

Recognition of those who have been of Assistance in Covenants Story

As we gather here today for the formal dedication of Covenants first building unit, we have paused to look back at the history of the congregation and the history of our places of worship leading to this, our own building for the worship of God. It is natural to think of our own part of this evolution but we would be remiss in our obligations if our thoughts did not also include those outside our immediate congregation who have contributed so much and been with us in spirit if not in person. Time would not permit to specifically remember all those who contributed in some way but we would like to recognize at least a few.

First we ~~must~~^{must} remember the instigation of our church as a mission church by the Des Moines Presbytery Extension Committee. Many people had much faith in this need, but probably none greater than Russell Shaw the Chairman of the Extension Committee when we were organized and then later C.T.R. Yeates also Chairman of the Extension Committee and, of course, Harold Galena, secretary of this Extension Committee and stated clerk of the Des Moines Presbytery. Their continued support through times of stress was a source of strength to all of us.

Then we would like to remember with special thanks for their help and moral support of the Rev. Hasselbrook moderator of Synod, and also Dr. French our Synod executive. *and Richard Chambers our General Presbyter* We know how much all of these gentlemen contributed in support of our cause and we could not have succeeded without their assistance.

Then certainly we must remember the Des Moines Area Council of Churches Comity Committee who cleared the way for this location. And, of course, our neighbors St. Timothies who have befriended us on so many occasions and worried with us on our getting our first service underway

in spite of the road conditions, threatening rain, etc.

Naturally we will recall with fond memories the 3 years or so we spent with Fairmeadows school serving as our house of worship. We cannot express adequately our thanks to the West Des Moines school board and specifically Amos Lee, superintendent and Eugene Meyer, principal of Fairmeadows. We know at times we furnished them many headaches but they were more than gracious about our use of their building.

As for the physical erection of the building itself we remember with heartfelt thanks, first our architect, Carl Keffer associates and in particular Derwood Quade who we know spent many more hours on our problems than was normal for this service. *also more recently our landscape architect Ray Thurston* And then our General *who has been working so closely with our various Committees,* Contractor W. H. Breicholz Construction Company who have been most cooperative to work with. Also, of course, The Keating Company and Bierman University Electric Company for their part in the building of this unit.

Much has been said but none of this of course would be possible were it not for financial assistance we have received from various sources. The Des Moines Presbytery who have helped us so much in our financial situations. The Iowa Board of National Mission and the National Board of National Missions who have had the faith necessary to furnish us financial assistance for this building. And ~~last but~~ *of course* ~~not least~~ our local West Des Moines State Bank who have been so pleasant to work with and so cooperative in their assistance in helping to arrange the financing of this building.

Last but not least we would like to recognize ~~so~~ many of our own people for their part in building this unit. Not only financial *contributions* but all the General Congregational Committees who worked so hard to make this a reality.

Time does not permit but a mere reference to so many who have contributed to our cause. There have been so many other outside friends who have supported us in many ways, morally as well as financial. We can but express our thanks to everyone and we assure them we feel humble and appreciative of their assistance. May God bless them and may we extend the Kingdom of God through these facilities.