

Negro Churches In Rhode Island:  
1783 - 1966

Church of God and Saints of Christ  
1905 - 1966

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Church of God and Saints of Christ

For:  
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Two Missionaries came to Providence, Rhode Island and so interested a group of people in their religious doctrine, that they requested a minister be sent to establish a church here.

Elder Allen Waters arrived in Providence, Rhode Island on July 5, 1905 and organized this group under the name of the Church of God and Saints of Christ. It became an incorporated body August 14, 1908 under the same name with the following men named as Trustees: Alonzo Allen, Andrew Rhodes, Edward Potter and Samuel Crum.

Elder Waters rented a building at 422 Washington Street as the first tabernacle. The official day of worship being Saturday (Sabbath) according to Exodus 20:8-11 inclusive, no servile work was done by the members. A Department of Religious Education (Sabbath School) was formed for the spiritual indoctrination of the adults and children; also the Daughters of Jerusalem and Sisters of Mercy (Women's Auxiliary) did charitable work and raised funds to support the work.

On Winter Street near Cranston Street they had a grocery store operated by the members, also they owned two buildings at 49 and 53 Winter Street, which were a parsonage and a home for the aged and orphan children.

Reverend Watkins became the pastor in 1935. Under his direction the Southern Jubilee Singers were organized and gave concerts at churches, auditoriums and on television which was a source of revenue for the church. In 1959 the Echoes of Melody consisting mainly of younger members also sang over the same medium.



The tabernacle moved several times, from 422 Washington Street to 47 Winter Street, back to 422 Washington Street; then to Randall Square, 10 Cranston Street. October 2, 1948 the edifice of the Second Freewill Baptist Church was purchased.

Bishop Levi S. Plummer became the pastor in 1957. In March, 1960 the State purchased the church edifice to make way for a thruway, also the city purchased the buildings on Winter Street. The tabernacle again moved to temporary quarters at 32 Haskins Street. The last service was held at Haskins Street on November 31, 1963 and again the tabernacle moved to temporary quarters at 105 Benedict Street on December 6, 1963

Elder Judah A. Person came as Associate Minister in June, 1963. On June 16, 1964 the congregation purchased the corner lot at the corner of Dodge and Cranston Streets from the Providence Redevelopment Agency. The ground breaking took place August 6, 1964, the first service was held in the social hall May 1, 1965. On July 4, 1965 Bishop Levi S. Plummer and congregation dedicated their new Tabernacle: a split-level structure with sanctuary, social hall, classrooms, offices indoor garden and parking lot.

Reverend Allen Waters	1905 - 1934
Reverend Benjamin H. Watkins	1935 - 1957
Bishop Levi S. Plummer, B.S., B.D.	1957 -
Reverend Judah A. Person, Associate Minister	1963 -