



West Side Hungarian Ref. Church, NY

Reformed

700 Tonawanda St. Buffalo, New York 14207

No website

716-876-6330

Pastor: Rev. Mária Lallouet
Hungarian Church Services: Sun. 2:00 PM
Hungarian Congregation: n.a

Church History

In 1906 Hungarian immigrants organized the Magyar reformed Church now at 1940 Clinton. In 1911, a small group of Reformed and Evangelical Hungarians living on the West Side began meeting there. These gatherings were short lived however and by 1912 the group dissolved.

In 1923 the Hungarian population began to relocate to the west side. Joined By an increased number of immigrant families from Europe, a sizable population resulted. Concerned about the religious education of their children, Mihály Bihari and Miklós Vaday organized a Sunday school which initially met in the Calvary Baptist Church on Hunt Ave. With a school established, the organization of the congregation became a paramount importance to them. On March 28, 1925 members of the Sunday school held a meeting and formally organized the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church.

By January, 1926, the group desired to construct a proper house of worship and on May 1 they established a building found. On August, with plans underway for a building, the group purchased the present site for \$9,000. On January 8, 1927 at the annual meeting of the congregation, the members voted to construct the current house of worship. They broke ground on June 25 and placed a cornerstone on August 14.

As construction neared completion, the congregation called a meeting on November 6, 1927. At this time they elected to separate from the Magyar and become an independent church. They elected Rev. Endre Urbán, former pastor of the combined churches as their full time pastor. On December 4, the congregation dedicated their completed building after which it became a hub for the social and religious life of the Hungarian population on the West Side.

The financial problems caused by the great depression had long repercussions on the congregation. A number of ministers attempted to manage the affairs of the parish. Due to circumstances outside their control, they met with only limited success. By 1938, a schism formed amongst the members, resulting in a complete break in January, 1939. The dissenting group went on to form a Hungarian United Presbyterian church. They reunited with the church in 1953.



Map: <http://g.co/maps/xxfpx>