

# Northminster United Church

## 1956

Interest in starting a church on the south side of Finch Avenue, just east of Bathurst was growing and in October 1956, the first worship service was held at Kenton Drive Public School.



## 1957

The Congregation extended a call to the Rev. Wm. Maurice Whidden of St. John's United Church, Chesley to become the first permanent minister of Northminster, effective July 1, 1957. In May 1957, a manse was purchased at 41 Glenborough Crescent. The facilities of Kenton Drive Public School were rapidly becoming inadequate for space and on August 1957, the Toronto Home Missions Council purchased less than an acre of land fronting on the south side of Finch Avenue, east of Bathurst Street for \$31,000.00 which was made available to Northminster as a building site. A portable building was also erected on the land. By the end of 1957, the Church School had an enrolment of 394 pupils and Church School was held in the portable as well as at Yorkview Public School.



## **1960**

On Sunday, May 29, 1960, the Sod-Turning Ceremony for the new building was held. On Sunday, November 20, 1960, the Foundation Stone was laid by Dr. C.A. Myers. The sanctuary was completed and dedicated to the Glory of God and His Service in this community on May 28, 1961.



## **1965**

The plans for the new Christian Education Building were approved in February. The first sod was turned April 25, 1965, the cornerstone was laid July 4, 1965 and the building dedicated on October 17, 1965.

## **1970**

In November of 1970, a lease was signed with Metro Toronto for a day care center to be operated in Northminster starting in the new year.

## **1987**

In the summer of 1987, the Finance Committee was pleased to be able to ceremonially burn the paid-off mortgage.

## **1994**

Representatives of eight churches in Don Valley Presbytery met with WGRR, the Working Group on Refugee Resettlement, which led to the formation of Don Valley Refugee Resettlers, known as DVRR. Operation Ark, which became part of this committee, organized a number of fund raising activities, with all money raised going to refugee sponsorship.

## **2006**

In "Honouring our Past, Anticipating our Future", Northminster celebrated its 50 years by celebrating the sponsorship of refugees by Operation Ark and Don Valley Refugee Resettlers.

## **2010**

In the fall of 2010, Northminster had a call from Asbury and West United Church asking if they could share worship at Northminster, for a period of 18 months while their church building and surrounding property was under development and reconstruction. Northminster took this request as a mission to assist Asbury and West in remaining strong so that they could return to their new building as a whole congregation.

**2011**

Following the report of the Congregational Steering committee, a motion was passed to explore partnership with Newtonbrook United Church at the Newtonbrook site by June 30, 2013. Newtonbrook United Church passed a similar motion and the Partnership Working Group has met all year. Under the leadership of Rev. Ty, Northminster is encouraged to extend our spirit and grow beyond the limits of the building. On October 11, 2011, the congregation of Northminster United church celebrated 55 years as a church.