

A Confession of Sin



Division in the body of Christ is sin – contrary to Christ’s will (John 17).

As Christians, we who are members of Churches of Christ, Christian Churches and Churches of Christ, and the Christian church (Disciples of Christ) are part of a movement that was in its beginning given a special trust to promote the visible unity of Christ’s church. This movement, begun in the early nineteenth century by leaders like Barton W. Stone and Alexander Campbell, has a great heritage of focusing on Christian unity.

Instead, we have been guilty of dividing the body of Christ in thought, word and deed. Many of us have fortified the spirit of division and have failed to do what we should have done to prevent or overcome division.

This betrayal of our trust has impoverished the whole church of Christ and weakened its mission.

We have deeply wounded one another through misrepresentation, suspicion, mistrust and defamation.

We, therefore, participate in the Stone-Campbell Dialogue, confess to God and to each other that we are guilty of the sin of division and or harboring and maintaining a spirit of division.

We now bring to God our brokenness and repent of the sin of division. We ask God for forgiveness. We ask God to heal us so that our Movement within Christ’s church can more perfectly embody the unity to which we are called.

Assured of God’s mercy and forgiveness, we pledge to move forward in the service of unity within this family of faith to benefit the whole church and the world.

An Affirmation of Faith



As disciples of Jesus Christ ...

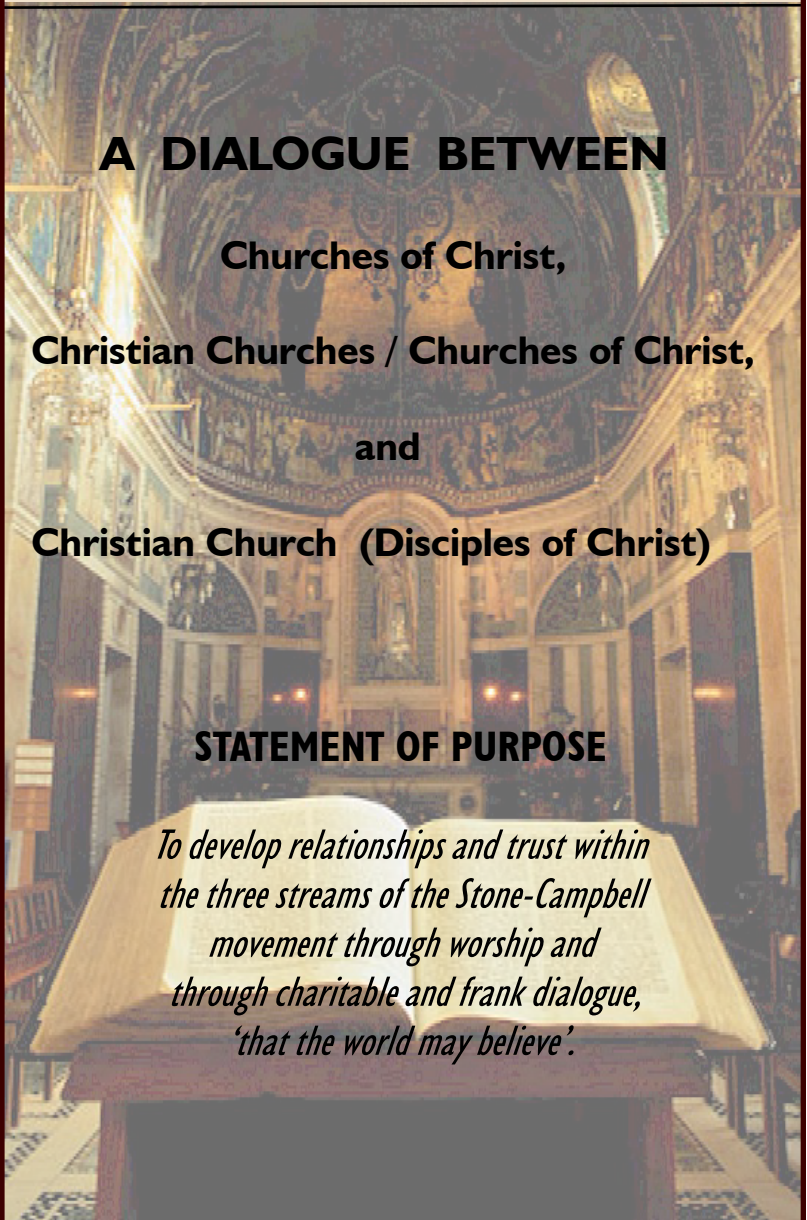
- We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God, and proclaim him risen Lord and Savior of the world.
- In Christ’s name and by his grace we accept the mission to proclaim the gospel to all the world and live in loving service to all people.
- We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in the covenant of love that binds us to God and one another.
- Through baptism into Christ we enter into newness of Life and are made one with the whole people of God.
- By the gift of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in Discipleship and in obedience to Christ.
- At the table of the Lord, each week we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ and proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.
- Within the Body of Christ we receive the gifts of Ministry and accept the authoritative witness of scripture.
- In bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God and one another that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory and honor be to God forever. Amen

We invite all Christians of this heritage to join us in this confession and affirmation of faith and make them their own.

* Adopted by members of the Stone Campbell Dialogue Team, June, 2000.

The Stone – Campbell Dialogue



A DIALOGUE BETWEEN
Churches of Christ,
Christian Churches / Churches of Christ,
and
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

*To develop relationships and trust within
the three streams of the Stone-Campbell
movement through worship and
through charitable and frank dialogue,
‘that the world may believe’.*

Churches of Christ



Who We Are

A communion of believers who hold to the foundational doctrine of historic Christianity, accept the Bible as the final authority in all religious matters, practice immersion of believers, and weekly Lord's Supper. They are congregational in organization with no formal leadership beyond local elders, though connected by lectureships, journals, educational institutions, and a variety of parachurch organizations. Their worship is a cappella in keeping with the simplicity of the early church's worship. The numbers of churches and members outside the United States, especially in Africa, now exceeds that of the U.S. There is considerable diversity among congregations.

Membership in the U.S. & Canada.....1,265,844
 Adherents (includes children and other unbaptized attendees).....1,639,495
 Congregations in the U.S. & Canada (46 with 1,000 members or more).....12,963
 Largest number of congregations in Texas.....2,137 and Tennessee.....1,452
 Ministers (est.).....12,600
 Missionaries (in 1999)842

Parachurch agencies include:

Camps.....111
 Campus Ministries227
 Child and Family Services 61
 Senior Care Facilities97

Periodicals.....185
 Colleges and Universities.....29
 Preaching / Training Schools.....42
 Elementary and Secondary Schools.....120

Christian Churches/Churches of Christ



Who We Are

A fellowship believers in the Deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Scriptures, and who practice baptism by immersion and observe the Lord's Supper weekly. We seek to restore the faith and practices of the early church, freely working with others of like faith, but committed to no organization beyond the local congregation. Committed to missions, we number as many abroad, as in the U.S. and Canada.

Membership in U.S. & Canada.....1,272,934
 Congregations, U.S. & Canada.....5,513
 Ministers.....4,823
 Assistant Ministers.....4,270
 Missionaries.....950

Active Duty Military Chaplains.....30
 Military Reserve/Guard Chaplains..... 18
 Miscellaneous Chaplains (Police, Fire, Prison, Hospital, CAP).....49

Para-church Agencies.....1,097
 Benevolent Agencies.....117
 Campus Ministries..... 92
 Christian Service Camps.....133
 Counseling Agencies.....23
 Day Schools.....94
 Evangelistic Associations149
 Preschools.....184

Universities and Colleges37
 Seminaries.....4
 Faculty/Administrators.....2,016
 Total Students12,823

Churches averaging over 1,000 in attendance.....149

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Who We Are

The Mission Imperative of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) adopted July 2000.

In our quest to embody Christian unity, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we believe God calls us:

Our Vision – To be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality, and a passion for Justice. (Micah 6:8)

Our Mission – To be and to share the Good news of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Our Imperative – To strengthen congregational life for this mission. (Ephesians 4:11-13, 15-16)

Membership:

U.S. and Canada723,000
 Congregations.....3,775
 Regions..... 33
 General Ministries..... 11
 Ministers7,197

(Including congregational pastors, associate pastors, regional ministers, general ministers, chaplains, missionaries, etc.)

Colleges17
 Seminaries and Seminary Houses.....7
 Undergraduate students.....21,900
 Seminary and Graduate student..... 1,000

Congregations with participating membership over 1,000..... 19