

History of United Missionary Baptist Church of KC

The **United Missionary Baptist Church (UMBC)** of Kansas City began in **January 1975** when Deacon Henry Brown gathered 107 Christians to form The Independent Mission. Under the supervision of Rev. A. M. Hudson, they organized and were temporarily allowed to hold services rent-free at Grace Assembly Church.

The mission officially became the **United Missionary Baptist Church on March 18, 1975**. In **June 1975**, **Rev. James L. Davis, Sr.** was called as the church's first Pastor. Under his leadership, the church grew, and on **April 25, 1976**, the 250 members moved into their new church building at **2745 Campbell Street**. The church flourished numerically and spiritually, forming multiple choirs and making various building improvements, including purchasing property for parking and a retreat house. The cornerstone was laid in 1982. Pastor Davis served until his resignation in May 1985.

Following a period of decline, **Rev. Robert Earl Watson** served briefly, resigning in August 1994. In November 1994, **Rev. Robert L. Graves** became the third Pastor. During his 17-year tenure, the church underwent significant remodeling, including converting a storage area into the Fellowship Hall and remodeling the pulpit and choir loft. Pastor Graves resigned in 2011.

In March 2012, **Rev. Michael Patton** was called as the fourth Pastor. Improvements under his leadership included a grand piano, a new sound system, and the dedication of the Marietta Moore Fellowship Hall. The church, like many others, faced challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, and Pastor Patton resigned in April 2021.

In July 2021, **Rev. James M. Jones** was asked to serve as Interim Pastor and was soon voted in as the new Pastor. Under Pastor Jones and Deacon Glenn Moore, a massive effort to clean up and restore the building began, aided by other district churches and donations. Despite a major setback from a burst water pipe in February 2022, restoration work continued. Pastor Jones has focused on spiritual growth, adding new ministries like Discipleship and Missions, and has led extensive **major renovations** to the church edifice, including new HVAC, roofing, carpeting, lighting, and a remodeled basement with new bathrooms. The UMBC was also restored to Good Standing with the State of Missouri.