

Beginning info

August 12, 1955

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Mr. August Parker
c/o Dearborn Church of Christ
7350 Chase Road
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear August:

After thinking it over I realized that I had not fully answered the question that you asked me Sunday morning, namely, how did the Dearborn Church get started? We switched from this subject to the possibility of your going with the new congregation, consequently I did not tell you all the particulars of how the Dearborn church was started.

No. 1. We were self-supporting from the beginning. At that time there was no charge for the services of the Robert Oakman School. We paid \$3.00 per Sunday to Mr. Seymour, the caretaker, and in the winter time we paid for heating the building. We did not have a located minister until the end of the year and was only paying \$3 to \$5 per Sunday for various speakers and quite often these brethren would not accept any money. As a result of our low overhead we did not need financial support.

No. 2. There is a letter on file at Dearborn and Hamilton in which we asked the Plum Street Church of Christ to take over the spiritual oversight of the Dearborn work. Bro. W. G. Malcomson and Vernon C. Fry were the elders. Bro. Malcomson preached for us the opening day and on other occasions.

No. 3. Our first revival meeting was conducted by Bro. John C. Taylor, minister of the Plum Street congregation (you recognize of course that Plum Street and Hamilton Blvd. are one and the same congregation).

No. 4. Hamilton Blvd. Church purchased a portable building and largely through the financial assistance of Bro. Fry

we were able to erect this building. It was located back of our present auditorium and we were to pay Hamilton rental. We only paid them for about 6 months and they refunded what we had paid them. This building was later sold for approximately \$1,000 to the East End Congregation.

No. 5. Bro. W. G. Malcomson was one of the outstanding architects in the Detroit area and drew up the plan for our present building (except the Education unit). All of this at no charge to the Dearborn congregation. Incidentally he was the architect on the Robert Oakman School.

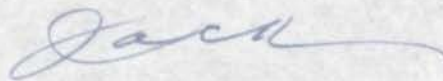
No. 6. As a result of our low operating expenses we were able to accumulate some money in the treasury and Bro. E. Gaston Collins who had been working in Canada stopped in Detroit on his way to Tennessee and was employed for, I believe, two or three months at a salary of \$35 per week. After he left A. W. Hastings was employed for \$10 a week. This was later raised to \$30 when he gave all of his time to the work.

I believe this pretty much explains how the Dearborn congregation was started. All of the congregations were very helpful and very cooperative with us in supplying preaching for revival meetings as well as fill-ins at no charge to us.

If there is any additional information you desire, would appreciate your advising.

I am taking the liberty of sending a copy of this to the Dearborn Church inasmuch as it contains some information that is not generally known. However all of the above facts may be confirmed by Bro. Paul McAllister, D. D. Felske and Leroy Hull.

Sincerely,



J. N. Hoover

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cc: Dearborn Church of Christ

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