

<https://www.ibnorthside.org/nuestra-historia>

Northside Baptist Church began its work as a small mission within the Anglo-Northside Baptist Church.

Its first pastor was Rev. Milton Leach, assisted by three other members. This work began in July 1955. Later that year, Rev. Francisco Páez took over as pastor, serving until 1957.

On March 1, 1958, Rev. Eliseo Rodríguez was installed as pastor. That same year, a property was purchased and the mission moved to a new location; on December 18, it received financial assistance from the Home Mission Board.

On October 12, 1961, the mission was formally established as a church, and it was officially constituted on March 16, 1962, becoming the second organized Hispanic church in Miami.

Pastor Evis Carballosa replaced Pastor Eliseo Rodríguez, serving until 1968, when he was succeeded by Rev. Edwin Díaz. After several months without a pastor, Rev. Díaz was replaced by Rev. Eduardo Hernández. During this time, the church experienced significant growth and flourishing. Rev. Pedro Pared, from Tampa, served briefly as pastor, resigning in 1982. That same year, Rev. José L. Molliner, recently arrived from Cuba with his wife and children, was invited to preach in Northside. Finding himself without a pastorate in the United States, he was offered the position, which he accepted for the glory of God. During his tenure, a property was purchased, remodeled, and renovated to serve as a church building. As time passed and the membership grew, the purchase of a property became a reality, which we currently own and where hard work and the perseverance of the brothers resulted in the construction of a beautiful, comfortable temple worthy of praise and work for the work of God.

In 1997, Pastor Molliner became ill and underwent heart surgery; he stopped working and was replaced as interim pastor by Rev. José Ruiz (who was retired at that time); and in the search for a new pastor, in 1999, Rev. P. Alberto Ocaña, a native of Cuba and from the First Baptist Church of Hialeah, where he served for 6 years as music minister and associate pastor, arrived at our church; accompanied by his wife Oneida and his children Aylín and Albertico.

On Saturday, July 24th, he was officially installed as pastor of Northside Church, an event attended by other pastors, friends, brothers and sisters, and teachers from the Western Cuba Baptist Seminary.

In these past years, God has greatly blessed us, and we can say: Ebenezer, thus far the Lord has helped us.

God has been faithful, and it has been a fundamental task of the pastor and all the members to cultivate good relationships and Christian love, thus contributing to many coming to know Christ as Savior. Currently, Northside Baptist Church has a membership of over 650 and an average attendance of 600 at Sunday services, all to the glory of God. Believing with faith and trust, as Scripture says, that He who began the good work in us will perfect it.