Spirit Redeemed Baptist Church
CHURCH HISTORY

April 27, 1997. Several faithful followers gathered at the Rhodes Funeral Home, 1018 W. 79th Street-Chicago, IL, for the purpose of organizing a church. We immediately went into prayer and afterwards discussed our aims, visions, and goals.

May 4, 1997. We held our first service at the Leak and Sons Southwest Chapel, 2122 W. 79th Street, Chicago, IL. We were blessed and very uplifted in our worship experience and one, (Sis. Wyvonia D. Williams) acknowledged a desire to join our fellowship during the call to discipleship.

May 5, 1997. A letter was written to the Salem Baptist District Association, requesting that the fellowship be organized into a Missionary Baptist Church.

May 25, 1997. The organizational service was held at the Emmanuel (God With Us) Baptist Church, Pastored by Dr. L. K. Curry. The organizational service was directed by the Ecclesiastical Council of the Salem Baptist District Association and Moderator, Dr. Charles B. Williams, Jr., Pastor of Unity Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. The Baptist Church Covenant, The Articles of Faith, The Resolution and Letter of Dismissal from churches of like faith for the twenty-one charter members were read and presented to the council. It was suggested, by Bro. Otha Calhoun that the church be named The Spirit Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church. Thirteen members were organized into a Missionary Baptist Church. The Reverend Michael Aaron Griffin as Pastor.

The new church was named Spirit Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church.
June 2, 1997. We deposited $2,468.59 to open a checking account for Operations and $1,106.30 into a Savings Account for the future purchase of a place where we could call home. Pastor Griffin and the Official Board agreed and drew up a resolution to open these accounts at The Seaway National Bank of Chicago.

January 1998. The Mother's Ministry of The Spirit Redeemed Church was organized: Sis Ruby Andrews and Sis. Leola Burrell were the first members to be appointed to this Ministry. After thirty-nine weeks of worshiping at Leak & Sons, 2122 W. 79th Street, we began to worship at 7605 S. Halsted Street. Pastor Griffin informed us that this was our "temporary" home. It was through the friendship of Rev. Jimmie D. Cutts and Rev. Bruce Taylor that we were able to worship here. The first member to join at this location was Sis. Carolyn Magee Young. Bro. H. Michael McMurray became the church's first musician and choirmaster.

April 1998. Our first Revival was held. Dr. E. F. Ledbetter, Jr., Evangelist

October 1998. Deacon Michael A. Stinson preached his first sermon. Our first Annual Men's Day Celebration was held.

February 1999. We moved our worship service to 815 West 74th Street, just another "temporary" home. During our first year we experienced some ups and downs, eight of our twenty-one charter members left and relocated to other churches, however, the Lord added twenty new members which gave us an active membership of thirty-three members. The search continued for a church home. We found a building at 66th Street and Kedzie. We had our hearts set on that building; the Lord stepped in and changed those plans.

The late Mother Barbara L. Packer spotted an ad in the paper for a church building at 6615 So. Ashland Avenue. So, the wheels were put into motion for this place. Due to our financial situation we were unable to afford the down payment for our church home, a letter was sent to the Salem Baptist District Association, requesting a loan to purchase our present church home; the loan was granted in the amount of $17,500.00. South Shore Bank agreed to finance our mortgage, but we would need a co-signer; one of our members Sis. Linda Stinson agreed to be co-signer. After several weeks of problems, fasting and praying we moved into this location on June 4, 1999.

June 6, 1999. At 9:00AM we met for the last time at 815 W. 74th Street for prayer and then we motorcade to our present location; we marched into our new church home singing "Victory Is Mine." After street canvassing, Sis. Susanne Shaw was the first member to join at our new "church home."

August 1999. Our first Women's Day Celebration was held in our new church home. Within one year The (Adult) Sanctuary Choir, the (Children) Majestic Choir, Usher's and other Departments and Auxiliaries were organized and restructured.

January 2000. Bro. Andre V. Booth, Bro. Christopher O. Edwards and Bro. Kevin A. McLaurin were appointed to the Office of Deacon. Sis. Margaret Williams, Sis. Carolyn Magee-Young and Sis. Barbara L. Packer were appointed to the Mother's Ministry.

March 2000. We held our first Certified Christian Leadership School through the National Baptist Convention USA, INC. Sunday School Publishing Board, Sis. Lawana F. Griffin served as Dean.

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July 2000. Our Pastor was elected the 9th President of the Salem District Congress of Christian Education.

December 2000. The Mother Ruby Andrews Retreat held its first off-site meeting at TV 38. The Spirit Redeemed Choir held its first Christmas Cantata.

January 2001. The Redeemed the Vision Building Fund was launched; this is our Pastor's vision for the new Church and School. The Baptism Pool was dedicated. This pool was built by Pastor C. J. Quinn and several of the brethren of this church. Sis. Marion Hicks was appointed to the Mother's Board.

February 2001. Deacon Emmett A. Patterson and Deacon Andre V. Booth preached their initial sermons.

June 2001. Deacon Kevin A. McLaurin preached his initial sermon.

October 2001. Rev. Michael A. Stinson was ordained into the Gospel Ministry after being called to Co-Pastor the Church of Philadelphia Baptist.

January 2002. Bro. Lonnell Booth, Bro. Ronnie Hall and Bro. Obeddie R. Hawkins were appointed to the Office of Deacon.

August 2002. The Spirit Redeemed Children's Choir was officially named the MAG Majestic Choir in honor of our Pastor, who baptized the entire choir (with the exception of one). Sis. Beatrice Billings was appointed to our Mother's Ministry.

January 2003. Our Noon Bible Class was named in honor of Mother Margaret Williams.

July 2004. Our pastor, Dr. Michael A. Griffin was elected as the youngest Moderator of the Salem Baptist District Association, Inc.

August 2004. Pastor Griffin was installed as the 13th Moderator of the Salem Baptist District Association, Inc. Our Pastor was appointed as Chairman of Evangelism Commission BSCOI.

December 2004. Our Annual Mother Ruby Andrews Retreat was held on site. Pastor Griffin appointed as 1st Vice of the Moderator's Auxiliary NBC USA INC.

March 2005. First Pastoral Staff Appreciation Service held our Annual Fasting and Praying leading up to our Annual Revival and Evangelistic Crusade.

September 2005. Lay Academy Bible Institute Satellite School opened at Spirit Redeemed, Dr. Michael A. Griffin, Instructor.

October 2005. Pastor Griffin takes his first vacation, since pastoring Spirit Redeemed.

March 2006. Recognized our 1st Lady, Sis. Lawana F. Griffin, with a special program. Puppet Ministry formed, under the direction of Sis. Lawana F. Griffin.

August 2006. Our pastor, Dr. Michael A. Griffin, was granted the privilege of doing the opening prayer for the swearing in of Cook County Commissioner Bobbie Steele.

January 2007. Our year started with our theme: "A Redeemed Church," remembering that Christ gave Himself as the price of our redemption. This fellowship was started humbly with 13 members, many have come and gone, over 400 members have come through our doors. We thank God, even now that the membership has dwindled. We still say Thank you Lord, look where God has brought us from. We've had highs and we've had lows, but in spite of, God is still GOOD.

Sunday, March 22, 2009. At 12:53pm announced that he has been called to pastor the Jerusalem Baptist Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and he has accepted and at this time he is giving the church his two week notice.

Also, the Lord has placed in his heart to ask the congregation to accept Rev. Daniel Garrett (Greater Open Door Baptist Church) to now become pastor of Spirit Redeemed. Pastor Griffin stated that the pulpit does not need to be vacant. Pastor Griffin then called for a motion to accept his resignation of Spirit Redeemed, Deacon Aaron Griffin made a motion, and it was seconded by Deacon Obeddie R. Hawkins. Pastor then asked for a motion to accept Rev. Garret as the new pastor of Spirit Redeemed, once again Deacon Aaron Griffin made a motion, and it was seconded by Deacon Obeddie R. Hawkins.

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CHURCH HISTORY

April 6, 2009. Pastor Daniel Garrett preached his first sermon as the new Pastor of the Spirit Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church. With a message of forgiveness and reconciliation, healing and recovery Pastor Garrett strives to continue to move the congregation forward.

July 12, 2009. Rev. Daniel J. Garrett was installed as the new Pastor of the Spirit Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Garrett brought with him the experience of serving as Youth Minister for several years. His main goal is to reach out to the unsaved, exalt the name of Jesus through intricate melodies and an energizing spirit by sharing God's Word, with those who do not know Jesus as their personal Savior. The adult choir was re-instituted and with a few faithful dedicated members Pastor Garrett began to bring a variety of music into the worship experience. Pastor Garrett brought with him the assurance that he is a child of God, called out by God, to do kingdom building, through his gifting and ultimately, preaching the Word of God.

2010. The church broaden its access to the Internet, through Wi-Fi, and other technological advantages that would help his Administrative Staff to perform more efficiently. The Children's Choir was instituted along with forth Sunday of every month becoming dress down and Cell Phone Prayer Sunday.

2011. Under the leadership of Pastor Garrett we have continued to spread the Good News about Jesus Christ o only within the wall of the church building through church sponsored Health Fairs, outdoor worship services and Street Evangelism (Cross Movement).

2012. The Church improved its multimedia area of ministry by bringing awareness to the ministry through Facebook, Twitter, Ustreamtv, and our first website.

We still give God the praise, honor and glory for the things that He has done, the things He's doing right now and the things we know He's going to do in the life of Spirit Redeemed.