The Friendship Baptist Church Memorial Scholarship

This rural church in Close City, 8 miles west of Post, Texas, voted on July 29, 1973 to disband after 57 years of devoted service. The 10 resident members continued to meet for several months, and on February 3, 1974, voted to perpetuate their ministry by transferring most of their remaining assets into an endowed scholarship fund at Wayland Baptist College for the education of Christian leaders.

The church was organized May 2, 1915 by Missionary B.F. Dickenson, after several years of a union Sunday School shared by Baptist and Methodists. The known charter members were husbands and wives J.F. Brandon, J.D. Tipton, Richard Cole, W.C. Carlton. Some early-day deacons were J.F. Brandon, J.D. Tipton, L.W. Dalby, J.I. Simmons, Ed L. Gossett.


The church has been known for its strength in missions, denominational loyalty, and emphasis on youth development.

Several members have been associated with Wayland as students or parents of students, such as Alice Rankin Barron, James Barron, Frances Barron Spencer, Jim Spurgeon Tipton, and Clementine Tipton. At least 8 of their pastors were Wayland ministerial students.

That the missionary ministry of Friendship Baptist Church will continue is the prayer and plan of the remaining members at this date, as stated by the committee—Mrs. A.M. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Tipton.