

DETROIT BAPTIST UNION FIRST 100 YEARS

Detroit Baptist Union (DBU) was founded May 10, 1883 and has been an active corporation since its founding. Many individuals have been involved in the DBU in its first 100 years. One name that comes to mind is Judson Forrester, Sr. who served on the board at least from 1948 to 1978. He and his son Judson Forrester, Jr. (“Jud”) combined to have served 48 of DBU’s 130 years. Many loans were made and pieces of property were owned during its first 100 years.

According to the State of Michigan website an Articles of Association was filed on December 30, 1915 where DBU became re-incorporated. In its purpose it was stated that DBU was to carry on work and acquire property in the City of Detroit and in suburbs with five miles of the corporate limits. There as an Amendment to the Articles of Association filed on February 7, 1922 which extended the area to fifteen miles of the corporate limits. Another Amendment to the Articles of Association was filed on December 7, 1975 which includes the geographical area comprising the Southeast Area of American Baptist Churches of Michigan (SEA).

The Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches (DAABC) was incorporated in the 1930’s as the program board for the area. On January 28, 1972 the DAABC transferred and conveyed all of its property, real and personal, to DBU, provided that the said transferee/grantee shall assume all of the liabilities of the transferor/grantor. DBU adopted a resolution to accept the transfer and conveyance of all assets, real and personal, of DAABC and assume all liabilities of DAABC. The DBU assets were approximately \$900,000 at the time of the DAABC transfer and \$1,325,000 after the transfer.

The SEA came into existence at the dissolution of the DAABC and is related to the American Baptist Churches of Michigan and is the program board of that body.

In June 1975 DBU was recognized as exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.