



Antioch Baptist has tradition of empowering the community: Black History Month

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James Ewinger, The Plain Dealer
By

As part of Black History Month, we honor Antioch Baptist Church, which carries on a long tradition as a force for spiritual growth, physical well-being and political empowerment in Cleveland's inner city.

The church, at East 98th Street and Cedar Avenue since 1934, had been at four other locations since its founding in 1893.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached at the church three times.

But the Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle was the steady hand on the congregation's helm for nearly 25 years.

The onetime candidate for the U.S. Senate announced his departure late last year, to run a seminary in Rochester, N.Y., a post he assumed last month.

The congregation of 1,500 has a steering committee looking for a successor.

Antioch is known for many things, including the first faith-based AIDS education and prevention program in Ohio.

The church has partnered with the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland to combat predatory lending in the inner city, and has fought hard for better housing, better education, civil rights and interfaith and interracial cooperation.

It is affiliated with American Baptist Churches and the Cleveland Baptist Association.



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Antioch Baptist Church in Ohio in 1989.

-- *James Ewinger*

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