

# A SHORT HISTORY OF THE WEST VALLEY MISSIONARY CHURCH

The Pacific Conference of the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church, as we were known in those days, held revival meetings in the Harwood area in both 1933 and 1934. Rev. A. G. Herman was the pastor of our Yakima Church and he along with the young people began conducting services in a dance hall in Harwood. The services were first conducted as a community church, but during the pastorate of Stephen and Nellie Holeman, who came in 1934 as the first resident pastor, organized it as one of our churches in 1935. A church was built in 1937 at a value of \$377.00. The missions offering that first year was \$5.60.

## **Pastors Who Followed:**

Harold Johnson	1937 to 1940
Supplied	1941
G. A. Fallness	1942
M.D.Lynn	1943
Mr. Crapuchette	1944
Joseph Hughes	1945

In 1945 the Washington Conference - Mennonite Brethren in Christ District was formed by the merger of the West Coast Conference and the Pacific Conference.

In 1947 the name Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church was changed to United Missionary Church.

Claude Barrett	1946 - 1947
J. K. Myers	1948 - July of 1953
Don L. Mikel	July of 1953 - July of 1958

In 1954 more land was purchased and a new sanctuary was built and attached to the original church building. This is now the portion west of our present sanctuary and is now used in our Christian Education Department. A parsonage was built right where the present sanctuary is. Prior to this the Pastor and his family lived in the back of the church.

C.H. "Wes" Hunsburger	1958 - 1960
Harley C. Dyck	December of 1960 - April 1978

The original church was completely removed and the Christian Education section was built. More land to the east was also obtained. In 1969 we changed our name to Missionary Church after our merger with the Missionary Church Association.

Ernest J. Batten	April of 1978 - April of 1990
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The parsonage was sold to the Batten's and removed from the property in April of 1981. The new sanctuary was begun in October of 1981 and dedicated in 1982.

Ronald C. Smith	August of 1990 - February of 1997
Ernest J. Batten ( <i>interim</i> )	February of 1997 - October of 1998
James J. Merillat	October of 1998 -