

History of the Fayetteville Brethren Church

The Fayetteville Brethren Church is the second oldest congregation in the Unity of the Brethren. Members of the Unity of the Brethren in Texas trace their roots to the 15th century in Czechoslovakia, where a Catholic priest named Jan Hus felt that reforms were needed in the Church. But he was considered to be a traitor by the Church, tried and convicted of heresy, and was burned at the stake on July 6, 1415. His followers and supporters sought to perpetuate his ideals and teachings, and in 1457 organized a movement known as the "Unitas Fratrum" or "Jednota Bratrská," later to be known as the Unity of the Brethren. Centuries of persecution and bloodshed followed. A group of Brethren traveled to Germany and there established the present-day Moravian Church.

The Fayetteville area has the unique distinction of having been the site of the first Czech-Protestant worship services in Texas in 1855, conducted in the homes of different members of the Czech immigrants who settled in the Ross Prairie area. Rev. John Zvolanek led these first services. The congregation organized in 1870. A governing body was formed known as the Board of Elders. In 1874, the members started construction of a church on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jecmenek. The approximate cost of constructing the church was \$1200. Rev. L.G. Chlumsky dedicated the new building on March 23, 1875. This same year, the Board agreed to



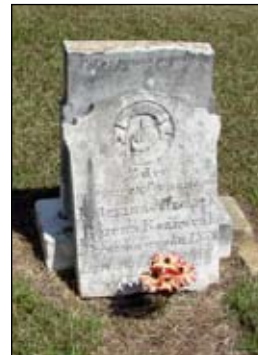
call a resident pastor. Rev. Jindrich (Henry) Juren accepted the call.

His ordination was held on April 11, 1876. In 1894, a pump organ was purchased and 2 years later a church bell for the steeple was bought. The church has been remodeled in 1924, 1957 and 1998.

In 1986, Rev. Milton Maly became the pastor. Now over 133 years after its organization, the present congregation continues to develop and is involved in many church activities as well as community work. Rev. Milton Maly continues to serve as pastor and conducts services every Sunday.

Fayetteville Brethren Church Cemetery Historic Texas Cemetery - 1999

Originally known as the Czech-Moravian Brethren Evangelical Cemetery at Ross Prairie. In 1874, Thomas and Katerina Jecmenek donated land on which to build a church, a parish house, a school and land for the cemetery. The earliest dated stone is that of Katerina Roznovak Jecmenek (1850-1875). Significant to church members is the grave of



Rev. Jindrich Juren who served the congregation as pastor and schoolmaster for some 45 years. Veterans of our nation's wars who are honored here include one confederate soldier, Jan Hruska (1831-1894).

Fayetteville Brethren Church

A Congregation of the
Unity of the Brethren



Fayetteville Brethren Church

Worship: Sundays at 10:30 - 11:30 am
Sunday School: (adults' and children's classes)
Sundays at 9:30 am

Rev. Milton Maly, Pastor

1022 Kramr Rd

PO Box 11

Fayetteville, TX 78940

www.FayettevilleBrethrenChurch.org

www.unityofthebrethren.org

How One Becomes a Member of a Brethren Church

Directions



We welcome any who may not have a home church nearby to become a part of our fellowship in Christ. We are proud to be a part of the Lord's effort in this part of Texas, and are always eager to join hands with other Christian Congregations in the area to proclaim God's love, power and mercy to all. We worship, study and fellowship in the spirit of the motto of the Unity of the Brethren: "In essentials, Unity; in non-essentials, Liberty; in all things, Love."

Principles of Belief

Two standard expressions of Brethren belief are the Apostles' Creed and the church emblem, shown below. The emblem brings together three important elements of the Christian faith: the cross, the open Bible and the chalice.

The cross represents Christ as the resurrected and living Lord, the Bible is the sourcebook of all Christian truth, open for all to explore, while the chalice holds special significance for Brethren: not only is it a symbol of the Lord's Supper, but it is also a reminder of the pre-Reformation insistence of John Hus and the early Brethren upon receiving the Cup as well as bread in Holy Communion.

A member is received by:

1. Indicating his/her desire to the pastor.
2. Determining how....
 - by Affirmation of Faith, in the case that one has not made a public commitment to Jesus Christ and has not been baptized.
 - by Reaffirmation of Faith, in the cases where one was baptized earlier but has not participated actively in the life of a Christian Church or if the congregation from which one comes does not give a Letter of Transfer.
 - by Letter of Transfer, which is requested from the church where one has held previous active membership.

Coming forward at an appropriate time and answering the following questions:

- Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior - the One through his teachings and example, and his life, death, and resurrection gives you new life with God?
 - Will you support the Fayetteville Brethren Church with your attendance, giving, service and prayers?
- Any questions regarding Christian Beliefs and Practices may be directed at any time to the pastor.



Rev. Milton Maly

From Austin:

Take TX-71 E for approx. 70 miles.
Turn left onto FM 2503 (4 mi.).
Turn left onto Ross Prairie Church Rd (0.8 mi.).
Turn left onto Kramr Rd.

From Houston:

Take I-10 W for approx. 74 miles. Take TX-71 W for approx. 13 miles.
Turn right onto FM 2503 (4 mi.).
Turn left onto Ross Prairie Church Rd (0.8 mi.).
Turn left onto Kramr Rd.

From Fayetteville:

Take Ross Prairie Church Rd (1.6 mi.).
Turn right onto Kramr Rd.

