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MISSION EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH *[B3M]*

The Mission Evangelical Congregational Church had its beginning in 1903 with a small group of Finnish-speaking people, who met in Haynes Hall. Their next move was to the Union Congregational Church. With the increased emigration from Finland to the United States and the growing congregation, they decided it be more convenient to have their meetings and social gatherings in their own building. The first step was taken on Dec. 17, 1912 when the Walnut Street sight was purchased. Next, their pastor, Rev. Vaananen, suggested Matti Siitonen from Quincy as architect-builder. On May 18, 1913 the corner stone was laid during an impressive ceremony with many in attendance. By Aug. 13, 1913 the vestry was ready for its first service and the upstairs chapel by Nov. 29, 1913. The dedication took place on Dec. 14, 1913.

Through the years the church has been presented with many gifts. One of the first was a United States flag which was donated by the Isaac Davis Women's Relief Corps. Later in 1935 the church was presented with a bell from the American Woolen Company due to the efforts of Matti Katvala, who was a church member and mill worker. Recently, a Kawai piano was given in memory of Walfred Riihilouma.

The original name of the church contained the word "Finnish". Since most of its members spoke the English language, the "Finnish" was dropped and the official title became the Mission Evangelical Congregational Church.

Over the years she has had several pastors. They are:

Early 1900	Rev. Groop, Rev. Hendrickson, Rev. Sundelin
1906-1908	Rev. Miettinen, Rev. Lillback
1908-1912	Rev. Wirta
1912-1925	Rev. Vaananen
1925-1932	Rev. Kotila
1932-1936	Rev. Rinta
1936-1946	Rev. Koponen
1946-1965	Rev. Hamalainen
1966-	Rev. Heikkila

*Maynard-Stow Council of Churches, the*

The church belongs to the Eastern Finnish Evangelical Congregational Mission Conference of America and was a member in the United Church of Christ. Her regular activities include a Sunday worship service, Sunday School classes, a mid-week devotional service, a Martha Society and a Missionary Group.

The church is honored by having a ninty year old member, Mrs. Amanda Bulette.

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