

→ Rev. Thurman William Hamrick was from Cleveland County near Shelby, North Carolina. He was married to Janie Hamrick and they have four children - William, Linda, Edna and Gary. Rev. Hamrick attended four years of college, Howard Business College in Shelby and received his DD degree from Ohio Christian College, Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. Hamrick was called to Sunnyside Baptist Church on July 10, 1966. His beginning salary was \$60.00 per week plus house, lights, telephone and oil. This was his third pastorate.

During his ministry, the church grew in number, did well financially, buildings were improved and a store room with food for the needy was started.

Then there was a spiritual decline and on September 27, 1970 the church met in conference on Sunday morning to vote on the pastor's staying or leaving. According to the records, eleven people voted for the pastor who were not members of Sunnyside. The pastor and his family were asked to leave the meeting while the church voted. After hesitation they left. Carolyn Kiser got the membership record book and a roll call was made for each member to vote yes or no. Votes were 35 against and 32 for.

On October 11, 1970 at 2:00 PM the church met in conference for discussing of voting on pastor held on September 27, 1970.

Rev. Hoyle T. Allred and Mr. Forest C. Roberts from the Gaston Baptist Association were present. Dr. Eugene Kincaid gave prayer. A motion was made by Mr. Ira Wright and seconded by Kermit Hutchins for Rev. Allred to be moderator.

The moderator said the first vote was out of order. In the second vote, some voted who were not members. He asked if any members were present and not allowed to vote and no one confirmed this. The moderator asked why four names were added. These stood and stated how long they had been members; Mrs. Louise Parton - 5 years, Charles Doster - 10

years, Carolyn Wise - 3 months, Myrtle Glover - 5 years. These were all accepted by the moderator.

Moderator mentioned a difference of 3 votes according to roll book - 35 against and 32 for. Mrs. Diane Newton asked could the pastor's family be allowed to vote. Rev. Allred said, "no," according to former precedents. It is not proper for the pastor and his family to stay when the pastor is being voted on.

Minutes were read by the church clerk of the conference held on October 7, 1963. This stated that the former pastor and his family were excused and the chairman of Deacons called for a vote of confidence.

The moderator said in closing, "there is nothing in the world as harmful to a church as fighting among each other. My advice for the church is to love each other and love your church." He then asked Dr. Eugene Kincaid if the meeting had been conducted fairly and he said "yes" and Mr. Forest C. Roberts closed with prayer.

On October 25, 1970, Rev. Thurman Hamrick resigned. On May 24, 1978, Rev. Hamrick passed away.



Rev. Thurman Hamrick
Homecoming - 1976
Sunnyside Baptist Church