

Salem Baptist District Association Inc., History

We Thank God for our Rich History....



Salem Baptist District Association got its humble beginning in the spring of 1946. A group of ministers from the Bethlehem Baptist District Association met at the Monumental Baptist Church of Chicago, 729 East Oakwood Boulevard, with host pastor Rev. James Lafayettes Horace and president of Baptist General State Convention of IL Inc. During this meeting, the organizing of a new district association was discussed. This was due to the desire of the some of the ministers to remain affiliated and supportive of Baptist General State Convention of IL Inc After much discussion, letters were sent out to various pastors and churches on the proposal of organizing a new district. The response was overwhelming. On May 9, 1946 at the Union Tabernacle Baptist Church, 4636 South Evans, Reverend Joseph E Sullivan, Pastor the vote was unanimous by the following pastors/laymen:

Dr. J.L. Horace
Rev. W.A. Johnson
Rev. W.D. Kilgore
S.A. Grayson
J.E. Sullivan
J.R. Davis
J.W. Ward
C. Campbell
R. Faulkner
O.L. Lewis
C.W. Jones
Rev. N.C. Lunford
Rev. W.C. Upshae
T. Anderson
M. Anthony
Rev. J.W. Stewart
G.B. Locke
Rev. J.N. Wordlaw
Dea. Sidney Jones
Bro. E. Baker
Sis. Ella Lunford
A.K. Johnson

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Mary Middlebrook
Mary O. Locke
O. Spencer
E. Briggs
H. Brooks
Mary Powell
W.R. Mosley
M.J. Leverett
M. Till
Willie Williams
Zelma Daughtery
Ethel R. Mars

The Rev. A.J. Johnson suggested Salem Baptist District Association, because Salem means "PEACE".

This new district was to be an integral part of the Baptist General State Convention of IL Inc. The purpose of the association is:

- To promote the kingdom of Christ on earth.
- To train and develop local church members in Christian Education.
- To promote a spirit of Christian fellowship and leadership.
- To closely observe Baptist principles and doctrines.

The first offering was in the amount of \$33.30; this was needed for representation in the State Convention. It was agreed that the regular meetings would be held one-day monthly and two days quarterly. The Rev. A.J. Johnson was elected moderator and the first constitution was adopted in August of 1946.

In 1952, Dr. Sterling Grayson was elected moderator. Under Moderator Grayson, tenure was introduced due to decline in membership and interest. Therefore, monthly meetings were implemented instead quarterly. During Dr. Grayson tenure, one person was awarded a one year scholarship Chicago Baptist Institute and many missionary clinics were set up throughout the city to help the faithful spread of the Word of God.

At the annual session in July of 1958, the Rev. Roy Faulkner was elected moderator. Moderator Faulkner was considered an influential figure in the history of Salem as he and many conscientious workers conducted various workshops and seminars on Christian Principles, which has resulted in the continual growth of this Association. In May of 1961 Moderator Faulkner made his transition and Dr. Hezekiah B. Brady, 1st Vice Moderator served until the annual session in July, in which he was elected moderator. This annual session was held at Shiloh M.B. Church.

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During Moderator Brady's tenure there was the unforgettable trip to Springfield, IL where 75 young people and adults toured the State Capitol, Governor's Office, Chambers of the House of Representatives, Judge Parson's Chambers and courtroom. Visits were made to the Lincoln Monument and New Salem, IL. On November 17, 1966 a Testimonial Luncheon was given to honor several senior citizens for 20 years of faithful and dedicated service to the association.

On 1967 Dr. Shelvin J. Hall was elected moderator. During his tenure there was tremendous growth of churches within the association. Some of his many accomplishments were to unify the auxiliaries and departments to function independently with no overlapping of efforts, directives or perspectives. A central banking system was implemented; the development of the H.R. Stephenson Institute (a prototype of the L.K. Williams Institute, Bishop College), to include District Associations across the city for a week of study. The institute was named in honor of Dr. Stephenson for his outstanding work in Christian Education. Emmanuel (*God With Us*) Baptist Church was organized with Dr. L.K. Curry as the organizing pastor. The church Extension fund was established to assist churches in emergency situations, each church pays one cent per member per month. The Association was incorporated in 1971.

In 1973 Dr. Walter L. Cook was elected moderator. The association continued to grow numerically and spiritually. Dr. Cook's keen knowledge and skilled Biblical Doctrine, Parliamentary Procedures and matters of organization greatly contributed to the prestige for now which Salem was known for Stewardship accountability, matters of pedagogy and ethics were hallmarks in the governance of his administration.

In 1979 Dr. Theodore H. McFarland was elected moderator. His tenure included 4-5 churches contributing \$1,500.00 to the National Foreign Mission Board to plant seed churches in South Africa; a full 4-year scholarship was awarded to Rev. Overtis S. Thompson to attend Chicago Baptist Institute; financial support was given to Black Campus Ministries. Moderator McFarland was elected to a second term in July of 1982, but on December 22, 1982 he was called to rest from his labor and 1st Vice Moderator J.O. Bonds completed the year and was elected moderator of July 1983.

Moderator Joe Oliver Bonds was instrumental in stabilizing the association after the sudden death of Dr. T.H. McFarland. It was during his tenure that the Young People's Department grew and added regional areas directors to assist in the work. Salem Young People's Department were very much alive and active in the State and National Conventions, especially in the Midwest Regional Conference where Salem registered more young people than any other associations in the Midwest.

Dr. Carsie E. Barnes Jr. was elected moderator in 1986. During his tenure his vision was to see a unified effort across the state. During those years; the pastors and ministers started meeting

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simultaneously with the Woman's Auxiliary on Thursday mornings; an office space was rented from Chicago Baptist Institute for a Headquarters which later moved to the Ma Barnes Community Building of the Antioch Baptist Church. Sis. Jeraldine J. Bowen was the first to be hired as the Administrative Assistant. Dr. Shelvin J. Hall was elected president of Baptist General State Convention of Illinois Inc.. The H.R. Stephenson Institute was given to the Baptist General State Convention of Illinois Inc., the Baptist Youth Fellowship was organized and Rev. Michael A. Griffin became the first Executive Director and Rev. James M. Ivy was the first president.

Dr. Charles B. Williams Jr. succeeded Dr. Carsie Barnes Jr. as moderator in 1992. Approximately, 22 churches joined the Association, Rev. Michael A. Griffin was appointed General Secretary and was given a job description. The lecture series during the Annual Session was named the Dr. N.C. Lunford Lecture Series; the Church and Pastor of the Year Award was established; the Annual Minutes & Record Book was published. He organized the Young Pastors' and Ministers Division with Rev. Ira J. Acree being appointed the first president. The Congress Department now has it's own annual session where the president and dean would give their addresses. During Dr. William's tenure, he established the District Revival; the Association celebrated it's (50th) Anniversary/ Dr. Stephen J. Thurston, 3rd Vice President of NBCA, USA, Inc. was the feature guest preacher. During the Jubilee Celebration, the Association taped the International Sunday School Lesson with a live audience. The Rev. Attorney Jeanette Wilson served as host. Also during those years, "The district That Advocates Peace" became the official motto; the Salem Review was the first newsletter of the Parent Body. Some 25 years later, the Association organized another church, the Spirit Redeemed M.B. Church with Rev. Michael A. Griffin as the organizing pastor. Dr. Williams also established many commissions to help carry out the mission and mandate of the Association.

It was as the Greater Mt. Hebron M.B. Church that Dr. Floyd D. James became the Moderator in 1998. "I Must Be About My Father's Business" became the focus for the next 6 years. Moderator James encouraged the association to be Christ-Centered. During his term, he was faced with many constitutional matters, especially in the area of district officers. The General Secretary was adopted as an elected office, the Youth director is now appointed by the Woman's Auxiliary president and the Congress president now appoints the Dean. Tenure was also a factor, it was adopted that all elected and appointed offices ends when the moderator's tenure ends. Also during those years, The Shelvin J. Hall Insitute was established as the official Congress Annual Session; the Baptist Youth Fellowship was re-organized; the Salem District Community Development Corporation was established for economic development. Dr. James' tenure was faced with many challenges such as church disputes and long court proceedings, lands and properties battles, all was accomplished and settled before his tenure came to an end. One of the most outstanding moments during Dr. James' years was assisting churches in the amount of \$40,000.00 through Church Extension. To God Be The Glory.

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In 2004, Dr. Michael Aaron Griffin was elected the 12th moderator. Moderator Griffin is energetic and creative and he was the only moderator that grew up in Salem. He holds fast to the faith and tradition of his predecessors, which is to “Keep The Mandate”. In two years many things were accomplished; many commissions were established or re-organized to do greater works, the Young Pastors and Minister’s Division was re-named Associate Minister’s Auxiliary; the office of Vice Moderator-at-large and 5th Vice Moderator was adopted; \$20,000.00 in benevolence was given to senior pastors with health challenges; 8 new churches joined the Association; a new logo was adopted; the Association adopted the Emmanuel Christian School with \$1,000.00 given annually; the Salem Review was re-established and is now named “The Dove” which is the official newsletter of the Association; the Salem Youth Bank (SYB) was organized. This bank is a joint effort with the Illinois Treasurer’s office and Seaway National Bank. This bank is operated by the BYF with 61 customers and over \$1,000.00 assets. The website was launched in 2005. The Nehemiah Project (Rebuilding the Walls of the Gulf Coast) was established to assist the hurricane survivors. The “Team” has made two trips to the Mississippi area and stayed for a week on each trip. The “Blue Pages” (The Christian Directory) was established and it’s first issue is scheduled for July 2006. Moderator Griffin has instituted the Peace Award(a prototype of the Nobel Peace Award). This is the highest award given to outstanding servants who contributed to the work of the kingdom. Recipients included: Dr. Rosa B. Cooper, Sis. Shirley Duncan, Moderator Griffin also serves as 1st Vice President of the Moderator’s Auxiliary of the National Baptist Convention of USA, Inc.

From it’s humble beginnings sixty year ago, Salem Baptist District Association, Inc. continues to embrace the banner of Evangelism, Education and Edification.

In July 2007, The Reverend Dr. William H. Foster Jr. was elected the District’s 13th moderator. “Working Together in the Spirit of Unity” became the focus of the district for the next six years. During his tenure the district grew financially and spiritually.

In July 2013, The Reverend Dr. Carsie E. Barnes III became the 14th moderator. Moderator Barnes present the district focus for the next six years; “ A District Moving In A More Excellent Way” 2 Timothy 2:15 with the next six year sub-focus;

- 2014- A District with Preparation – 2 Tim. 2:15
- 2015 – A District with Determination – Phil. 3:14
- 2016 – A District with An Obligation – Matt. 28::19-20
- 2017- A District with Persuasion – Ro. 8:37-39
- 2018 – A District with Expectation – Is. 40:28-31
- 2019 – A District with Celebration – Ps. 150

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PREVIOUS ANNUAL SESSIONS

MODERATOR	SECRETARY	ANNUAL MEETING SITES
1946-1952 Rev. A. J. Johnson	Dr. C.W. Jones	Union Tabernacle, Great Hope, Shiloh, Friendship, Monumental, St. Luke
1952 – 1958 Rev. Sterling A. Grayson	Dr. W.D. Kilgore	Great Hope, Union Tabernacle, Providence, Monumental, Mt. Hebron, St. Luke
1958 – 1961 Rev. Roy Faulkner	Dr. W.D. Kilgore	Mt. Sinai North Chicago, Antioch South, Mt. Hebron
1961-1967 Dr. Hezekiah B. Brady	Rev. C. A. Staples	Shiloh, Friendship, Christian Hope, Great Hope, St. Luke, Union Tabernacle
1967 – 1973 Dr. Rev. Shelvin J. Hall	Rev. J.N. Wordlaw	Mt. Hebron, Friendship, Providence, Christian Hope, Great Hope, Mt. Hebron
1973 – 1979 Dr. Walter L. Cook	Rev. A. D. Spriggs	Friendship, Antioch South, Providence, Shiloh, Great Hope, Emmanuel
1979- 1982 Dr. T.H. McFarland	Rev. O. Swansey Dr. William Ivy	Unity Fellowship, Friendship, Shiloh, Providence, First Baptist Melrose Pk.
1983 – 1986 Dr. Joseph O. Bonds	Rev. A. Woods	Greater Zion Temple, Friendship, Shiloh, Prince of Peace
1986 – 1992 Dr. Carsie E. Barnes Jr.	Dr. E.C. Thompkins Dr. N. Thomas	Great Hope, Antioch South Providence, New Zion, Emmanuel, Friendship

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1992 – 1998

District Theme: Evangelism The Priority of the Church Matt. 28:19-20

Dr. Charles B. Williams	Dr. Michael A. Griffin	Unity Fellowship, Antioch South, New Zion, Providence, Greater Rock, Greater Mt. Hebron
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1998 – 2004

Dr. Floyd D. James	Dr. Michael A. Griffin Sis. Gladys Gill	Great Hope, Friendship, Antioch South, Greater Rock, Emmaunel, Greater Rock
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2004 – 2008

District Theme: Keeping The Mandate

Dr. Michael A. Griffin	Dr. LaRue Kidd	St. Michael, New Zion, Antioch
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2008 – 2013

District Theme: Working Together With The Spirit of Unity Ephesian 4:3

Dr. William H. Foster Jr.	Rev. Willie Doss Rev. Johner Wilson III	New Zion, Greater Rock Logos Assembly, Shiloh, Antioch, Providence
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2013 –

District Theme: A District Moving In A More Excellent Way

Dr. Carsie E. Barnes III	Sis. Sandra Tappin-Hampton	Antioch
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