



THE HISTORY OF HÁTEIGSKIRKJA - ENGLISH VERSION

In 1952, the number of Icelandic parishes was increased, and the Háteigur parish (*Háteigsprestakall*) was established by law on July 17, 1952. In 1963, parish boundaries were altered with the establishment of the Grensás parish.

Rev. Jón Þorvarðarson was duly elected in October 1952 and served the congregation until October 1976. Initially, the congregation had no church building of its own, though it did have an organist and a choir. Services were held at Fossvogur Church and in the nearby assembly hall of the Navigation School (*Sjómannaskólinn*).

Before long, plans emerged to construct a church, and a building site was secured. Architect Halldór H. Jónsson was commissioned to design the church. Through the combined efforts of the parish council, the building committee, the fundraising committee, and many willing hands, construction of Háteigur Church began in September 1957. Þórður Jasonarson, chairman of the parish council, performed the ceremonial groundbreaking.

It was decided to consecrate the church during Advent in 1965, even though some work remained unfinished. The ceremony was grand in every respect and well-attended. The Bishop of Iceland, the Rt. Rev. Sigurbjörn Einarsson, consecrated the church.

Rev. Arngrímur Jónsson began his ministry in January 1964 and served the congregation until 1993. Rev. Jón Þorvarðarson stepped down from his position in July 1976, and an election for a new pastor was held that same year. Rev. Tómas Sveinsson was appointed to the position in November 1976 and served until 2013, alongside Rev. Helga Soffía Konráðsdóttir, who joined the church staff in October 1993.

Rev. Helga Soffía became the parish pastor upon Rev. Tómas's retirement. Rev. Eiríkur Jóhannsson served alongside her from 2014 to 2023 as the church's second pastor. Subsequently, Rev. Davíð Þór Jónsson held the position of second pastor for a one-year term, from 2023 to 2024. Since the autumn of 2024, Rev. Ása Laufey Sæmundsdóttir has served alongside Helga Soffía as the second pastor of Háteigskirkja.