

1971-2006: *The Kettle Moraine Parish Years*

By 1970 growth was coming slowly for the churches of western Waukesha County. How could our churches enhance their Christian witness in the area? How could we provide a situation wherein pastors and congregations could use each other's abilities and resources for the common good? To find answers, the staff of Pioneer Parish, from northern Wisconsin, was invited to meet with representatives from Bethesda, Delafield, Jerusalem, Kettle Moraine of Stone Bank and Zion Presbyterian churches; as well as our Genesee church.

On August 4, 1970 representatives from the churches met at Delafield and took action to explore, in good faith, the possibility of establishing a parish among the churches represented. A "steering committee" was formed. A common date was set later for all congregations to vote on joining the parish. Stone Bank withdrew, leaving five churches to form a parish. The interim Parish Council and Rev. Jay Miller, Rev. McDonald and Rev. James Ludowise proceeded to work out the plan and settle questions.

On June 20, 1971, a Service of Worship to constitute the parish was held at Delafield. By-laws and Articles of incorporation were adopted and signed by the church representatives. In 1973, Rev. Leonard McIntire, Rev. Margaret Towner and Rev. Al Nichols were installed as the first pastors in the Kettle Moraine Parish. In January of 1977, the Mukwonago Christian Fellowship, UCC joined the parish, making our number six.

By 2006, the sands of the parish hourglass were running out. After 35 years of cooperative ministry, the remaining four churches of the Kettle Moraine Parish had, each at their own congregational meetings, voted to again become independent churches. Until its being dissolved on March 31, 2006, the Kettle Moraine Parish had almost 30 years of stable pastorates, followed by a longer list of pastors toward the end. On Sunday, April 2, 2006 at the Ed. Center, there was a short Dissolution Service led by Pastor Denny Maher.

We were again independent churches, each with our own, separate destiny. Let us not forget the valuable experiences we have learned while working together. Let us continue to share activities with one another for the common good of all.