

Organization service of The Ruth Morton Memorial Baptist Church April 24, 1912.

The above service was held at the close of our midweek prayer meeting with our pastor Brother Litch in the chair.

Moved by Bro. G. H. Thompson seconded by Bro. G. H. Reid that Bro. B. M. Colwell be clerk pro tem, Carried  
 Brother Vansickle, Superintendent of Missions for Vancouver & Westminster then gave an interesting address on the opening of the church; in which he stated that he first came here to visit Mr. Black & seeing no church in this neighborhood he enquired if there were any Baptists here & after some visiting found about sixteen. The first meeting to consider the work was held at Bro. O. J. Benedict's house.

Our Pastor then read the following address on "Events leading to Organization". This work was opened by the Rev. M. Vansickle, Superintendent of the Baptist Churches in, and in the vicinity of Vancouver & New Westminster. On August 13, 1911 a Sunday School was organized with an attendance of twenty nine. Bro. O. J. Benedict was appointed Superintendent. That same evening a public service was held in a store on the corner of 28<sup>th</sup> & Prince Albert St. (Rev. Mr. Black of Hastings Townsite preached for Bro. Vansickle). After two Sundays the store was needed for business & the next two Sundays, services were held in a new house opposite present site on 27<sup>th</sup> Ave lent to us by Bro. C. E. Weard. After this, services were held in a house owned & being built by Bro. Geo. H. Thompson opposite present location on Prince Albert St. Here through the generosity of our Brother services were held for five months. In the middle of February 1912 a tent was secured & erected on the present site, which had been purchased & donated by the Extension Society. Rev. A. A. McLeod our foreign missionary conducted the first service in the tent.

On the third Sunday in January 1912 at the request of Mr. Vansickle, J. Willard Litch Missionary Evangelist of the denomination for Alberta & British Columbia preached at the evening service.

At the close of the service the workers met & appointed a delegation to meet the Extension Society at their meeting the same week, asking that a permanent pastor be secured to carry on the work & if it were possible to secure Mr. Litch. The Extension Society favored the proposition & promised a grant to the work & submitted

S.S. Organized

29.

for appointment Mr Litch named to the Mission Board of B.C. through the Rev. H. G. Estabrook Supt. of Missions. Mr Litch was appointed & a grant promised if it were necessary. On the last Sunday in March, Mr Litch who resigned his position as Missionary Evangelist, began his work here. Shortly afterwards he announced to the congregation that Mr John Morton the Pioneer Baptist of Vancouver had handed over to the Board of Baptist Missions of B.C. twelve thousand dollars in trust to be used to erect a building free of debt on the lots donated by the Extension Society.

The first prayer meeting was held the first Wednesday in April, when Organization was proposed. The question was considered fully the following week at prayer meeting, when Bro. Geo. H. Thompson moved & Bro. O. W. Benedict seconded that two weeks from tonight on April 24 we meet to organize ourselves into a regular Baptist Church. This was carried unanimously. Meanwhile the following in number sixty five signed these names expressing their desire to become charter members of the new church.

Rev. H. G. Estabrook Superintendent of missions for B. C. sent his regrets on account of not being able to be present owing to a visit to Prince Rupert.

It was moved by Bro. Thomson seconded by Bro. Gilford H. Colwell that we fellowship each other, including those whose letters have not arrived & those who are joining by experience & baptism. Carried

Moved by Bro. O. W. Benedict, seconded by Bro. Wm Davidson as follows: - Having been led by the spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as our Saviour & Lord, and on a profession of our faith having been baptized in the likeness of his death and resurrection, and believing that we are lead to seek the establishing of a strong evangelical cause in this district

- (a) I move that we do here & now constitute ourselves a church of Jesus Christ to perform his service and to be governed by his will as revealed in the New Testament.
- (b) As interpreted by the spirit of Jesus we take the Bible as our creed & practice.
- (c) For the conduct of our business, we shall be guided by the ordinary parliamentary rules of a democratic body, and as occasion may demand, from time to time, we shall make such regulations as our needs may require. Carried.

Prayer by Bro. Vansickle

Rev. Litch's Pastor

\$12000  
lots donated

Organized April 24/12  
Charter members (65)  
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Our Pastor then told of Bro. Mator, the first Baptist in Vancouver, giving us cheerfully the sum of \$12000. for the erection of a church, only suggesting that name of the church be "The Ruth Mator Memorial Baptist Church", if his wife was willing for her name to be used & the members agreeable.

Moved by Bro. O. J. Benedict seconded by Bro. G. H. Thomson that we adopted the name of "The Ruth Mator Memorial Baptist Church" for our church. Carried.

Appointment of officers was next in order which resulted as follows:-

Moved by Bro. G. H. Thomson seconded by Bro. Gilford H. Colwell that we extend a hearty & unanimous call to Bro. Litch to be our pastor. Carried, & Accepted.

Moved by Bro. G. H. Thomson seconded by Bro. Theodore Scott that Bro. Burton M. Colwell be appointed permanent clerk. Carried.

Moved by Bro. O. W. Benedict seconded by Bro. G. H. Colwell that Bro. G. H. Thomson be treasurer. Carried.

Moved by Bro. G. H. Thomson seconded by Bro. Reese that the appointment of Bro. O. J. Benedict as Sunday School Superintendent be confirmed. Carried.

Moved by Bro. Theodore Scott seconded by Bro. Baker that three deacons be appointed. Carried.

Moved by Bro. Baker seconded by Bro. Davidson that the deacons be appointed tonight. Carried.

Moved by Mrs. G. H. Reid seconded by Bro. Finlay that Bro. W. J. Scott be one of the deacons. Carried.

Moved by Bro. Baker seconded by Bro. Davidson that Bro. Gilford H. Colwell be appointed deacon. Carried.

Moved by Bro. G. H. Reid seconded by Bro. Davidson that Bro. O. J. Benedict be appointed deacon. Carried.

Moved by Bro. W. J. Scott seconded by Bro. Reid that Bro. O. W. Benedict be chairman of the Finance Committee to nominate four others whom he recommend to be members of the committee & to report next Wednesday night May 1<sup>st</sup>. Carried.

Our Pastor recommended that Mrs. G. H. Reid be appointed chairman of Missionary Committee. Moved by Mrs. O. J. Benedict seconded by Bro. W. J. Scott that Sister Reid be chairman of the Missionary Committee, the committee to consist of

first deacons

three men & two women. Carried.

Our Pastor suggested that Bro. J. W. Irvine be appointed one of the three trustees

Moved by Bro. G. H. Colwell that Mr Irvine be one of the Trustees. Carried

Moved by Bro. O. W. Benedict that Bro Wm. Davidson be one of the Trustees. Carried.

Moved by Bro. G. H. Thompson that Bro. G. H. Reid be one of the Trustees. Carried.

It was suggested by our Pastor that the trustees meet during the week & bring us a recommendation next Wednesday re incorporating as a body.

Moved by Bro. G. H. Thompson seconded by Bro. W. J. Scott that Bro. Geo P Finlay be chairman of the ushers & to submit the names of the committee next Wednesday. Carried

The meeting closed with singing the Doxology & prayer by Bro. Reece.

J. Willard Little  
Chairman

B. M. Colwell  
clerk