The History of a Black Presbyterian Church

1944

John Coleman & The Migration West

In 1939 minister Coleman moved the growing congregation to West Philadelphia, where most members had relocated. The new building was once the site of a Quaker Meetinghouse.

Churches gave African Americans leadership opportunities and provided resources such as food, housing, education, and employment.

The White House
Washington

September 8, 1944

Dear Mr. Coleman,

Heartiest felicitations and warmest personal greetings to the pastor and congregation of Lombard Central Presbyterian Church on the happy occasion of the centenary of its founding. I trust that all the fine things accomplished during the first century of the church will be but the forerunner of greater spiritual works in the years that lie ahead.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Reverend John L. Coleman, Pastor.
Lombard Central Presbyterian Church,
Forty-second and Powelton Avenue,