

Hillsboro-Harrisburg Baptist Church Profile

Hillsboro-Harrisburg Baptist Church
109 N. King
Hillsboro, IA 52630



Church Information and History

The merger between the Hillsboro and Harrisburg Baptist churches was completed in August of 2020. The two churches had been yoked three times starting in 1942, again in 1947, and in 1962 with the final yoke continuing until the merger. Our churches were both established in the mid 1800's. The Harrisburg Church was located in the country between Hillsboro and Bonaparte and the Hillsboro Church in the town of Hillsboro. The current location of the merged churches is in the Hillsboro building. This building was raised to add a basement in 1906. A handicapped accessible ramp was added recently and the education/kitchen area is currently being readied for a renovation. Our congregation is made up of mostly rural/agricultural families with a variety of other member occupations/careers as well. Our current average attendance is 15-20 people with 1-2 families of young children in attendance and adults ranging from their 30's to retirement age.

Both churches, when yoked, were supportive of American Baptist (AB) Churches and our involvement has continued to this day. Church members contribute their time and money to Area and Region projects and the church camps. Two members hold Area ABWM offices and one member serves on a regional committee. Our church supports AB offerings of America for Christ, One Great Hour of Sharing, Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, World Mission Offering, and other special region and area needs or requests as they arise. Our church's annual budget is \$31,000. Our cash on hand is \$49,000, which includes the \$20,000 given by a church member for the Sunday School/kitchen renovation. We have \$6,000 in investments. Currently, our American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) group does not have regularly scheduled meetings; but rather, we meet to conduct business and to meet our white cross and region/area obligations, after church, by phone, or during our women's group luncheons.

Parsonage

The Parsonage is next door to the church and both are across the street from the city park with a new shelter and playground area. The parsonage is a two story structure with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. The bathrooms and laundry area were updated in 2014 and the back entry area was updated in the last two years. A new two-car garage was built in 2010-11. Our church provides for the parsonage, water, heat, electricity, and sewer. The parsonage has a full kitchen and newer washer/dryer and owns a lawn mower which pastors have used to mow their yard and is used to mow the church yard by hire or volunteer.

Community information

Our church is located in the small town of Hillsboro. According to the 2020 census, the Hillsboro population is 163. Hillsboro has a volunteer fire department and a community center that holds various community activities. The town has a very active library that is open two hours 3 times a week with summer youth activities and public computers available with internet access. The main business in town is the grain elevator that has a branch office and grain bins in Hillsboro.

Although we are a very rural community, there are many recreational opportunities in our area that are within a 25 mile radius. They include theater performances and concerts, as well as many outdoor activities such as camping, canoeing, fishing, and hiking in one of our area parks, Lacey State Park, Lake Sugema, or the Des Moines River.

The local school district's elementary building is 8 miles away and the Jr. High/HS is about 20 minutes away. During the school year, school buses pick up and drop off students in the town of Hillsboro.

Church Involvement in the Community

We value our community and support it in various ways. We have established a Community Fund in order to provide financial assistance to individuals/families in our local community who are in need. We have recently provided funds and resources for a local food bank to be established in Hillsboro. For the past 30 years, we have had homemade candy sales prior to the holidays to raise money for scholarships for youth and families to attend church camp, community activities in the park, and for our ABWM group to pay dues, region and area projects, and white cross donations. We invite other churches and the community to our church's Memorial

Day service in the city park, a home cooked Harvest Home Dinner held at the church, our Easter breakfast, the Christmas Eve Candlelight service, movies in the park, and a family-oriented Oktoberfest day in the park. Recently, we completed a Bible Study in which the community was invited to join us in person or via Zoom, which some did!

Our church loves the fellowship that potluck dinners bring, so we have them often. For example, we have a potluck on the 5th Sunday of the month, after our quarterly business meetings, when decorating the church for Christmas, and other times when the opportunity arises. Prior to the pandemic, our church members enjoyed a once-a-month Friday night fellowship meal at restaurants in surrounding towns.

In spring of 2022, in order to increase membership, develop a multi-cultural congregation, and build a ministry to the young and old of our community, we developed the following goals:

*Develop a ministry to the young children of the community

*Develop ways to reach out to the population that are under 40 years of age

*Continue to enhance the ministry, education, commitment, and dedication of the current membership

With these goals in mind, we are thinking of ways to spread God's Word by reaching out to the children in the community and establishing relationships with families in our neighborhoods encouraging them to attend church. We are open to trying new things and looking at aspects of the church worship service, trying new technology approaches, and having a mixture of modern Christian songs and hymns.

Our Beliefs and Expectations

As a Baptist congregation, we are Christ-centered. We affirm the teachings of the Scriptures and the practices of the historic Baptist faith as outlined in our by-laws. We are looking for a part-time (16-20 hours per week) pastor for our church and would welcome someone who is bi-vocational. We expect our pastor to have a personal relationship with the Lord and to encourage and strengthen members in their walk with God. Our congregation would like to have the pastor be visible and active in the community as time allows, and work with the church congregation to witness and build relationships in the community to hopefully welcome new attendees/members into our church. We ask that the pastor join the congregation in reaching out to members who are sick or in need of emotional support.

We can offer a salary of \$1,000 per month.

Benefits:

Parsonage: 4 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, Central air conditioning

Washer, dryer, refrigerator and stove provided.

2 car garage

Utilities provided: water, heat, electricity, and sewer

Church lawn mower

Two weeks paid vacation

3 personal days

Health Insurance

Assistance with moving expenses

The Hillsboro-Harrisburg Baptist Church looks forward to a second century of service in the name of Jesus Christ. If you have questions, please contact one of the following:

Pastoral Search Committee Chair:

Clark Whitaker

17088 Rte. W40

Hillsboro, IA 52630

319-759-5091

whitaker.clark@gmail.com

Regional Consultant:

Rev. Jacqueline L. Saxon, Executive Minister

Mid-American Baptist Churches

2400 NW 86th St., Suite #15

Des Moines, IA 50322

Office: 515-278-1411

exec@mid-abc.org