

# Union United Church



112 years and counting...

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## Union United Church Montreal's Oldest Black Congregation

1907:	July 24	First organizational meeting held.
	August 29	Constitution, By Laws and Covenant adopted.
	September 1	Opening service held at Welsh Hall.
1910:		Congregation moved from the Olivet Baptist Church, Mountain and Osborne Streets, to the American Presbyterian Mission, 175 Inspector Street.
1916:		Congregation moved to 3007 Delisle Street, corner of Atwater.
1923:	April 8	Congregation voted to become a founding member and part of the United Church of Canada.
1925:	March 8	Charles H. Este, soon to be ordained a minister, is invited to become Pastor of Union Church.
	June 10	Official birthday of the United Church of Canada.
1926:	December 31	Union Church is free of debt.
1928:	February 22	The Negro Community Centre is founded by Rev. C. Este, Golden Darby, Clara DeDhields and other members of Union Church.
1933	March 4	The Depression has hit particularly hard at the congregation almost 80% of whom are unemployed.
1941:	April 21	Rev. C. Este protests in writing against the racist policies of the Royal Canadian Navy.
1958:	October 13	Ceremonial start to expansion and renovation of Church building.
	October 24	Deed to Church property is transferred from the United Church of Canada to Union Church.
1959:	June 28	Dedication service of expanded and renovated Church.
1965:	June 10	Rev. C. Este is honoured by Union Church for his 45 years of service.
1967	April 1	Mortgage held against Church property is burned.
1968:	May 1	Rev. F. B. Gabourel becomes pastor.
1976:		City of Montreal threatens to expropriate the property at 3007 Delisle street to allow for the expansion of the Metro.
1978	Sept. 3	The Lionel Groulx metro station opened and the underground structure allowed the property on which Union Church was located to remain intact.
1982:	July 7	Union United Church celebrated its 75th anniversary.
2007:	July 7	Union United Church celebrated its 100th anniversary.
2010:	Spring	Church suffered from water infiltration, mold and damage to its foundation.
2010:	Dec. 12	Church building at 3007 Delisle Street is decommissioned.
2011:	Jan 1	Congregation moves into a temporary home at Rosedale Queen Mary United Church, 6870 Terrebonne, Montreal.
2011:	Oct. 15	Official launch of the Major Renovation Capital Campaign - "Let Us Rise Up and Build."



## Union United

Union United Church has been serving the Montreal community from several locations across the city since 1907 and from its current home at 3007 Delisle Street since 1916. Union welcomes all ethnic origins and faiths. In addition to its Sunday Services, Union partners with the various levels of government, educational institutions and community organizations to offer art, cultural, social, educational, and music programs. These programs provide children, youth and their families with the tools and other support to improve their quality of life.

## Serving the Community

Union is a beacon of hope and a key part of the fabric of Montreal society. Members of the community have come to depend on us for much needed advocacy in terms of housing and social justice as well as support services to help alleviate poverty and hunger. Union is a leader in giving to United Church Missions in developing countries. In 2011, we distributed over 5000 bags of food to needy local families and we partnered with St. Columba House to prepare and deliver over 1500 meals to the sick and shut-in.



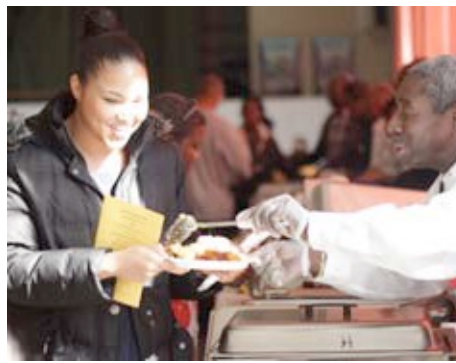
Union partners with the City of Montreal, CLSC St. Henri, and organizations such as Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, Tandem Montreal, Youth in Motion, Carrefour Jeunesse d'emploi du Sud-Ouest de Montreal, The Burgundy Urban Mediation Project, as well as various departments of McGill and Concordia Universities to provide self-improvement services and to seek solutions for disenfranchised youth, young adults and the unemployed. Since 1972, we have provided over 400 scholarships to CEGEP and university students. Union is the bedrock of gospel and jazz in Montreal. It has produced the world famous Montreal Jubilation Choir. This church nurtured jazz legends: Oscar Peterson and Dr. Oliver Jones. In fact, Dr. Jones first live performance, at aged 5 was for a Union congregation. Dr. Jones still worships at Union and he is the honorary chairperson of the Major Renovation Capital Campaign 2011 – 2014.



# Investing in the Community

We will continue to serve the community by investing in our newly renovated building. We will provide affordable access to inviting, multipurpose, community spaces including:

- A 200-seat meeting hall
- A community kitchen with cold /dry storage facilities that will host cooking classes and house our food bank and meals on wheels program
- Fully equipped meeting spaces for community organizations and young entrepreneurs.



## Renovating rather than Relocating

Many churches in the Montreal area are in a state of disrepair. Despite regular maintenance, the buildings have succumbed to their age and harsh weather conditions. Aging and declining congregations have seen many churches amalgamate or close altogether but Union is still going strong. Our 112-year old history is a great achievement and our renovation is an investment for future generations.

Our current location is hallowed ground within the Black Community. It represents our final destination after having to relocate from various locations across Montreal in the early years. To generations of Union families including Judge Juanita Westmoreland Traore, Quebec's first black female judge and Joel Anthony, Center for NBA Miami Heat, it is home. The Honourable Nelson Mandela made Union his only Montreal stop on his visit to Canada in 1990.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Walter Sisulu of the African National Congress have preached from Union's pulpit. Union is located at Lionel-Groulx, the crossroads of a major subway and bus terminal, and just minutes away from access to highways leading to Montreal from the west, east, north and south. It is the base from which we provide our many local and regional programs and services to the community.

The City of Montreal has given special recognition to the beautiful and historic stone façade of our church, and it will remain intact during our renovations.

## Capital Campaign

We have launched a comprehensive Capital Campaign called "Let Us Rise Up And Build". The scope of "Let Us Rise Up And Build", \$1.6million by December 2014, is unlike any other campaign in our 112-year old history. Not since Union's founding in 1907 has so much been at stake for the institution, the congregation we serve, and the community of Montrealers we service. Please help us. Give generously.



## Ways to Give

You can give online via a secure donation page on our website: <http://www.unionunitedchurchmtl.ca> and / or send a cheque, money order, Visa, MasterCard or AMEX information with donation amount to: **Union United Church, 4455 Mariette avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H4B 1C5.** Donations are tax deductible.

**DONATE NOW >**



## Union United Church

3007 Delisle Street,  
Montréal, Québec H4C 1M8

[www.unionunitedchurchmtl.ca](http://www.unionunitedchurchmtl.ca)



**“LET US RISE UP AND BUILD.”**

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