

## **Davison Missionary Baptist Church Historical Highlights**

The Davison Avenue Missionary Baptist Church was first organized as a mission on the fourth Sunday in October, 1923. The church was located at 1620 East Davison Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. The founder and first Pastor was the late Reverend Alonzo A. Goodwin. Deacon William Everette, Deacon Willie Vaughn, Bro. John Milton, Deacon Gennie Goodwin, Sis. Rebecca Goodwin, Sis. Annie Vaughn, Sis. Lillian Everette, Sis. Willie Lee Byrd, Bro. Howard Everette and Sis. Milton were some of the original members who were instrumental in organizing Davison Avenue. During the first year of organization, the Adult Choir and Missionary Society were also established.

In 1928, the church moved to a storefront edifice located at 13905 St. Aubin Street. Several years later, the building was renovated by expanding the sanctuary, adding an elevated pulpit area, choir stand, pews and a lower level baptism pool. The church remained at this location until 1972.

Prior to 1933, Reverend James L. Mosley, Reverend Crawford, Reverend McGhee and Reverend Richards were each called to serve as pastor of the church. Reverend Alonzo A. Goodwin was once again called to pastor in 1933 and served until 1960. After his retirement, Pastor Goodwin was succeeded by the late Reverend G. Lewis Randolph, II who served until his resignation in 1963.

In July 1963, the late Reverend Dr. Herman Yarber, Jr. was called to serve as pastor. He is referenced as being the longest serving pastor in the history of the church. Dr. Yarber pastored Davison until his demise on October 15, 2006. He is credited for leading several significant church, civic and community initiatives.

Under Pastor Herman Yarber's capable leadership, a parsonage and several vacant lots were secured. During the sixties, three lots located on Dequindre Street (just south of Nevada) were strongly considered as a potential church site for Davison. However, the pastor and congregation later decided to purchase our current building located at 39 East Dakota Avenue.

Under the merciful had of God, we entered into our present church home on October 22, 1972. The name of the church was formally changed from Davison Avenue to Davison Missionary Baptist Church in April 1973. Since relocating to Dakota Avenue, Davison experienced a major renovation during the calendar year 1999. The sanctuary and lower auditorium were completely redesigned. Also, an elevator and expanded parking facilities were installed.

Our current pastor is Reverend David M. Yarber, Sr. He was appointed by God and elected by the congregation to succeed his father, on Sunday, December 31, 2006 and was installed in May of 2007. He is a spiritually anointed man of great vision and wisdom. Pastor Yarber has been affiliated with Davison for over fifty years. Like his father, Pastor Yarber believes in an inclusive ministry "where everybody is somebody in Christ Jesus." Under his leadership our ministry motto has been further expanded for we are also "Learning, Living, Loving and Growing Together in Christ."

Reverend Dr. David M. Yarber, Sr. went to be with the Lord on Saturday, September 17, 2022. "His Lord said to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." Matthew 25:21a NKJV