

Our congregation's origin was in 1981, though the seeds for our church were planted much farther back. When the Stuart Street Christian Church of Springfield was disbanded in the late 1950's, proceeds from the sale of the property were invested in a trust for the establishment of a new Disciple's congregation within a specified period of time. When that time had nearly expired, the trustees of the fund joined with interested persons of First Christian Church of Springfield, to create the Springfield Disciples Development Corporation. In cooperation with First Christian Church and the Illinois/Wisconsin Region, a site was purchased in 1979 on the southwest side of Springfield and a Steering Committee was formed.

Rev. John Caughron became the organizing pastor, and the first worship service met in the Sangamon Bank and Trust building (now National City Bank) on March 8, 1981. In less than a year, the group moved to its second home in Westwood Plaza on Wabash Ave. Our third home was in the Jerome Civic Center where the congregation literally lived out of a suitcase, as the Elders took turns caring for the communion service and bringing it to church each Sunday in a specially equipped suitcase. Our "Charter Sunday" was observed March 2, 1986.

On April 12, 1987, Palm Sunday, ground was broken at the site on Lindbergh Blvd. For the long anticipated new building. Interim Minister Rev. Bob Williams served us during this crucial phase of the church's life until Rev. David Van Heynigan was called in November 1987. The congregation moved into the completed building, which we use today, with the communion table and service leading the way. The

first worship was held the next day, December 6, 1987. Formal service of dedication was held on February 14, 1988.

In mid-1991, a vote was taken to change the name from "Evangel Christian Church" to "Parkway Christian Church" in order to be more easily identified with our surrounding community. Jim Waterman was our Interim Associate Lay Pastor for a time during 1993. Following an interim ministry by Rev. Frank and Rev. Loraine Pitman, Rev. Clint Ibele was called as our minister in November 1993.

In July 1996, the indebtedness of the congregation was paid in full and on October 6, 1996, "Celebration Sunday" was held with a burning of the mortgage. Members, friends, and former ministers gathered to celebrate this accomplishment.

Interim Ministers Rev. Earl Luginbuhl followed by the Rev. Donald Clingan and Jacquie Clingan served the church in 1997. Rev. Daniel M. Krumrei was called as our Pastor in September of 1998.

In November 1998, we began a Capital Campaign to build a dedicated sanctuary. This was Phase 1 of a master building plan for Parkway Christian Church.

In 1999, fueled by continued growth in membership and a need for more room for its various ministries, the Parkway Christian Church congregation decided to begin the construction of a new sanctuary. April 23, 2000, was groundbreaking day for the new sanctuary. Church members put a great deal of sweat equity into the construction and completed it in November 2000. Another Capital Campaign for a Parking Lot expansion began in the Spring of 2001. Construction began in November 2003. We still continue to grow.

Parkway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has an important Christian witness for Springfield, the Parkway Point community, our families and your life. We still give consideration to ways the church may continue to reach out and grow in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Many, many years of faithfulness, service, witness and hope are represented here.

**God, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow,
has been with us, is with us, and will be with us.
For God's presence in our lives,
we are thankful.**

Amen and Amen

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A Timeline of Parkway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

