
CITY CHURCH

Fast Facts Timeline

1920: Fundraising

The Methodist Board of Home Missions contributed \$385,000 to church construction. Judge Elbert H. Gary of U.S. Steel matched the contribution.

1916–October: Planning

Rev. William Grant Seaman is appointed, and the location for the church is chosen.

1925: Construction Begins

1926: Completion and Opening

The church formally opens on October 3rd.

1927: The First Year

Congregation grows to 1,700.

1929: Seaman Relocates

With a vision to racially integrate the congregation, Seaman faces opposition and ultimately resigns. Rev. Richard Millard is appointed as new pastor.

1952: The Peak

Reaching 3,185 members, City Church is the largest Protestant congregation in the Midwest.

1960s and 1970s: The Decline

White flight, suburbanization and deindustrialization contribute to a shrinking congregation; City Church closes its doors on Oct. 5th, 1975 with 320 members.

2017: Now

On June 12th, the Gary Redevelopment Commission was awarded a Knight Cities Challenge grant to preserve the gothic ruins and secure the structure for safe exploration.
