

ANTIOCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH COMMUNITY PROFILE

"It is here that the Lord, our God, has delivered us. Little did (the founders) have any idea this church would be in the center of one of the largest cities in the United States. It was God's divine plan that we would be the center." Ruth Pryor, Houston Chronicle, July 18, 1984

Since 1875, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church has been located at 500 Clay Street, in the heart of Downtown Houston, Texas. She is referred to affectionately as the "Mother Church," and holds a place in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Through God's Grace, Antioch is held in high esteem by individuals, conglomerates, religious, civic, and government institutions. The church is humbly nestled around an eclectic mix of historic and contemporary infrastructure, convenient transit options, convention, and sports venues, an active cultural and arts scene, fine dining and shopping, and thriving residential communities. Downtown Houston's Core is one of the region's most dynamic and vibrant mixed-use urban centers.

The church designated as a "Texas Historic Landmark" is part of Houston's Downtown Core that measures 1.84 square miles, bounded by Interstate I-10 on the north, U.S. 59 on the east and I-45 on the south and west, has (Downtown Houston) the largest concentration of employment in the region, with an estimated 150,000 jobs. It remains the desired business location for prominent companies, offering competitive advantages such as proximity to customers, business and service providers and transit options. A well-established, but constantly evolving business center, downtown has a wide industry mix and a collaborative, entrepreneurial and innovative environment. Over the past two decades, more than \$9 billion in public and private investments have been made towards achieving Downtown's vision of a creative and vibrant place to live, work and play. Downtown residents grew by almost 200% between 2000 and 2014, spurred by the increasing desire to be closer to work and at the heart of Houston's premier destination for culture and entertainment. Responding to market demand, developers have delivered over 1,400 residential units in the last two years, and will add more than 2,000 units within the next year. This growth is not limited to the core, with Greater Downtown (a 2-mile radius from the center of downtown), home to 65,297 household residents, recording an increase of 33% from 2000 to 2014.

Facilities in Downtown Houston, host some 400 sporting events, shows, concerts, festivals, and other events annually. This does not include the over 500 smaller events at Discovery Green, Market Square Park and other downtown destinations and venues. Antioch AMBC is near the Downtown Theater District which also includes Sundance Cinemas. The downtown area features award-winning public parks including Discovery Green, Market Square Park, Buffalo Bayou Sesquicentennial Park and Promenade, Fish Plaza, Jones Plaza, Tranquility Park, Hermann Square, Sam Houston Park and Root Memorial Square and other active downtown public spaces. Within the area are Phoenicia Specialty Grocery on Austin and Lamar and Georgia's Market on Main and Prairie. Downtown Houston, contains the private Incarnate Word Academy K-12 girls' school, South Texas College of Law, and the designated site of the new HISD High School for Performing & Visual Arts. University of Houston Downtown is accessible via METRO Rail and within walking distance of much of the target area.

The Antioch church body is exuberantly proud to be a part of this urban neighborhood (Downtown Houston) that continues to attract families and children: over 50 percent of households are in family households, and more than 11,000 children call the Greater Downtown area home. Antioch MBC church is positioned in a walkable, accessible, central, and vibrant place in Downtown Houston and remains poised in the 21st century as a competitive, sustainable spiritual institution within this modern day, regional economic venue and mixed-use urban center called Downtown Houston, Texas.