



First Hungarian Presb. Church, ON

Presbyterian

439 Vaughan Rd. Toronto, Ontario M6C 2P1

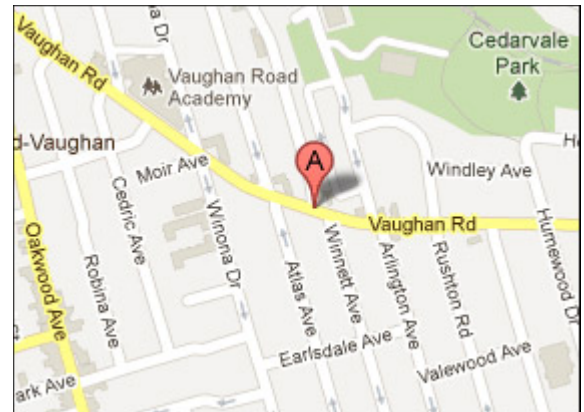
www.temre.com

416-656-1342

Pastor: Rev. Zoltán Vass

Hungarian Church Services: Sun. 11:00 AM

Hungarian Congregation: xxxxx



Church History

The first church records show that in 1926 Rev. Ferenc Kovács commuted from Hamilton to Toronto on Sundays to hold services for the Hungarian people gathered in private homes. In 1928, Béla Bucsin, a student at Knox College, was appointed to hold services. The elders held meetings to establish the Hungarian Presbyterian Congregation. In 1929 they had the first seal of the church and from that time the foundation of the congregation is commemorated.

The early years of the depression were hard times for the Hungarian people and the work of the church was carried on with great difficulty and much heartache. Then, in 1932, Károly Steinmetz, a student at Knox College was appointed to reorganize the work. Sunday services were held in the hall of the Scott Mission. A thriving Sunday school was begun, as well as a Women's Auxiliary and a Youth Group. Upon graduation, Mr. Steinmetz was ordained to be minister of the congregation and the work continued to develop. Special fundraising events were held, and in 1936 the new site was purchased at 206 McCaul Street.

On February 5, 1939, the new church building was officially opened and dedicated. In 1950, the Presbytery declared the congregation to be self-sustaining.

At the conclusion of World War II, many people emigrated from Hungary, some finding their way to Toronto. In the turmoil of those times, the congregation was served with faith and devotion by Rev. Dr. Lajos Nagy (1952-19-5), Rev. Dr. Kálmán Tóth (1955-1959), Béla Károly, a Lutheran minister (1959-1960), and Rev. László Báthory (1960-1963)

After the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, about 200,000 people escaped from Hungary, many of them coming to Toronto and finding a spiritual home in the congregation. It had become evident that the congregation needed a larger church building. During the ministry of Rev. Ödön Seress (1964-1991), fundraising began again and a search was made for new premises. This culminated in the purchase of the present beautiful church on Vaughan Road in 1967, which was officially dedicated on October 27.

After the retirement of Mr. Seress, Rev. Ferenc Szűcs, a minister from Hungary, served the congregation for two-and-a-half years and then returned to Hungary.

In 1994, Rev. Zoltán Vass came to the congregation from Hollywood, California. He serves the congregation with great energy and devotion. There is an efficient Women's Club, a Men's Club, a Confirmation Class; a Church Choir with high standards, a Sunday school, a Bible Study Group.

Map: <http://g.co/maps/nxet2>