

The History of The Lawson Road Church of Christ

Rochester, New York

The Lawson Road Church of Christ traces its history to 1937, when the Page family moved to Rochester from Nashville. The church was incorporated in 1942, the same year in which a house was purchased on Wellington Avenue, on the southwest side of the city. The first floor was converted into a meeting place that could accommodate 50 people and the upstairs served as the minister's residence.

The group of Christians that met there during the next several years included the Page, Brightman, Keyes, Guyer, Warren Davis, Brown, DiBellis, Clark, Henderson, Grimes, Fields, Caruana, Melton and Macaluso families. Tom Page preached for this congregation after graduating from David Lipscomb College. The congregation continued to meet on Wellington Avenue until 1954, when the property was sold. The church next met in the downtown YMCA until the Lawson Road property was ready for use.

In the early 1947, Edgar Brown, who had moved to Rochester from Florida, decided that he would like to work among the African-American community in Rochester. With the blessing and support of the Wellington Avenue congregation, he and his family began the work on the east side of the city. Over the years, that effort led to the Reynolds Street, Northside and Central congregations.

The Lawson Road property was purchased in 1954, and the preacher's home was built that year. Work on the church building began soon after. In 1955, while construction continued, the church began meet in the basement of the new building. The auditorium was completed in 1956. Glendol Grimes served as the church's first full-time preacher from 1952-1955.

In 1959 Charles Guyer and his family decided to plant a new congregation in Newark, NY, where they were living at the time. That work was also begun with the help and blessing of the Lawson Road congregation.

In 1966, with the encouragement of the church and its preacher at the time, Glendol Grimes (who had returned to the church after serving elsewhere for about 10 years), a team of "Exodus Movement" church planters was recruited with the goal of beginning a congregation on the south side of Rochester. Several families moved to Rochester, primarily from churches in southern states, and David Young and John Belasco, recent graduates of Harding College, worked with that group. The Exodus group met with the Lawson Road church until they obtained a meeting place of their own around 1966. Today this group has become the Southside Church of Christ.

In 1970, a congregation was started in Brockport, New York with a nucleus of members and support from Lawson Road. This help was continued until the Brockport congregation obtained a full-time minister and other financial support.

Around 1990, several families from the Northside Church of Christ joined Lawson Road. These families were a welcome addition and brought much talent, strength and diversity to the church.

In 2012 the church completed a significant building expansion that made the facilities handicap accessible. Additionally, modernized restrooms, new offices and an enlarged foyer were added.

Today Lawson Road has an average attendance of about 110 each Sunday morning. The congregation praises God for its racial diversity and the witness this presents of God's power to defeat human barriers. The children's Bible classes and an active youth program for high school students remain important ministries of the church. God's faithfulness in our past provides reassurance that He will continue to bless the Lawson Road Church of Christ in the future as we seek to engage the community of Greece and fulfill God's Great Commission to share his Good News with the world.

Lawson Road Church of Christ Leadership

Elders		Ministers	
1966-1972	Lee Davis	1937-'39,	Tom Page
	John Dieterich	1941-'42	Tom Page
	Glenn Warren	1952-'55,	Glendol Grimes
1970-1972	Bill Kocher	1955-'57	Gene Peden
		1957-'60	Joe Lemmons
1986-1990	Bill Kocher	1960-'63	John Cupp
	Hal Hackney	1964-'65	Medford Kaele
	Jack Spence	1965-'68	Glendol Grimes
2000-2003	Phil Perkins	1968-'71	Russell Gleaves
2000-2008	Pat Lyon	1971-'76	Doyle Martin
2000-present	Ron Lorenzo	1977-'83	Dean Clutter
2008-present	Steve Schulz	1984-'95	Arnold Holmes
2008-2014	John Brazas	1996-'99	Richard Lewis
2015-present	Curtis Moore	2000-'05	Paul Mathis
	Larry Waterman	2006-'07	Ben Overby
		2008-present	Peter Horne