were available.

AUGUST 1975:

Voted to extend a call to Pastor Lee Osmanson to be our pastor. He accepted the call and became our pastor.

JULY 1976:

Rev. Lee Osmanson resigned as our pastor.

JULY 1977:

Purchased a four bedroom home located on three acres of land. This is to be the pastor's residence and possible future location of our church building.

SEPTEMBER 3, 1977:

A unanymous call was extended to Pastor Lewis H. Mead of Hiawatha Baptist Missions to be our pastor. He accepted the call. At this time we proceeded to purchase another two acres next to our present property giving us a total of five acres with the home.

OCTOBER 1977:

Began work on a Church Covenant, Constitution, By-Laws and a Statement of Faith as we proceed toward becoming a New Testament Church duly organized and constituted.

APRIL 12, 1978:

Completed the drafting of our Church Covenant, Constitution and By-Laws. Pastor Lewis Mead resigned as pastor of the Fellowship as it shall dissolve effective April 30, 1978.

APRIL 30, 1978:

Voted the adoption of the proposed Church Covenant, Constitution and By-Laws. Declared ourselves to be a duly constituted and organized New Testament Baptist Church. Our first item of business was the calling of our pastor. Rev. Lewis H. Mead was given a unanimous call to be our first pastor. He accepted the call. We have sixteen adult and two teen age members.

OCTOBER 17, 1978:

A Recognition Council convened at the call of Lakeland Baptist Church to examine our Articles of Faith, Constitution, etc. After a very careful examination by twenty five messengers from seventeen sister Churches, we were recognized as a duly constituted and organized New Testament Baptist Church.

June 26, 1979

Accepted into the fellowship of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches at their annual meeting in Dayton, Ohio.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1981:

Pastor Lewis H. Mead resigned as our pastor feeling that more aggressive leadership was needed than he can provide and stating that he had not felt too well that past six months.

Resignation was accepted with regret and an invitation for pastor Mead to be our interim pastor until such time as we are able to obtain a pastor and he is able to move onto the field.

Pastor Mead accepted our invitation.

(Short History cont.)

November 1981 - Plans were being made on our new Church building. The site of the building was not as yet decided upon. A motion was approved to seek a loan and builders from the Hiawatha Baptist Missions.

January 1982 - Pastor L. Mead resigned as our supply Pastor. We waited to hear from Hiawatha Baptist Missions on a new full time Pastor.

August 1982 - Pastor William Raasch Accepted our call to become our full time Pastor.

Fall 1982 - We had a ground Breaking Ceremony on the 950 Halley Rd. site for our New Church Building. At this point a motion to postpone our building plans until the following Spring & Summer were approved.

Spring 1983 - A formal vote was taken to build on the present site - 950 Halley Rd. The vote passed and ^{Hikawatha Mission} builders arrived while the ground was prepared & drainage put in.

Summer 1983 - Building preparations went on as we planned to be in our building before winter.

December, 1983 - We had our first Church services on Sunday ~~Dec.~~ 11, 1983 in the basement or fellowship Hall.

July 1984 - As we met in our New building in the downstairs portion, work continued upstairs and outside.

Summer 1985 - Money was supplied to continue work for the plumbing heating & furnishings for our upstairs portion of our church.

Summer 1986 - Plans were being made to have our church finished by an August 1986 date set for our dedication of the building.