

Friends to Help New Anchorage Church

FRONTIER FRIENDS this month makes its 71st home missions appeal for the newly-organized First Covenant Church of Anchorage, Alaska.

The church was formally organized, just one year ago—November 6, 1960—with 28 charter members. The Rev. Paul B. F. Carlson of the Alaska missionary staff is the first pastor.

Covenant missionaries had long felt the need for a Covenant church in Anchorage, which is Alaska's largest and fastest-growing city, to minister to Eskimos who moved to the city from the field in the north-western part of the state as well as to Covenanters who had come from the "lower 48" states.

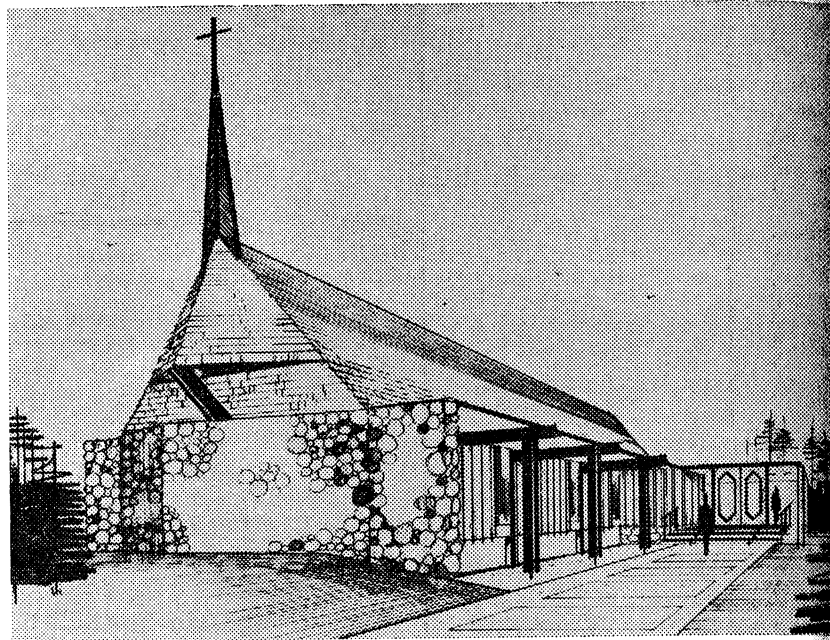
The denomination's board of missions asked the Rev. Gordon A. Nelson, superintendent of the California Conference, and the Rev. Roald Amundsen, chairman of the Alaska mission, to make a survey of the Anchorage situation. This task was performed in December, 1959.

The two-man committee recommended that if the fruits of Alaska missionary work were to be conserved, the establishment of a church in Anchorage was essential.

In February, 1960, the board appointed a committee of Anchorage Covenanters, of which Mr. Kenneth Anderson was chairman, to rent a meeting place and determine the feasibility of starting a church. The Rev. Ralph P. Hanson, executive secretary of world missions, spoke at the first meeting, which was held April 3, 1960, in a YMCA auditorium. Nearly 50 persons attended, and interest has increased as the services continued.

The congregation has secured a centrally-located building site and has engaged the services of a local architectural firm. An educational unit will be built first, a sanctuary later. Groundbreaking is scheduled for next April, even though building costs are high in Anchorage.

The Anchorage church was received into membership in the denomination at the annual meeting last June.



Construction is expected to begin next spring on a building to house the new 71-year-old Anchorage, Alaska, Covenant church, which will receive \$10,000 through the current Frontier Friends appeal.

Effective November 1

Board Votes Raise in Widows' Pension

Pension payments to widows of Covenant ministers were raised from \$37.50 per quarter to \$40 per quarter as of November 1, according to a decision made by the denomination's board of pensions at a meeting held last month.

The first checks reflecting the increase will be issued December 1, according to the Rev. Robert A. Honnette, director of pensions.

The increase was made possible by the raising from \$1,000 to \$2,500 per year of the contribution to the widows' current pension fund by the Covenant Women's Auxiliary. The decision was made by the CWA at its annual meeting held in Chicago in June.

The increase is the second made by the board during the year. At the February meeting held in Detroit, Michigan, in conjunction with the denomination's midwinter conference, the board voted to increase payments from \$25 to \$37.50 per quarter.

The two increases represent a

raise of 62½ per cent in the year.

Currently the pension is paid to 87 widows.

In addition, 98 retired ministers and other employees receive checks. Mr. Honnette reports that as of April 30, 1961, the Covenant Church had \$895,181.57 in the consolidated pension funds portfolio. Investment income was \$44,615.52 during the past fiscal year, and the market value of the investments is \$1,077,936.

This is the first time the value of the fund has exceeded a million dollars, the director points out.

Mr. Robert V. Thonander of Evanston, Illinois, serves as chairman of the board of pensions. Rev. J. Eldon Johnson of Chicago is vice-chairman; and Mr. Honnette is secretary.

As specified by the constitution, the treasurer of the denomination is Mr. Paul S. Carlson of Chicago, who serves as custodian of the pension funds.