

ceedings—a fervent petition to the Master for divine guidance; a reading of the First Chapter of Acts; a few songs they all loved to sing; the formal inquiry by the visiting Moderator—“Is it your desire to form a new church?” And the reply of the small but determined congregation—an emphatic “Yes!” They voted on a name for their church and nine members thought that “Third Presbyterian” would be appropriate; but a count of upraised hands revealed that 21 preferred “Central,” after the proponent of the name had made a rousing sales talk in its favor.

The membership roll, inscribed on the minutes of this first meeting, was more imposing in quality than in numbers. There were:

R. W. Porter	Mrs. John Engstrom
Mrs. Emma Porter	J. P. Simpson
Mrs. N. E. Porter	Mrs. H. A. Simpson
Mrs. M. D. Jenkins	Mrs. V. E. Willert
C. E. McCauley	Chas. Mackey
Mrs. A. A. McCauley	Mrs. Mary Mackey
Mrs. M. Boyce	Richard Weber
Miss A. B. Boyce	L. K. Peacock
Miss Maggie Boyce	Mrs. N. V. Bragg
Miss Grace L. Boyce	E. E. Jenkins
A. E. Herd	Mrs. A. J. Peacock
Mrs. A. E. Herd	Mrs. H. E. McLaughlin
Miss Bessie Reister	Mrs. M. M. Reister
Miss Minnie Rorer	R. W. McLaughlin
Miss Birdie Engstrom	James Beattie
Mrs. A. E. Giles	Mrs. E. J. Beattie
Mrs. J. C. Campbell	Chas. S. Hamblin
W. P. Campbell	Mrs. Mattie Hamblin
L. A. Reister	Chas. F. Suttle
John Engstrom	Mrs. Nancy B. Suttle

The church officers, chosen with uncanny wisdom, were R. W. Porter and W. P. Campbell, elders;

and J. P. Simpson, John Engstrom and E. E. Jenkins, deacons. Mr. Porter also was elected superintendent of the Sunday School, and Miss Birdie Engstrom was organist.

The entire membership immediately busied itself with organizational work, but one big “MUST” overshadowed all else—a full-time pastor to coordinate the efforts of the Ladies Aid Society, the Girls’ Missionary Society, the Christian Endeavor and other organizations then being formed.

Four hundred dollars had been subscribed and earmarked for pastor’s salary. With this amount the pulpit-supply committee had high hopes of stifling any idea in the minds of candidates that the church couldn’t afford a good preacher. They had their eye on Rev. Adolphus Kistler, a prominent minister, and one who would bring spiritual advancement to the membership and prestige to the church.

The congregation’s keen disappointment when Rev. Kistler kindly explained that he couldn’t see his way clear to accept the honor was the first of many such frustrations in the search for a pastor to grow up with the church.

When Central was about one month old a special congregational meeting was called, and the Moderator proposed that the members have a church home of their own. The idea was enthusiastically received. Seven trustees were elected on the spot, and instructed to go out and look for a suitable location. Just two blocks away were several vacant lots owned by H. K. Cochran. A sub-committee was appointed to confer with Mr. Cochran and offer \$1,500 cash for one and one-half lots. Mr. Cochran was delighted, the committee reported, but “what will we use for cash?”