



West Side Hungarian Ref. Church, OH

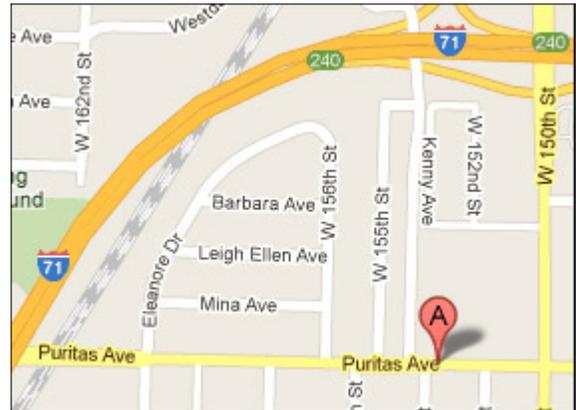
Reformed

15300 Puritas Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44135

www.wshrccalvincenter.com

216-476-3736

Pastor: Rev. Tamás Bíró
Hungarian Church Services: Sun. 9:30 AM
Hungarian Congregation: 40-50 people



Church History

In 1906, under the direction of Dr. Elek Csutoros, the west side congregation separated and formed the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church. The following year, Reverend Károly Erdei became first pastor of the congregation and two buildings were purchased on Monroe and West 25th Street to facilitate a church and a school. In 1913, Reverend Erdei was succeeded by Dr. Elek Csutoros, who served as pastor until 1926. In 1923, the church which was used previously by the congregation at West 32nd Street and Carroll Avenue was purchased from the German Reformed congregation. The church hall, Calvin Hall, became a cultural and social centre for the west side Hungarian community. Reverend Csutoros organized the church Sunday school as well as summer Hungarian language instruction for the children.

In 1926, Reverend Edmund Vasváry was elected pastor of the church. Reverend Vasváry later became a prominent researcher of Hungarians in America, with special reference to Hungarians who fought in the Civil War. In 1936, Reverend Vasváry was replaced by Reverend Matthias Daróczy, who served as pastor for nearly thirty years. During the pastorate of Reverend Daróczy, the congregation increased in membership and became a viable force in the Hungarian community of Cleveland. The church was instrumental in aiding hundreds of "D.P.s" who came after the Second World War as well as many homeless refugees who fled after the Hungarian Revolution in 1956.

The next pastor is Reverend Aaron Elek, who has served in this capacity since 1963. In response to the needs of the congregation, a new church was recently purchased at West 150th Street and Puritas Road. The congregation relocated in 1976 and simultaneously, construction of a new church hall was initiated. The new hall, costing \$450,000 was completed in September 1978. This modern facility serves as the new center for Hungarian community activities in Cleveland. Of the Hungarian churches, the congregation of the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church presently represents one of the largest and most active.

For more information: Pastor's cell phone number: 440-638-9111

Map: <http://g.co/maps/59qkg>