

## Union Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Union Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church originated in 1871, at Akin's School site with 40 members under the direction of the Reverend T.J. Dixon of the New Smyrna Church. April 23, 1873, William Brazier deeded one acre of property as a gift to the pastor and elders of the newly formed church with the stipulation that the property reverts back to the Brazier heirs when and if the church ceased to use it for religious services. In August 1883, Akin's school site became too small and in much need of repair. There were at this time, approximately 130 people attending services at Union Grove. Plans were made for a larger facility. On January 30, 1884, Calvin Morgan deeded as a gift, one acre of land to Calvin Carrigan and the other elders and their successors, forever. This is the present site of the Union Grove Church. On May 3, 1885, even though the new building was not yet complete, services began. Thirteen new members were added that day. In February 1886, the building was completed. It was an oblong building with double doors in the front and did not have underpinning. May 29, 1886, the first deacons were elected. They were George W. Ferguson, J.J. Loftin, and George W. Dooley. Dedication of the new church building was conducted on May 30, 1886. Reverend H.A. Gray was elected pastor. The Reverend W.T. Dale preached the dedicatory message using Matthew 16:18 as his text. "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The record states the congregation was visibly moved by the forceful message.