



Church of Christ - Dowagiac

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION

A few families began to meet in a rented building in downtown Dowagiac in June of 1965.

Thirty-eight acres of land was purchased in 1969, approximately 3 miles South of town on a state highway M-51. The decision to build out of town was made at that time because the vision was that industry and housing development would take place. It was thought that the distance between Dowagiac and Niles (13 miles) on this highway would also be advantageous. To a certain extent that happened as the township zoned the first 2 miles Industrial. Housing, however, did not materialize as anticipated.

A small building was completed in 1969. The congregation grew to about 50 and the building was not large enough. At that time the decision was made to sell off 30 acres and use the money to build a larger addition. That was completed in the early 70's.

The church still owns 8-8 1/2 acres and the building is debt free. At the highest point the attendance reached an average of 65.

At present we average 35 for services. We have an active youth group of 8-10 young people, Jr. & Sr. High. They participate in Bible Bowl and other activities. In 1997 we purchased a late model 15 passenger van. With the van both the youth and adults have enjoyed great fellowships both short and long drives including David Lipscomb Lectures & Detroit youth rallies.

The congregation does not have Elders or a fulltime minister at present. Various area men preach, as well as, men from the local congregation. Currently our memberships draws from surrounding communities as far away as 18 miles. The church is the only congregation in the county (approx. 50,000), denominationalism has many churches in the area.

ABOUT THE AREA

Dowagiac (Doe-Wah- Jack), Michigan is located approximately 20 miles North of South Bend, Indiana and 20 miles East of Lake Michigan. The name comes from a Potawatomi Indian chief and there is still a number of Potawatomi Indians in the area, as the Nation has its headquarters here. The area is noted for its fresh fruits and vegetables from early May (asparagus) to November with the last of the apple harvest. Many farms are U-pick and offer very reasonable prices. Also, Dowagiac is the largest town in the county (6,000) and has a number of good fishing lakes and streams in the immediate area, even a registered trout stream. Dowagiac has 2 large (over 150) industries and several smaller ones.

The local public schools have approximately 750 in the high school. A bond issue to build a new high school is coming up for a vote soon. There are private schools in the area supported by local churches.