

H I S T O R Y  
of the  
BRITISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ONTARIO CHAPEL  
WINESOR, ONTARIO  
1856 - 1962

150/11

11

Pastors of B. M. E. Church Windsor

Reverend	Thomas Jefferson	1856
Reverend	J. Thomas	
Reverend	Benjamin Stewart	(2 yrs)
Reverend	Walter Hawkins	3 yrs

On Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1962 at 10 a.m. the Municipal Board sat in the council chambers of the Windsor city hall to hear the claimant, the British Methodist Episcopal Church, formerly of 363 McDougall St. appeal for sufficient funds (more than the \$60,000.00 they had been offered), for to build a new church and parsonage and land on which to build them. etc

They were represented by Mr. Levinter, a lawyer from Toronto, and assisted by Roy Ross Riddell, B.C. of Windsor. The amount for the organ, \$3500. and the parsonage \$5,000.00 was previously agreed upon by the church and the city, so there remained the church proper, and the land for arbitration.

Reverend J.H. Edwards <sup>(age 80)</sup> as pastor of the church was the first witness. He said we have a membership of 150 with 100 active members. He named the societies and auxiliaries, which are vitally active and gave a brief summary of our history.

Several contractors were called, (on behalf of the church,) who had inspected the former church with a view to estimate what it would cost to construct another church similar to the one we had. These men were questioned by Mr. Levinter in

detail. They were cross-questioned by  
Mr. Ferris who represented the city.

Lombardo Cost - estimate 89,000

Grosselin Costs - estimate 102,000

Masotti - 87,000

Colavino between 60 - 90,000

Damien - 84,000  
103,680

It was shown that these companies  
were small companies, with little  
experience in church building.

The matter of the buttresses were ~~dealt~~  
dealt with at length.

Mr. Louis Millbean testified that  
he was familiar with the church  
and stated that he had helped to  
build the buttresses which were added  
to the church to strengthen the walls,  
on recommendation because of the  
vibration of the over size organ. He also  
stated he rebuilt the portion of wall torn  
out on the south side in 1931.

Mr. Albert Wells (85 yrs.) testified about the floor being raised, and the reason for the filling in of the windows on the side because of it.

Reverend Mack Brown, pastor of 1st Baptist Church, Moderator of testified that the church had been well kept since he knew it from 1944.

Mr. Rouch, one of the appraisers testified about size of church, buttress and sections of ~~pews~~ <sup>chuck</sup>, e.g. office, balcony, vestibule, stairways and basement of church.

The board adjourned proceedings until 9 a.m. Wednesday June 6, 1962.

Wed June 6, 1962 -

Our counsel met with counsel for <sup>hearing</sup> city from 9 a.m. suspending arbitrations at 11.30 a.m. Mr. Riddell called Reverend Edwards, Thomas Miller, Charlie Lawson, Archie Ball, McKee Rock into conference.

Mr. Lewister was then told by Mrs. Washington that it was not a true picture, 47% of our membership did not live in the area of Louis + University Streets.

He then said that he had planned to prove that the engels did ~~so~~ and that too would be a team for stepping now.

Shortly after, those of our church in attendance were also called into conference with the lawyers Mr. Levinter and Riddell to hear the offer, and answer questions regarding it.

## Offer

After paying all the legal costs, the net to the church would be \$58,000.

Mr. Levinter said "up to now he was disappointed in the evidence given by the builders, as he didn't feel they were men that could be relied upon. He said that the only good witnesses were Mr. Wells, Mr. Millburn and Rev. Brown.

Mr. Levinter <sup>said</sup> ~~said~~ that they couldn't look at it from a sentimental or traditional point of view, as in law it can't be measured in money. The value of the land and the value of the buildings is what they were dealing with, and time has taken a toll of that building (church over 100 years old).

Mr. Levinter said that in the valuation of the land he had always taken a stand of reinstatement. If we drive it to its conclusion they will only give us the land and a building which is not any better.

He suggested that we buy Louis Miller's property as he was informed of 70 of our membership lived in the district.

Mr. Levinter said that A. Sods of  
Ascon Constructor will produce a letter  
to build a church with all conveniences  
for \$55,000, and pointed out that his  
(Ascon Constr.) was a reputable company  
with experience in building churches.

Mr. Levinter said that after the church  
has lived 100 years, it is reasonable  
to think it would depreciate 50%.

The city valued the property

12,000 for land

3,500 " pews

1,250 " pews

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16,750

5,000 for parsonage

~~to be included in the \$58,000 offer~~

\$21,750

to be included in the \$58,000 offer

Mr. Levinter + Mr. Riddell retired to let members <sup>decide</sup> ~~see~~  
Several persons including Mr. Chas. Lawson,  
Mr. Chas. Ball, Velma Vincent, Marie Murter,  
Charles ~~Ball~~ Mall, Ernest Browning,  
Winifred Shree

spoke about how disappointed they  
were with the offer.



At 1.12 pm. ~~on~~ Motion of Mr. Charles Ball supported by Velma Vincent that we accept the terms of settlement given by our counsel, with dissatisfaction of \$58,000 + 5% interest from time of seizure of church and parsonage, without any additional cost to us.

Motion carried unanimously.

Those who voted were

Rev. J. H. Edwards

Charles Ball

Joy Edwards

Larry Johnson

Maire Martin

Fred Caston

Bertha Chickee

Gene Stiles

Charles Lawson

Archie Ball

Winifred Shreve

Elizabeth Washington

Lowell Johnson

Madeline Parker

Anita Travis

Velma Vincent

McKean Rock

Lawrence Millben

Frank McCauley

Charles Hall

Ernest Browning

Mildred Talbot

25 ayes, standing

Thomas Millben

May Caston

Erchett Ball

Mrs. O. Richardson was at the hearing but left before the vote was taken. Elzora Chase arrived too late to vote.

Mr. Riddell and Mr. Levinter returned after over 1 hour and was told of our decision and drew up a paper for directors.

Directive

We hereby authorize and direct you to settle arbitration proceedings

for the sum of \$58,000, plus interest on the sum of \$60,000 from Dec 27, 1961 plus all legal costs incurred since the commencement of the arbitration.

Pews to be the property of the church, and there is to be no storage charge. Take possession of pews within 6 months.

The organ is the property of the church (\$2650. to rehabilitate it)

Signed by:

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