



**The Illinois State Historical Society**

5255 Shepherd Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62703-5408

**SESQUICENTENNIAL CHURCH AWARDS PROGRAM APPLICATION**

Please type or print legibly. Deadline December 31  
Churches must have operated continuously in Illinois for 150 years or more

Please note: THERE IS A \$50 NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE

Current Legal Name of Church or Synagogue: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title of organizational head: \_\_\_\_\_

Founding date: \_\_\_\_\_ Original location (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese, conference, synod or other affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any changes in ownership or status: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of local or nearest newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION OF FOUNDING DATE IS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM!**

(See reverse for acceptable documentation to verify your church's history)

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Application fee enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_ Documentation verified: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos received: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Reservations Received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acceptable Documentation

To verify the founding date of your church, primary source documentation is needed. One or more of the following are acceptable if they contain dates:

- Minutes of early church board meetings
- Marriage or baptismal records
- Official charter grant
- Contemporary newspaper advertisements or articles
- Old city directories

## Unacceptable documentation

- Copies of pages from current local or county histories, unless photographs of original documents are included
- Booklets or promotional literature produced by your organization
- Current or recent newspaper stories

Photocopies are acceptable. Originals, if sent, will be returned upon request, unless you choose to donate them to the Illinois State Historical Society.

*PLEASE NOTE:* Applying churches are requested to furnish photographs, slides, or logos to help promote individual corporate histories in the media. Images (digital photographs are acceptable) should highlight the history and growth of your church, but may include photographs of your founder, original and/or current building(s), and historic documents.

Your local or county historical society or public library might be helpful in locating documentation. Call us if you need a name or phone number.

Send this completed application form and verifying documents to:



## Illinois State Historical Society

**Sesquicentennial Church Awards Program**

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**Phone: (217) 525-2781**

**[officemanager@historyillinois.org](mailto:officemanager@historyillinois.org)**

For more about the Sesquicentennial Church Awards Program, please visit our website at

**[www.historyillinois.org](http://www.historyillinois.org)**