

THE BEGINNING OF NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

In the summer of 2007, a group of Christians committed to Baptist principles met in the home of Doug and Gail Carpenter. These Christians were concerned that there was no congregation holding to Baptist principles in Dawson Creek. Though there were some fine evangelical congregations nearby, and though a few carried the name "Baptist," none held to principles that would identify them as Baptist. Accordingly, they contacted Dr. Stark, asking if he would be prepared to assist them in initiating services of a Baptist congregation.

Dr. Stark had only recently taken medical leave from a congregation. He offered his home for people to meet for prayer and to watch videos of sermons from various Baptist pastors. After several weeks, the group that met asked if he would be prepared to conduct worship services for the group. At that time, he gave notice to his former congregation that he would be terminating his relationship with them at the conclusion of his medical leave, and he began to speak to the congregation on Sunday mornings without assuming any further duties to the nascent church.

Some weeks after concluding his relationship to his previous congregation, he assumed full-time responsibility as pastor of the New Beginnings Baptist Church. The name, "New Beginnings Baptist Church," was chosen because those met believed that it was time for a new beginning as Christians and as Baptists. They wanted to identify as people that adhere to Baptist doctrine, hence they insisted that the word "Baptist" must be included in their name.

The new congregation soon began meeting in the Seventh Day Adventist Building. Several months later the location was moved to Sudeten Hall at 1901 Alaska Highway, a part of Pioneer Village Park. Just over two years into existence, a local church building was offered to the congregation and meetings began at 10221 18th Street on November 1, 2009. The building formerly belonged to Cornerstone Assembly.

The congregation has not affiliated with a denominational organization. We stand strongly on baptistic principals and had the privilege of sending financial support to a former colleague of Dr. Stark and his family while he was enrolled in a Southern Baptist Seminary. He completed studies, earned a degree and is currently pastoring a Baptist Church in the Halifax area. We also share in the support of mission causes sponsored by the Canadian National Baptist convention, such as a re-building project in Greensburg, Kansas after the tornado devastation.