

Old Union Church

Mt. Pleasant, TX
(Titus County)

33°11.286' N 94°54.586' W

Organized 1854

First pastor Samuel Morris

Current pastor Roger Oney

Baptist people were among the first, if not the first, settlers in what is now Titus County. By the time Texas joined the United States, a sparse population did not present a likelihood of flourishing churches as the more established states had. People kept coming and several families in the area of Union began a church organization in 1854.

Union Missionary Baptist Church was organized 12/30/1854. They met at Union schoolhouse for the purpose of constituting a Baptist church. Elder C.G. Stephens was Moderator, and Elder J. Isaac was Church Clerk. Possibly, a church in Red River County or a church in Kentucky became the mother church for Union Missionary Baptist Church. Charter Members: Alfred Lewellen, Nancy Evans, Charlotte Lewellen, Thomas G. Riddle and Nancy Riddle, one slave, after which a door was opened for the reception of members, whereupon they received Ellen Broaddus by experience for baptism.

The church agreed to the "declaration of faith" contained in the **History of the Baptist Church**. James Stevens baptized Ellen Broaddus. As was the practice at this time, the candidate was baptized immediately, regardless of how cold the water might have been.

Records indicate that Union Church was the first one organized in Titus County. Shortly after this time, Concord, Snow Hill, and Damascus churches were organized. With the wave of immigration at the conclusion of the Civil War, more Baptists and new churches came into being.

Any member who was absent from services without cause was visited by other appointed members to see why they were absent. If no cause was found, their name was removed from the roll and they were put on probation until repentance and acknowledgment was made to the church within a given period of time. If they did not repent, they were excluded from the church, and their name was taken off the roll. This church, as all churches in their beginning, had services only once a month, but Sunday School was held each Sunday.



Camp meetings were held each summer for weeks at a time, and people came from far and near in wagons, buggies, etc. and camped during the meeting. Most churches in those days were used by various denominations, and people would go to hear other preachers on their day at the church. The Baptist, Methodist, and other denominations met in the same church building for their worship services. The church doors were never locked.

The church began with a zeal for missions in 1854 and continued to mother other congregations, one of those being Nevills Chapel Baptist Church, Mt. Pleasant. Old Union Missionary Baptist Church continues to support foreign as well as local missionaries for the advancement of God's Kingdom.