

laid. The first service in the new church was held June 26, 1898, though the church was far from completion at the time; it was dedicated February 5, 1899, by Rev. A. M. MacDonald. The edifice was erected at a cost of \$10,000; it was Gothic in style and quite imposing. This church was burned in the fire of May 3, 1901.

With \$10,000 insurance money as a nucleus, funds for rebuilding the church were contributed and by the autumn of 1902 plans for its erection had been started. On April 12, 1903, the first service was held in the church, and regularly thereafter. This was a brick church erected at a cost of \$22,000. The style was Old English Gothic. It was dedicated January 17, 1904, by Dr. E. Lyman Hood. Three Congregational churches had now been built on that corner.

On account of street noises during service hours the trustees decided to sell the church property and rebuild elsewhere. They accepted an offer of \$80,000 for the holdings of the Church at the corner of Hogan and Church Streets in November, 1911. Pending the negotiations the selection of the present site on the south side of Church Street between Hogan and Julia was made and when the funds from the sale became available the lot was purchased and the erection of the church begun in June, 1912. The last service in the old church was held July 7, 1912; the congregation worshipped in the Jewish synagogue during the rebuilding. The new church was under construction exactly a year. On March 9, 1913, a service was held in the assembly hall, but the church was not permanently occupied until June 15, 1913. It was dedicated by Rev. A. M. MacDonald, a former pastor, January 17, 1904. The edifice is 102x80 feet over all, constructed of white brick and terra cotta and represented at the time of building an outlay of about \$90,000. The main auditorium is 60x60 and 26 feet high; as originally designed 30 rooms were provided to be used for Church purposes.

The struggles of the trustees all during the early years to keep out of debt and at the same time progress reveal a wonderful example of perseverance. They were frequently near the line, but seldom far below it. At one time a legacy of land at Panama almost forced them into the real estate business to dispose of it and did involve the Church in a law suit.^p