

HISTORY OF UFCC

UNITED FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC. WAS STARTED ON MAY 21, 1989. PRIOR TO THAT TIME, THE CONGREGATION WAS KNOWN AS FAIRVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

ON FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1989, THE ELDERS AND MINISTER, LINWOOD LASSITER, JR., RECEIVED REGISTERED LETTERS TO THE EFFECT, THAT MR. LASSITER COULD NO LONGER FILL THE PULPIT OF FAIRVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BECAUSE HE WAS A BAPTIST MINISTER. THIS EDICT WAS TO BE IN EFFECT AS OF RECEIPT OF THE AFORE MENTIONED LETTERS.

MEMBERS HAD MADE SPECIAL PLANS FOR THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, MOTHERS DAY. BECAUSE MR. LASSITER WAS NOT ALLOWED TO CONDUCT SERVICES IN THE CHURCH AS MINISTER ANY LONGER, WE DECIDED TO MEET SOMEWHERE ELSE SO AS TO CARRY OUT OUR SERVICES AS PLANNED.

ON MAY 14, MOTHER'S DAY, WE MET IN THE BASEMENT OF BOBBY AND FRANCES CORBETT'S HOME WITH A 100% ATTENDANCE OF FAITHFUL MEMBERS PLUS VISITORS. SERVICES WERE CONDUCTED BY BILLY PARRISH, A RULING ELDER OF THE FAIRVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BECAUSE OUR PASTOR, LINWOOD LASSITER, JR., WOULD MEET WITH US. HE DID NOT WANT PEOPLE TO THINK HE WAS THE CAUSE OF A SPLIT IN FAIRVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. AT THE END OF THE SERVICE, MEMBERS DECIDED TO MEET AT BILLY PARRISH'S HOME ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1989, TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO IN REGARDS TO THE PREDICAMENT WE HAD FOUND OURSELVES IN.

AT THE MEETING, MAY 17, 1989, WE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO CHARTER-UP AND START A NEW CHURCH OF OUR OWN, WHERE WE WOULD NOT BE RULED BY OUTSIDE INTERESTS.

ON MAY 21, 1989, WE MET AGAIN IN THE BASEMENT OF BOBBY AND FRANCES CORBETT. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICES CONDUCTED BY DONALD PARRISH, WE MET TO SELECT A NAME FOR OUR CHURCH AND TO ELECT OFFICERS. PRESENT AT THAT MEETING WERE:

CHERYL PARRISH
DONALD PARRISH
MARY LEE PITTMAN
DONNA L. PARRISH
D. WAYNE RICKS
DENISE CREECH
JO PARRISH
SUSAN RICKS
DONNIE CREECH
AMY CREECH
JONATHAN CREECH
BRENDA PARRISH
BILLY PARRISH
SHERRY C. HOLLOMAN
DENNIS CORBETT

BOBBY CORBETT
FRANCES CORBETT
HAZEL BATTEN
PAULINE CREECH
DWAYNE PARRISH
GARY PARRISH
FAYE CREECH
DAVID CORBETT
SHARON CORBETT
ANITA CORBETT
MICHAEL CORBETT

IT WAS VOTED TO NAME OUR CHURCH UNITED FAITH CHURCH, INC. WE LATER HAD TO ADD CHRISTIAN BECAUSE THERE WAS ALREADY A UNITED FAITH CHURCH IN NORTH CAROLINA. OFFICERS ELECTED WERE:

BILLY PARRISH - PRESIDENT
DONALD PARRISH - VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY
BRENDA PARRISH -TREASURER

IT WAS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO BE GOVERNED BY A DEACON BOARD, WHICH WAS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE VOTED ON BY THE CONGREGATION.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING, THINGS WERE PUT INTO MOTION TO CHARTER-UP AS A NON-PROFIT AND TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION.

WE APPROACHED THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WADE H. ATKINSON MEMORIAL COMMUNITY BUILDING ABOUT MEETING IN THE BUILDING UNTIL SUCH TIME AS WE COULD DO BETTER. THEY AGREED UNANIMOUSLY AND WE HAD OUR THIRD MEETING IN THE COMMUNITY BUILDING ON THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER MOTHER'S DAY. WHEN WE MET IN THE COMMUNITY BUILDING, OUR PASTOR, LINWOOD LASSITER, JR. RETURNED TO MINISTER TO US.

WE RAN INTO MANY PROBLEMS AND MANY INCIDENTS OF BEING PERSECUTED BY SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO HAD HARD FEELINGS BECAUSE OF THE SPLIT. THROUGH ALL THESE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS, WE COULD SEE GOD BLESSING US EVERY WEEK AND MONTH AS WE MOVED FORWARD. BY JAN. 7, 1990, OUR MEMBERSHIP HAD GROWN TO 39. THIS WAS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON OUR CHURCH ROLL TO DATE. IN TIMES PAST, WE HAVE LOST SOME MEMBERS AND WE HAVE GAINED SOME. WE CURRENTLY STAND AT 34 AS OF JUNE 3, 1992.

THROUGH GOD BLESSING US, WE OBTAINED LAND FROM MR. L. S. CREECH (2 ACRES MORE OR LESS) ON NOV 26, 1989. THE PURCHASE PRICE OF THES LAND WAS \$5000.00 PLUS A \$5000.00 DONATION TO HIM FOR A TOTAL OF \$10,000.00 FOR THE LAND.

ON MARCH 2, 1990, ALL MEMBERS HAD THEIR NAMES REMOVED FROM FAIRVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S ROLL OF RECORDS, WHICH COMPLETED THE BREAK FROM FAIRVIEW CHURCH. BECAUSE WE WERE KNOWN AS THE GROUP THAT SPLIT THE CHURCH, WE DECIDED THAT WE WOULD BE A NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH.

WHEN WE STARTED OUR BUILDING, SEVERAL LARGE DONATIONS WERE MADE ANONYMOUSLY AND EQUIPMENT AND TIME WAS DONATED BY ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE. IT SEEMED THAT GOD PROVIDED EVERYTHING THAT WE NEEDED JUST AS WE NEEDED IT. EXAMPLES: BRANCH CHAPEL CHURCH DONATED A PIANO, CHURCH FURNITURE WAS FOUND AT A VERY LOW COST, FIXTURING WAS OBTAINED AT A VERY LOW COST. EVEN AS THINGS FELL INTO PLACE, WE FOUND THAT A LOT OF LOVE AND HARD WORK WAS GOING TO BE REQUIRED TO BUILD GOD'S HOUSE.

ON MAY 13, 1991, TWO YEARS AFTER ORGANIZING, UNITED FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH, INC. MET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN IT'S NEWLY, ALMOST COMPLETE

BUILDING. IT WAS A JOYOUS OCCASION TO ONE AND ALL THAT WERE PRESENT.

IN JULY, 1991, OUR MINISTER OF THREE PLUS YEARS, STARTING AT FAIRVIEW CHURCH UNTIL THIS TIME, MR. LINWOOD LASSITER, JR. RESIGNED. HE SAID HE FELT HE HAD DONE WHAT GOD HAD SENT HIM TO DO.

ON OCT. 6, 1991, CECIL BRYANT OF CLAYTON, NC WAS CALLED TO OUR CHURCH AND WAS THE PASTOR UNTIL JULY, 1998. HE RESIGNED DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS.

ON OCT 18, 1998, JASPER RENFROW OF KENLY, NC WAS CALLED TO OUR CHURCH. HE SERVED AS FULL-PASTOR UNTIL DEC. 25, 2007, WHEN HE RESIGNED AS PASTOR. GLENN BROCK, RAY LANE, AND RICKY ANDERSON WERE AVAILABLE TO FILL IN AS NEEDED.

IN MARCH 2008, JEFF MCKEEL CAME TO PREACH AT OUR CHURCH. HE WAS ELECTED TO PASTOR OUR CHURCH ON APRIL 27, 2008. WE WELCOMED PASTOR JEFF, KAREN, TYLER, AND MEAGAN. PASTOR JEFF STAYED WITH US ALMOST 9 YEARS. ON SUNDAY, JAN. 1, 2017, PASTOR JEFF MCKEEL READ HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION AT THE END OF THE MORNING SERVICE. HIS LAST SERVICE WAS JAN. 29, 2017.

AFTER JEFF MCKEEL LEFT, WE HAD SEVERAL PREACHERS TO FILL IN FOR US. THEY INCLUDE EDWIN NORRIS, JONATHAN PIERCE, ANDY BROWN, AND STEVE REED. STEVE REED SERVED AS INTERIM PASTOR UNTIL HE WAS ELECTED TO SERVE AS PASTOR. AT OUR QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING ON JULY 9, 2017, HE WAS ELECTED AS OUR PERMANENT PART-TIME PASTOR. WE WELCOMED STEVE AND ELAINE REED INTO OUR CONGREGATION.

ON DECEMBER 13, 2019, WE WERE SADDENED BY THE PASSING OF OUR PASTOR, STEVE REED. SINCE HIS PASSING, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL FILL-IN PREACHERS. ON MARCH 8, 2020, GEORGE ARANT PREACHED HIS FIRST SERMON. HE AGREED TO SERVE AS OUR INTERIM PASTOR UNTIL WE COULD FIND A FULL TIME PASTOR.

ON MARCH 18, 2020, WE HELD OUR LAST SERVICE DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS CONCERNS. PASTOR GEORGE ARANT PREACHED TO US BY FACEBOOK UNTIL THE QUARANTINE WAS LIFTED. ON MAY 17, 2020, WE HAD AN OUTDOOR SERVICE. WE HELD OUR FIRST INDOOR SERVICE ON MAY 24, 2020, AND CONTINUED WEDNESDAY AND ALL SUNDAY SERVICES AFTER THAT.

ON AUGUST 23, 2020, PERRY JORDAN PREACHED AT OUR CHURCH FOR THE FIRST TIME. ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2020, HE AGREED TO SERVE AS OUR INTERIM PASTOR. AT OUR BUSINESS MEETING ON OCTOBER 11, 2020, PASTOR JORDAN WAS VOTED IN AS OUR FULL-TIME PASTOR AND HE ACCEPTED OUR OFFER.

FROM NOVEMBER 8, 2020, UNTIL DECEMBER 13, 2020, WE HAD NO SERVICES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. WE RESUMED SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES. ON AUGUST 25, 2024, PASTOR PERRY JORDAN PREACHED HIS LAST SERMON AS PASTOR.

ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, MATT SPENCE BROUGHT THE MESSAGE. HIS PLANS WERE TO BE AT UNITED FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH THROUGH THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER. A SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2024, TO VOTE ON HIM

AS PASTOR. MATT WAS VOTED IN BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AT THIS MEETING. HIS FIRST MESSAGE AS PASTOR WAS ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2024.

Revised 10/15/2024