

What Do I have to Do to Become a Member?

As a result of the essential role of scripture, membership at LCC does not require the instruction or adherence to any extra-biblical creed as a test of fellowship, but only to recognize Christ as savior and to live according to the witness of scripture. The first step in this direction is to take part in believer's baptism and to be immersed for the forgiveness of sins. In this way, we enter the water to imitate Christ's burial (i.e., death to sin) and rising from it also imitating his resurrection to new life in the present (Rom 6:3-4).

What is LCC's Denomination?

LCC is historically within the Independent Christian churches and churches of Christ, or ICC for short. The ICC is not a denomination, but a later branch of the RM. As with the initial movement, we believe that it is the role of every individual church or denominational structure to sink into the body of Christ at large (think 1 Cor 12:12-20 and Col 1:18). For this reason, LCC and its ministers make an effort to be active in the community among other Christian congregations and to exhibit cooperation without biblical compromise. This principle and effort is often fostered among our own members and attendees.

Can we Disagree?

Yes. One of the remarkable characteristics of LCC as a part of the RM is our dedication to unity in diversity. Therefore, in search of truth, individuals are encouraged to study the scriptures and are responsible for their individual interpretation. However, in the task of maintaining unity, any matters of opinion ought to be held as private property and not be forced upon others.

"In matters of faith, unity; in matters of opinion, liberty; in all things, love."

"My master first, then others."

~ Samuel Rogers

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OUR RESTORATION MOVEMENT HERITAGE



Lincoln Christian Church

DISCOVER | CONNECT | IMPACT

What is it?

The Restoration Movement began on American soil as a conviction of Christian preachers in the early 19th C. to promote the core values of Christian unity and biblical truth.

Vision

Although much of the movement is focused on building unity and truth among Christians, these dual values act as two arms of the same embodied vision of reconciling the world to Christ.

Biblical Foundation

The vision of the RM is ultimately derived from a rational reading of the New Testament scriptures; particularly important is John 17. In Jesus' final 'high priestly' prayer he exhorts not only his contemporary disciples, but also all who would come to believe—that's us.

Jesus' prayer is that we might be sanctified, unified, and ultimately God's means of spreading the gospel of Jesus throughout the world. In other words, as the Church we are to be set apart as those under the authority of Christ; as the Church, we are also to exemplify unity rather than division; and its only when we properly demonstrate these two characteristics—truth and unity—that we can fulfill our role of world evangelism. John says it best: "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (John 17:23).

Neat Fact . . .
President James Garfield was a SCM preacher before taking office in 1881.



"The church of Christ upon earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one."

A Brief History

The Restoration Movement is often referred to as the Stone-Campbell movement because of its leading advocates and their eventual union on similar principles.

Thomas Campbell, a Presbyterian preacher, arrived in the new world after leaving Europe in 1807. He found the denominational trenches of the American frontier disheartening and more significantly beyond the authority of scripture.

"Where the scriptures speak, we speak, where the scriptures are silent, we are silent."

Upon the later arrival of his family and most notably his eldest son Alexander Campbell, both father and son began an independent congregation in 1811 with the New Testament as its sole authority and 'Christian' its only creed.

"Though we are not the only Christians, we are Christians only."

At the same time and only a state apart in Cane Ridge, KY, a man by the name of Barton Stone had been preaching a similar message. He too took up the same convictions that evangelism is hindered by disunity among churches and Christian as the only proper name for believers.

"Unity is our polar star."

It was Stone's dedication to the principle that all Christian institutions "sink into the Body of Christ at large" that led to the two groups eventual union in 1832. After years of growth and occasional contact, representatives from the two movements met in Lexington, KY and symbolized their official merger by a handshake. The combination of these two groups of Christians epitomizes the ideals of union in truth that continue to identify the Restoration Movement.

Lincoln Christian Church



LCC was established in 1854 just a year after the town's founding and follows in the footsteps of this great movement by adhering to many

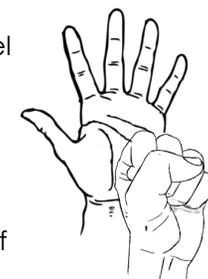
core principles including the final authority of scripture, and scripture only. At LCC we are committed to preaching, teaching, and carrying out the entire Word of God as contained in both the Old and New Testaments. We also believe that the events of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection mark a distinctive difference in the new covenant. God's covenant with his people is no longer bound to making individual restitution for sin, but is defined by faith in the life and person of Jesus of Nazareth who became a sacrifice to remove all sins.



Neat Fact . . .
Alexander Campbell, accompanied with W. K. Pendleton, visited and preached at Lincoln Christian Church during a preaching tour in 1858.

The early RM preacher Walter Scott (1796–1861) captured the essence of this new covenant with imagery that became known as the Five-fingered exercise:

1. We respond to the gospel in faith.
2. We produce a spirit of repentance.
3. We offer ourselves in baptism.
4. God grants forgiveness of sin.
5. God also gives the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Scott later added a final closed fist symbolizing the final state of eternal life.