

Western Heights Bilingual Church of Christ – Dallas, TX.

This is the story of the very unique 136 year-old Western Heights Church built on top of a hill about 2 miles west of present-day downtown Dallas, just across the Trinity River. It was originally founded in 1872 after Confederate Army Brig. Gen. Richard M. Gano (1830 - 1913) preached at the request of Maj. B.F. Robinson, a Civil War comrade, to settlers from De Soto, Eagle Ford, Jimtown, Lisbon, and Wheatland, making 50 converts. The church met for years in homes or in the Mt. Airy Schoolhouse.

Brother Gano originally made a name for himself organizing the Tarrant County Grapevine Volunteers known as Gano's Squadron. He also became well-known as a frontier Indian fighter in the old west and state legislator before he entered the ministry. Another of the early preachers was Z.E. Coombes, also a western pioneer.

The land for the present location was given to the church by W.R. Fisher (1888) and J.A. Crawford (1890); Mrs. Mattie Hord Crawford raised money for lumber. Men of the congregation erected the first meetinghouse in 1890 of white clapboard. This building now houses the Sunday school classes and fellowship hall.

In 1983 the church building was sold to a Hispanic group of believers which continues to meet there today. The sanctuary and church office is now in a newer building on the same property, but the original building with the traditional steeple remains a historical landmark on the premises. In the summer of 2006 the leadership of the church recognized the need to adjust for the needs of the membership and as a result Western Heights is now one of only a handful of truly 100% bilingual churches across the country, with all services including Spanish and English presentations.

Thanks to the blessing of God, the congregation remains vibrant even after all these years of existence. The church is fully independent with its' own elders, deacons, and evangelist. They recently celebrated their 25th. baptism in the last 20 months, and regularly meet with an attendance of about 150 or so. After 136 years of continuous dedication to the Lord, Western Heights is still a model of a church which understands that the "good race" we run for God is a marathon and not a sprint. In these 13+ decades the Christians in this place have logged well over 7000 weeks of regularly scheduled meetings, over 21,000 individual services, and countless souls won for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May all of the glory and honor always be rendered to God! Amen.