



Did you know Asa Turner...

When the pioneers who settled in Quincy, Illinois, in the early 1800's desired a house of worship and a minister to serve them, they wrote to Yale Seminary asking that a minister be sent to the community, promising support. Rev. Asa Turner answered that call, making the two-month journey with his wife, Martha, from their home in Templeton, Massachusetts. On December 4, 1830, just one month after his arrival, Asa organized the first church in the City of Quincy, one of the first Congregational churches in the State of Illinois.

Asa was a noted abolitionist and supporter of the temperance movement. He encouraged the American Home Missionary Society to send more missionaries to the Iowa Territory. His requests resulted in the arrival of nine young men from Andover Theological Seminary in 1843. Known as the "Iowa Band," they established churches in Eastern Iowa based on Turner's Denmark congregation.

The spirit with which these home missionaries went forth was much in keeping with Asa's purpose and enthusiasm. It was ably expressed by one of the Iowa Band when he said: "The understanding is among us all, that we go west not for a temporary purpose, unless the great Head of the Church shall make it so. We go to remain permanently -- to live and die there -- and God grant us grace to carry out this purpose."

After a number of years when each minister worked independently, the ministers collectively helped to establish Iowa College in Davenport. Later the college was moved to Grinnell, Iowa and renamed Grinnell College.

...was a Congregationalist?

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AMERICAN
CONGREGATIONALISM
SINCE 1620

Call to Worship

L: Precious Lord, take our hands in this hour

C: Lead us on, help us stand

L: We want to walk in the light

C: Of our pilgrim forebears

L: Who lived in the strength of Your Spirit

C: And with the hope of the triumph of the Gospel

Invocation (in unison)

Almighty and merciful God, we come to this hour seeking a vision, for a world which needs Your love and care. Imbue us with a pilgrim spirit, always willing to venture where You would have us go, always prepared to do our part to redeem the past for the sake of a more hopeful future. Gather us now, for we come with great expectations to be blessed.

Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard