

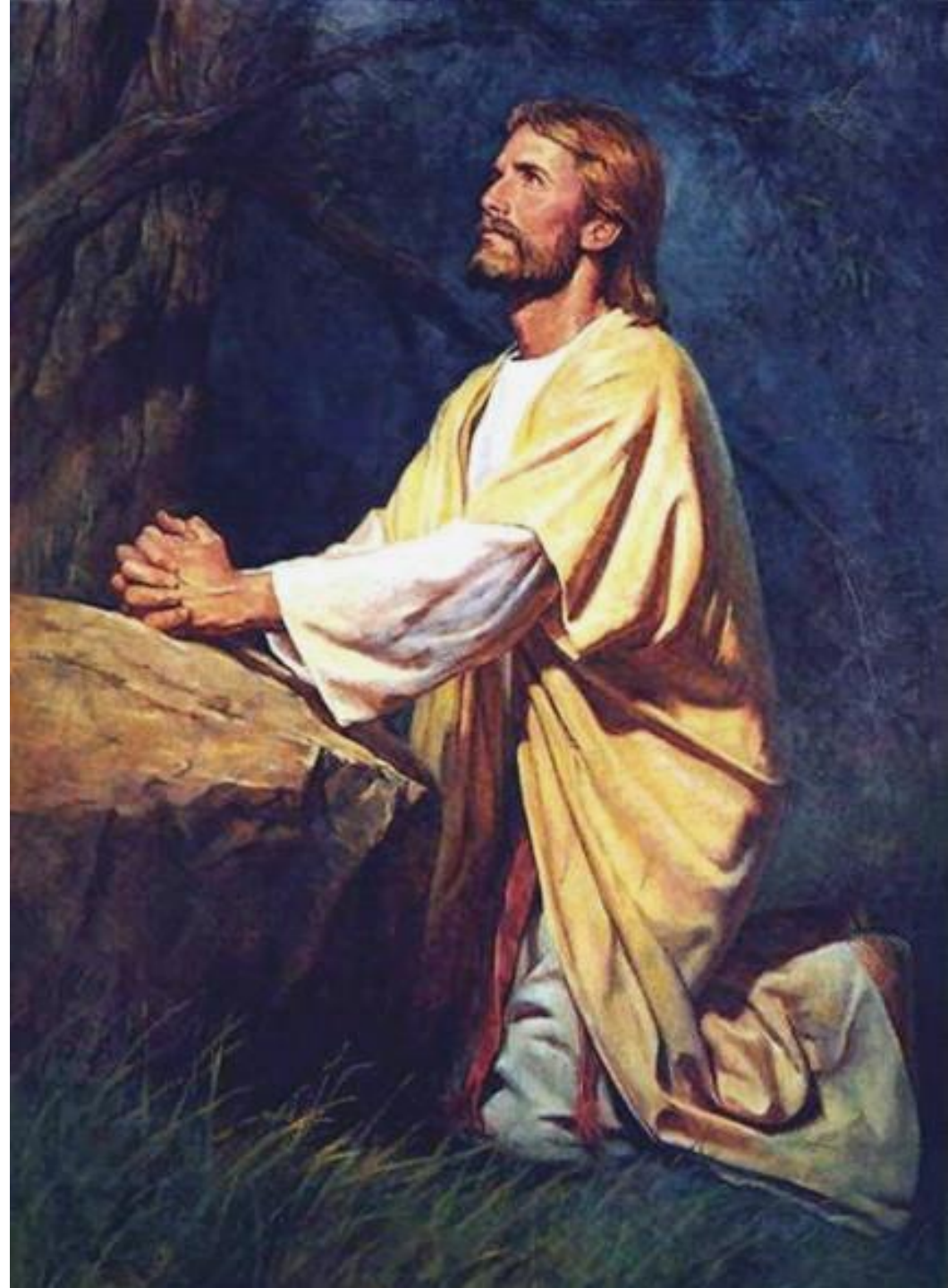
# Growth and Divisions in the Unity Movement

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# Review: History of Christianity

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries:
  - Jesus' prayer for unity
  - Struggle for unity in early church
  - Catholic Church
  - Reformation
- Restoration Movement
  - Barton W Stone
  - Thomas and Alexander Campbell



# The Restoration Movement

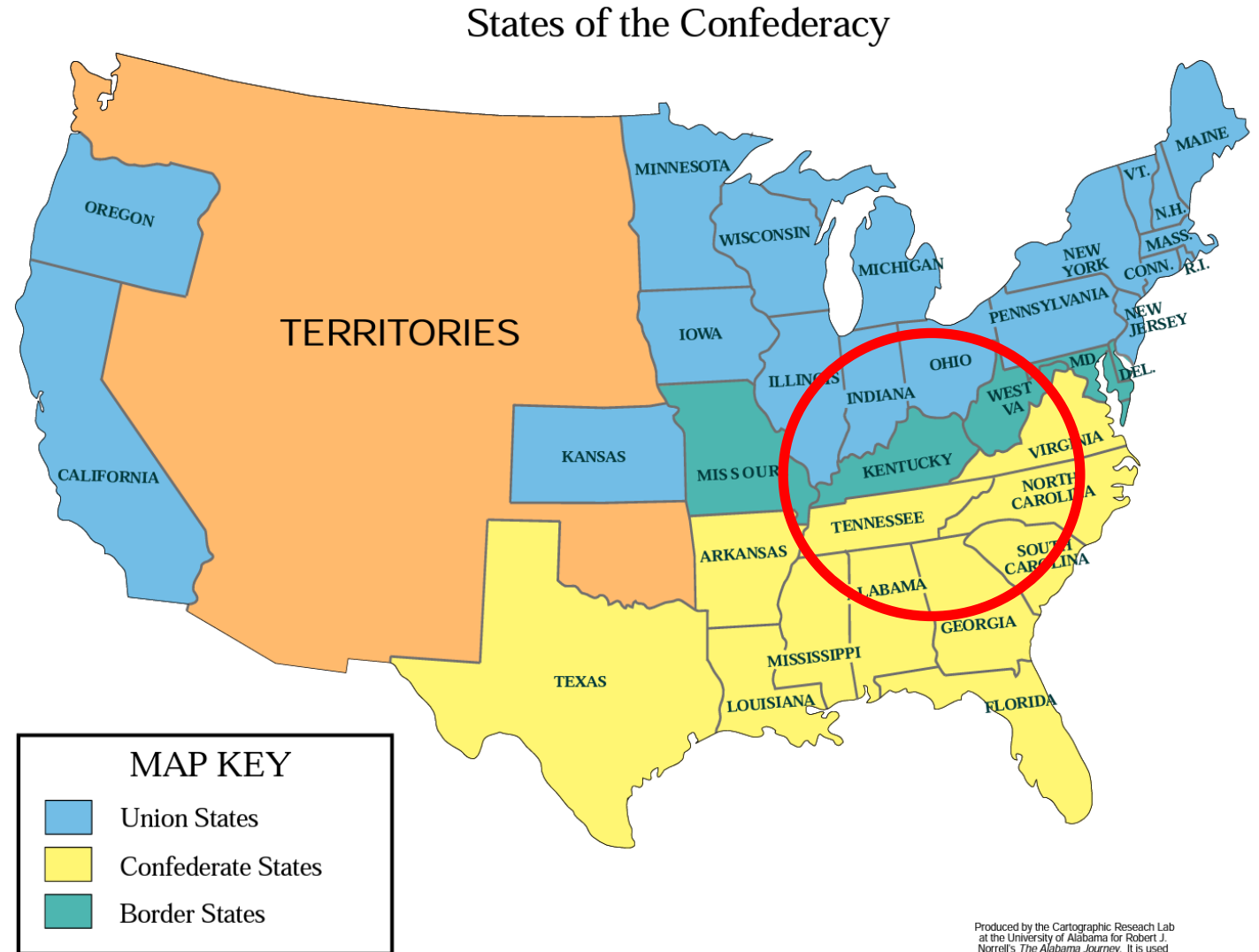
## Unity of Christians by following New Testament: 1<sup>st</sup> Generation

- *Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent.*
- *In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things love.*
- *The church of Jesus Christ on earth is essentially, intentionally, and constitutionally one.*
- *No creed but Christ, no book but the Bible, no law but love, no name but the divine.*
- *We are not the only Christians; we are Christians only.*



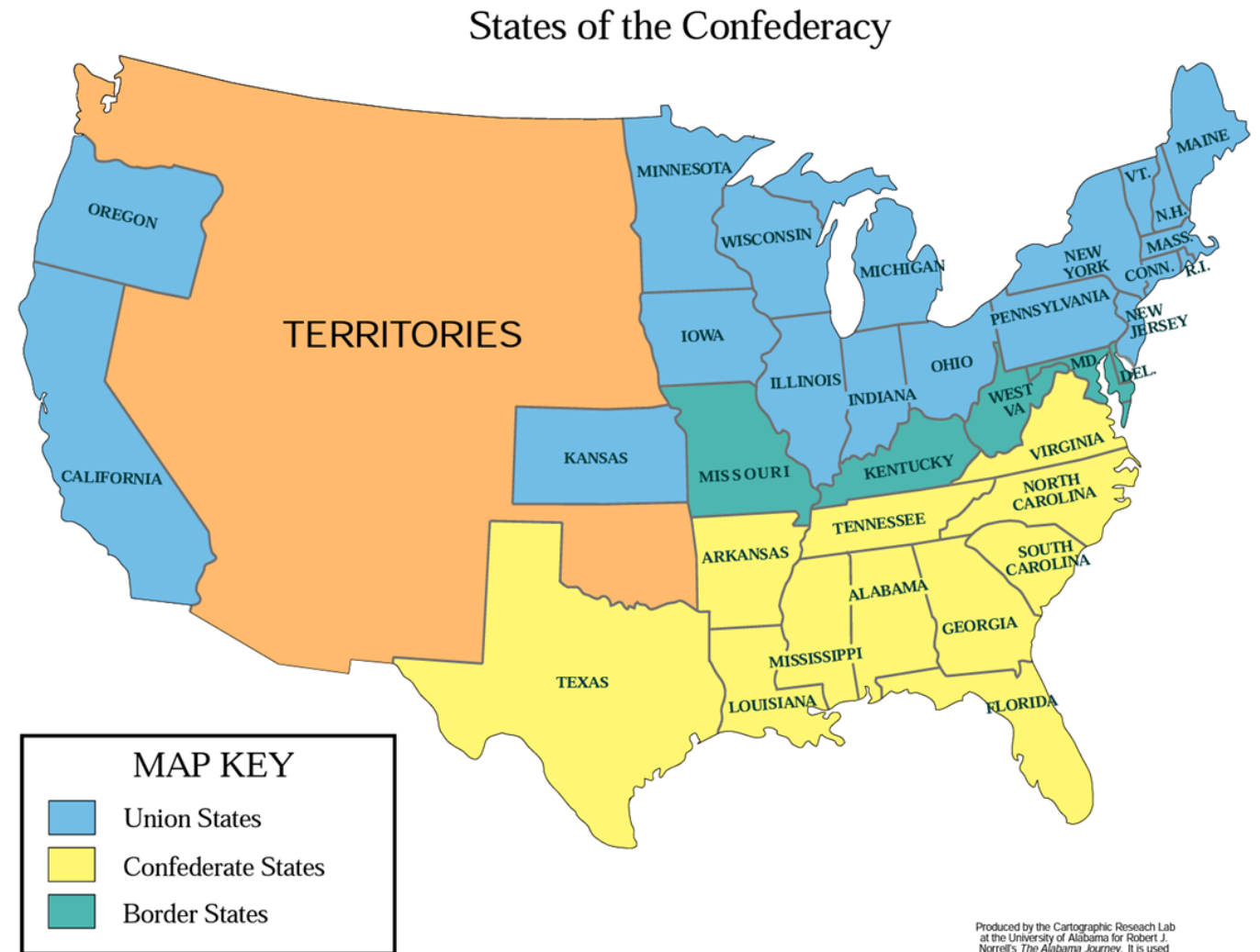
# The Dark Ages of Controversy and Stagnation

1860-1874



What does it mean to be “Silent when the Bible is silent?”

- Strict vs Loose Constructionism
- Jefferson vs Hamilton, national bank
- North vs South
- Does Biblical silence mean prohibition or freedom?



# Is it OK to have...

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- Organization between churches
  - Missionary societies
  - Orphanages
- Innovations
  - Church buildings
  - Sunday School
  - Multiple communion cups, day, level
  - Professional ministers (paid, educated)
  - Choir / special music
  - Musical instruments
- Etc.

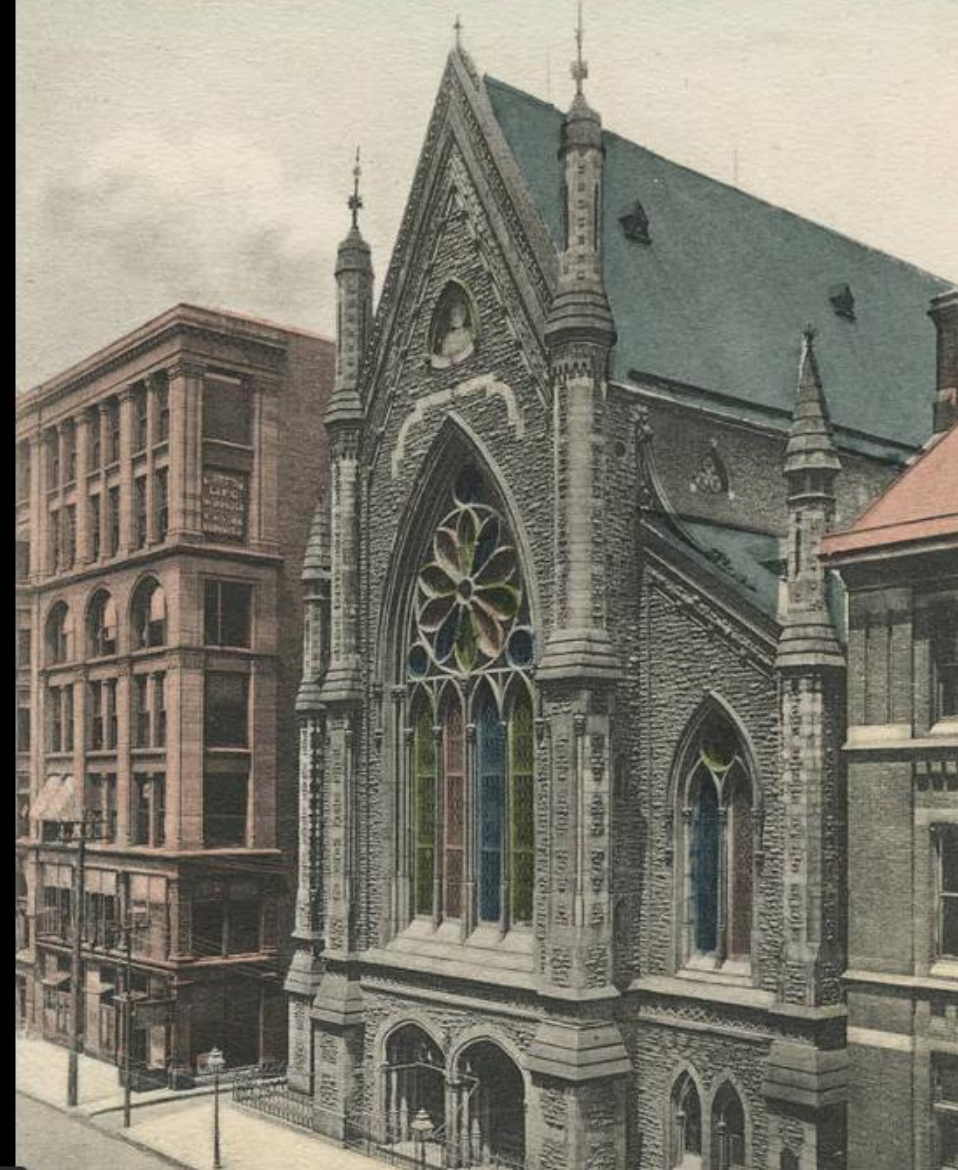


## Civil War

- American Christian Missionary Society
  - loyalty resolutions
- Wealth disparity
- All denominations split
  - the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ stuck together the longest

- Central Christian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio
- Built new French Gothic style building in 1872
- Seated 2000, stained glass, organ, choir pit
- Cost = \$140,000

No. 889. Central Christian Church, 9th St., Cin.





# Musical Instruments

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- The lightning rod of dispute
- Log cabins to stained glass and choir lofts
- 1872 – Central Christian Church, Cincinnati
- Sand Creek Church of Christ – Daniel Sommer – 1889
- Non-instrumental Church of Christ split became official in census of 1906:
  - Churches of Christ (non-instrumental): 159,658 members
  - Christian Churches: 982,701 members



# Publications

“The Disciples do not have bishops,  
they have editors”

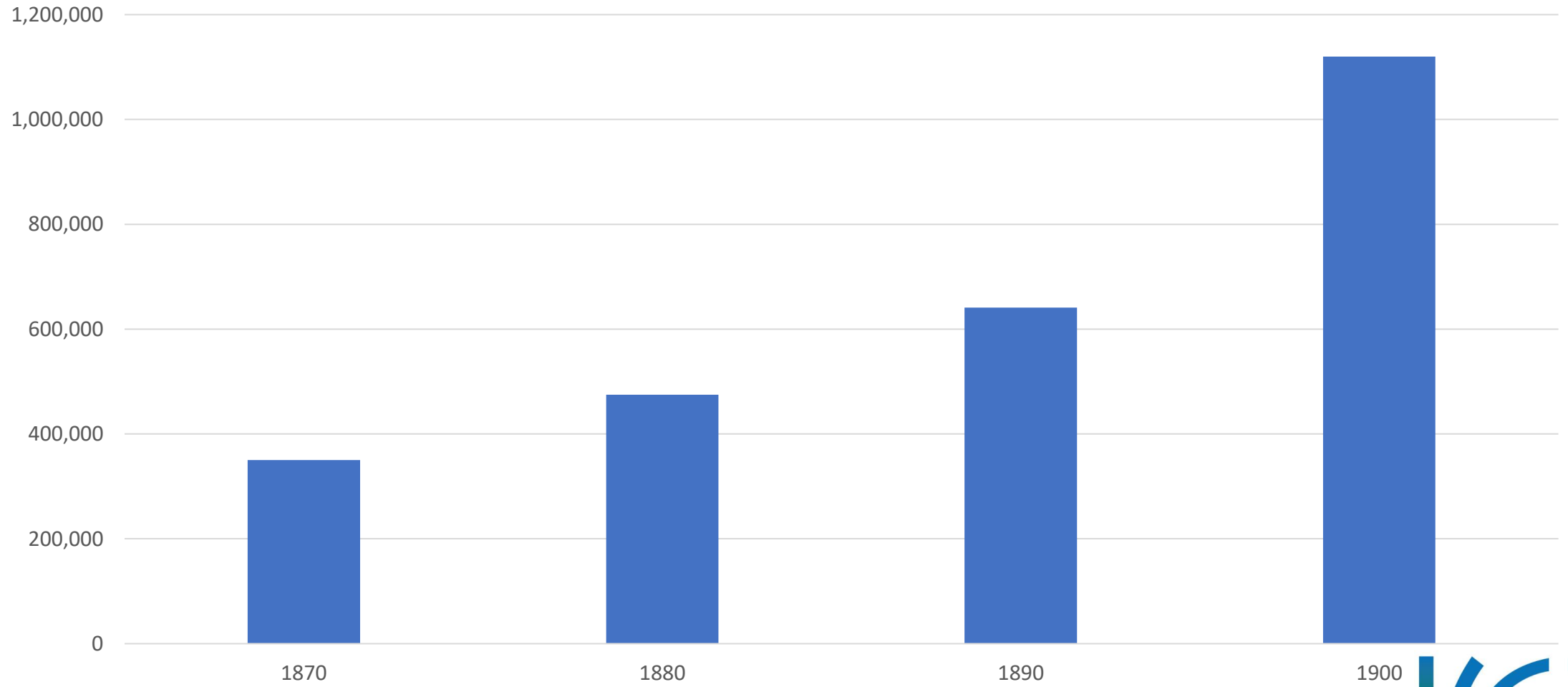
- Conservative (south):
  - Gospel Advocate – 1855/66 David Lipscomb, Tolbert Fanning
- Moderate:
  - Christian Standard – 1865 – current Isaac Errett
- Liberal:
  - Christian-Evangelist – 1882 - 2002

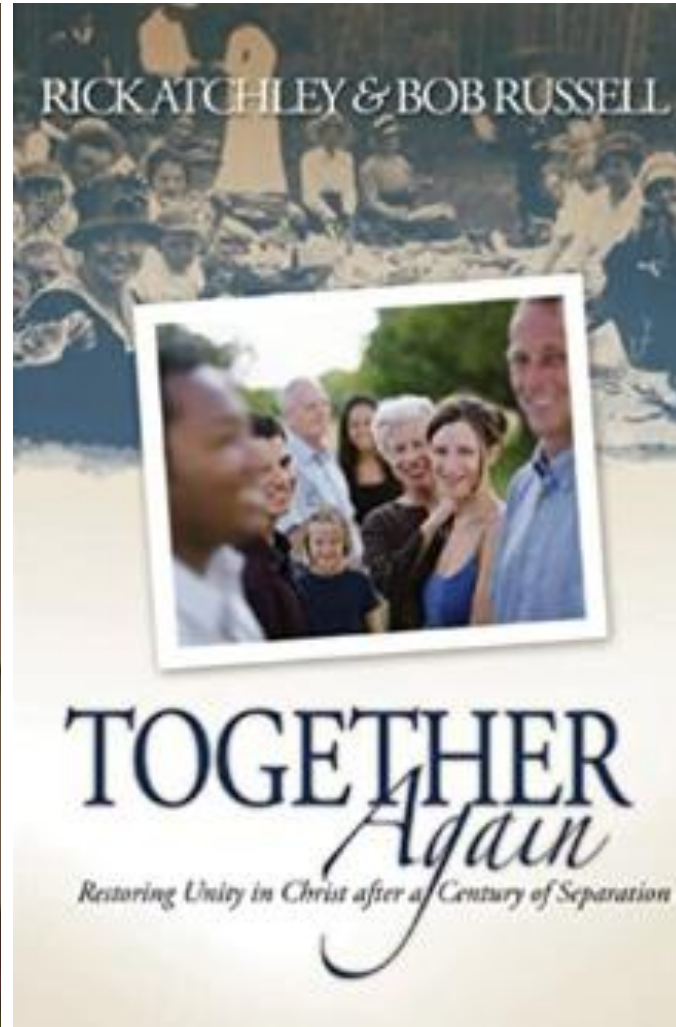
# Bold New Strides

*(1874-1900)*

- Sunday School
- Missionaries
  - The Christian Women's Board of Missions
- Colleges:
  - Milligan College (Liberal Arts) - 1866
  - Nashville Bible School (Liberal Arts, David Lipscomb and James Harding) - 1891
  - School of the Evangelists (Preachers, Johnson Bible College) – 1893
- Period of organization and growth

# Members



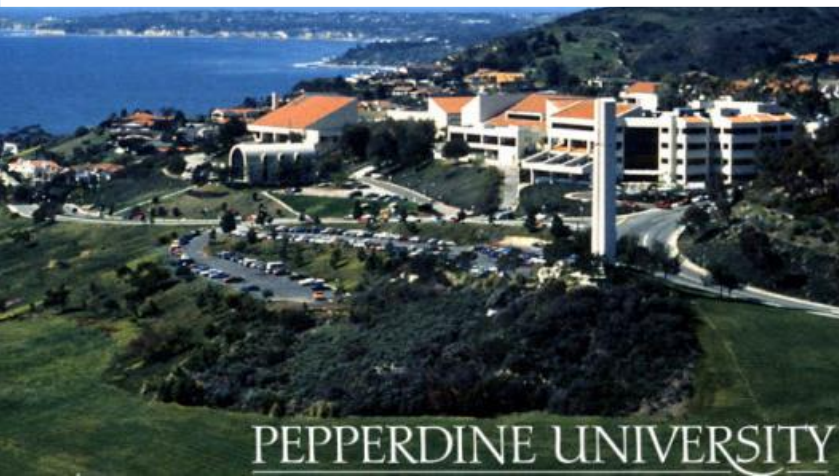


Divisions  
*Rick Atchley*

# Notable Members of Church of Christ (non- instrumental)

- Sports
  - David Robinson
  - Byron Nelson
  - Kenny Perry
  - Fred McGriff
  - Bill Bates
  - Bill Elliott
  - Scott Hamilton
  - Gene Stallings
  - Wimp Sanderson
- Politics
  - Fred Thompson
  - Kenneth Starr
- Author
  - Max Lucado

- Entertainment
  - Dwight Yoakum
  - Randy Travis
  - Glen Campbell
  - Weird Al Yankovic
  - Roy Orbison
  - Pat Boone
  - Janis Joplin
  - Meatloaf
  - Loretta Lynn
  - Amy Grant
  - Waylon Jennings
  - Kitty Wells
  - Pat Sajak



# Church of Christ Universities

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# Churches of Christ Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- Strengths
  - Education and Publishing
  - People: Strong evangelistic spirit, excellent character, loyal
  - Unity movement developing with Christian Churches
- Issues to Address
  - Stagnating Membership (peaked in 1955)
  - Music (instruments, choir, special music, style)
  - Modern Culture: Divisions, Exclusivist Attitude, Women's Roles
  - Generational Differences



Revised Edition

# Endangered HERITAGE

An Examination of  
Church of Christ  
Doctrine

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Walt Yancey

Our position on the music issue has probably done more to damage our reputation than has any other single thing. By taking a position which is so obviously false (to everyone but ourselves) we have destroyed the credibility of our whole approach to Bible study. It has ruined our reputation throughout Christendom. We have much Bible truth to offer the world, such as the importance of baptism, in connection with faith and repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, but people won't take us seriously largely, I think, because we have destroyed our credibility with the music issue.

# 20<sup>th</sup> Century

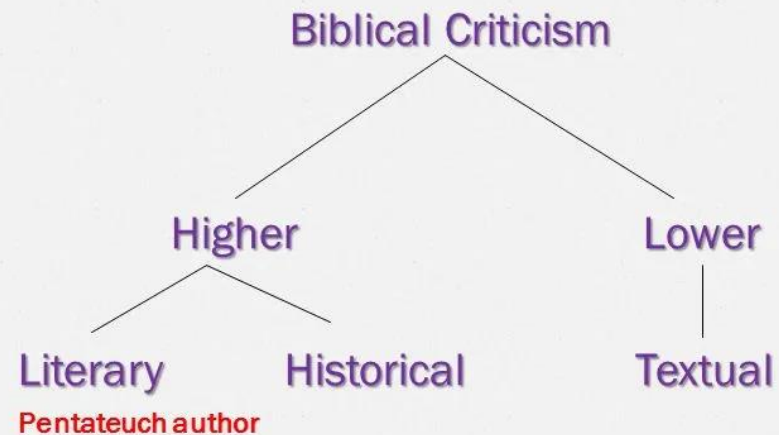
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# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Issues

## Theological liberalism

- Intellectuals
- Science/Darwinism
- Higher criticism

### Five cases of Higher Criticism (1)



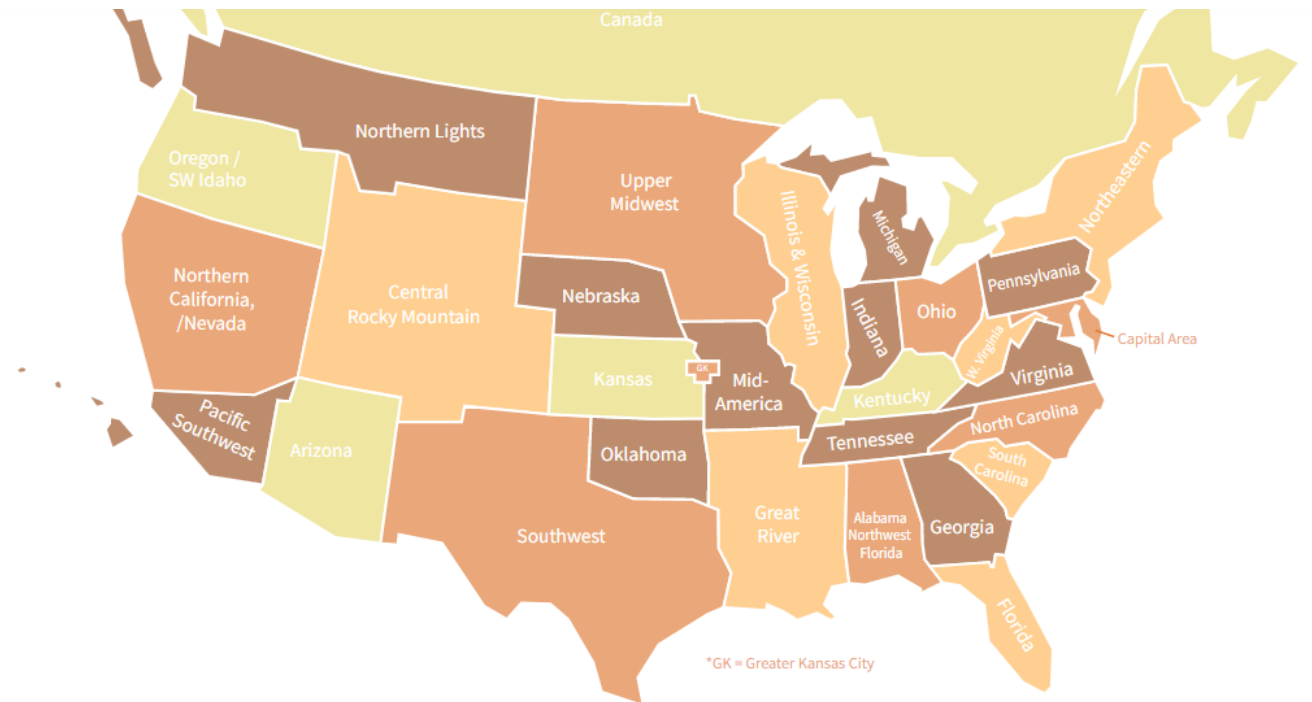
# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Issues



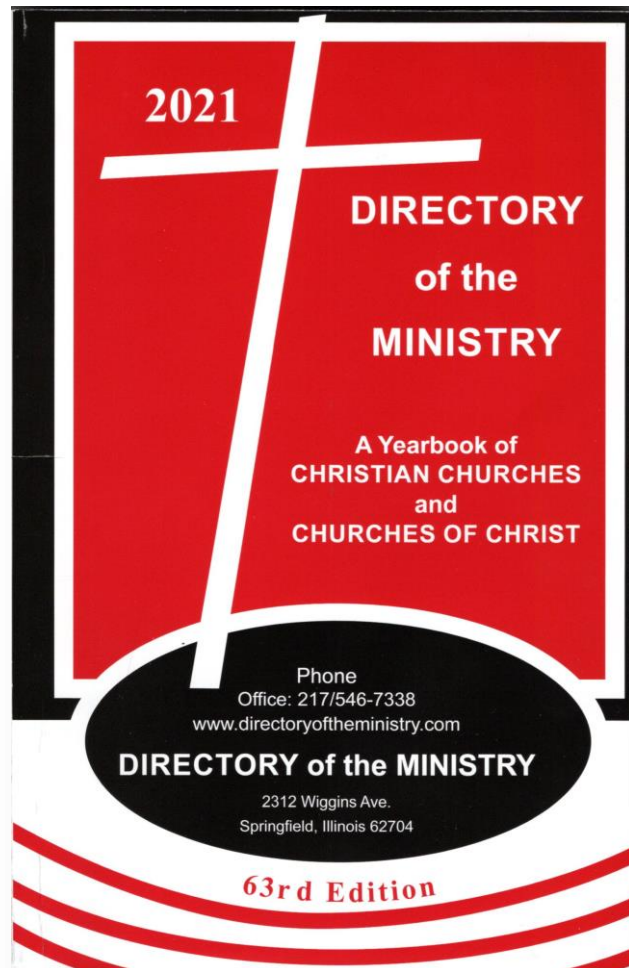
Federated Church  
(denomination)

Open Membership  
(unimmersed believers)

Focus on social gospel



**The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has 31 regional churches in the United States and Canada.**



# Key Events

- 1927 - 2018 – North American Christian Convention
- 1920+ - Bible college movement
- 1968 - Disciples restructuring
  - form denomination

# Disciples of Christ Universities

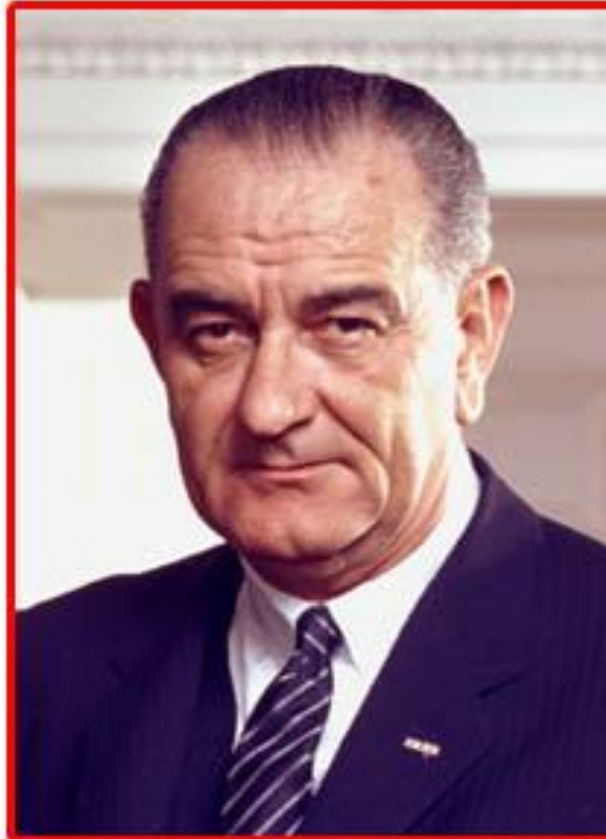


**Bethany College**

# Prominent Members of Disciples

“Until justice is blind to color, until education is unaware of race, until opportunity is unconcerned with the color of men's skins, emancipation will be a proclamation but not a fact.”

*Lyndon B. Johnson,  
36th US President*

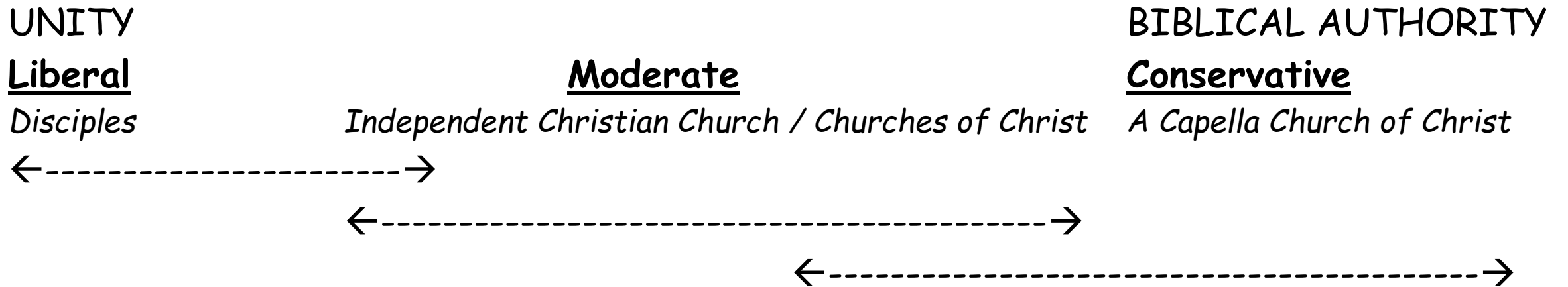


Thestoryofliberty.net

**“If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under.”**

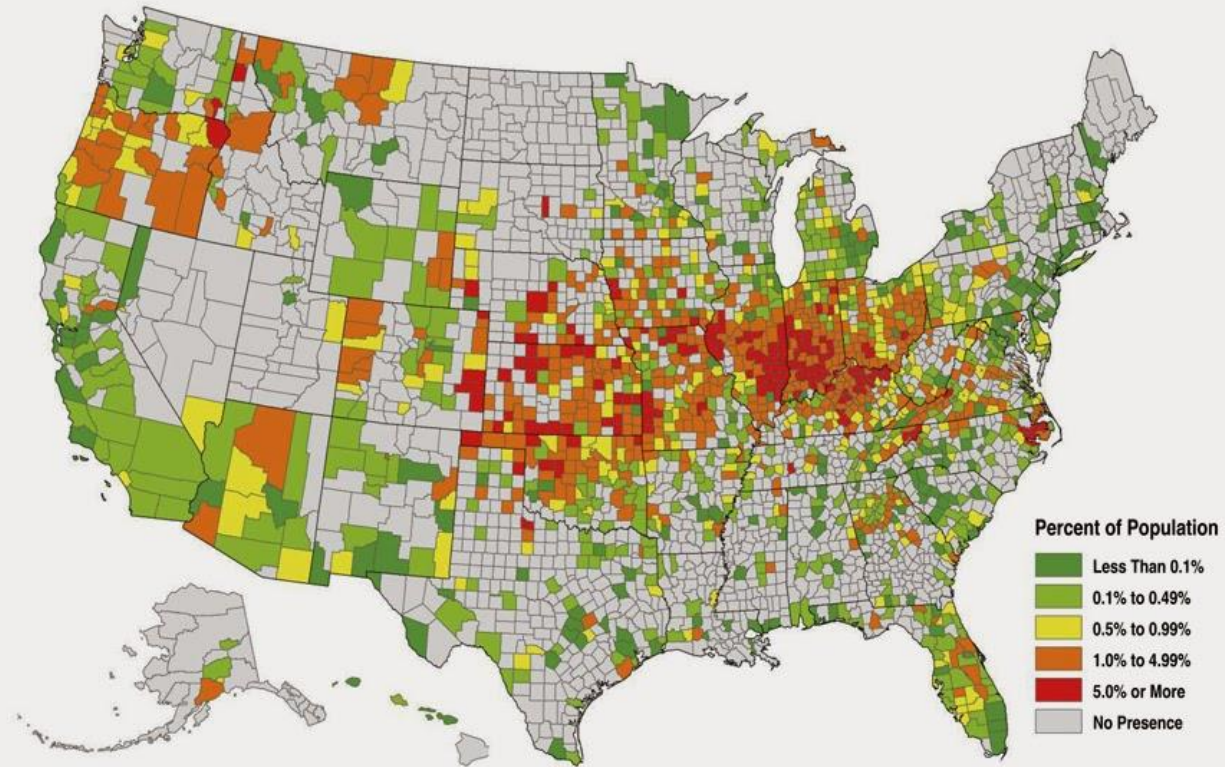
*Ronald Reagan*

# Spectrum of the Restoration Movement





### Christian Churches and Churches of Christ Adherents as a Percentage of Total Population, 2010



5,293 congregations and 1,453,160 adherents were reported in 1,580 counties.



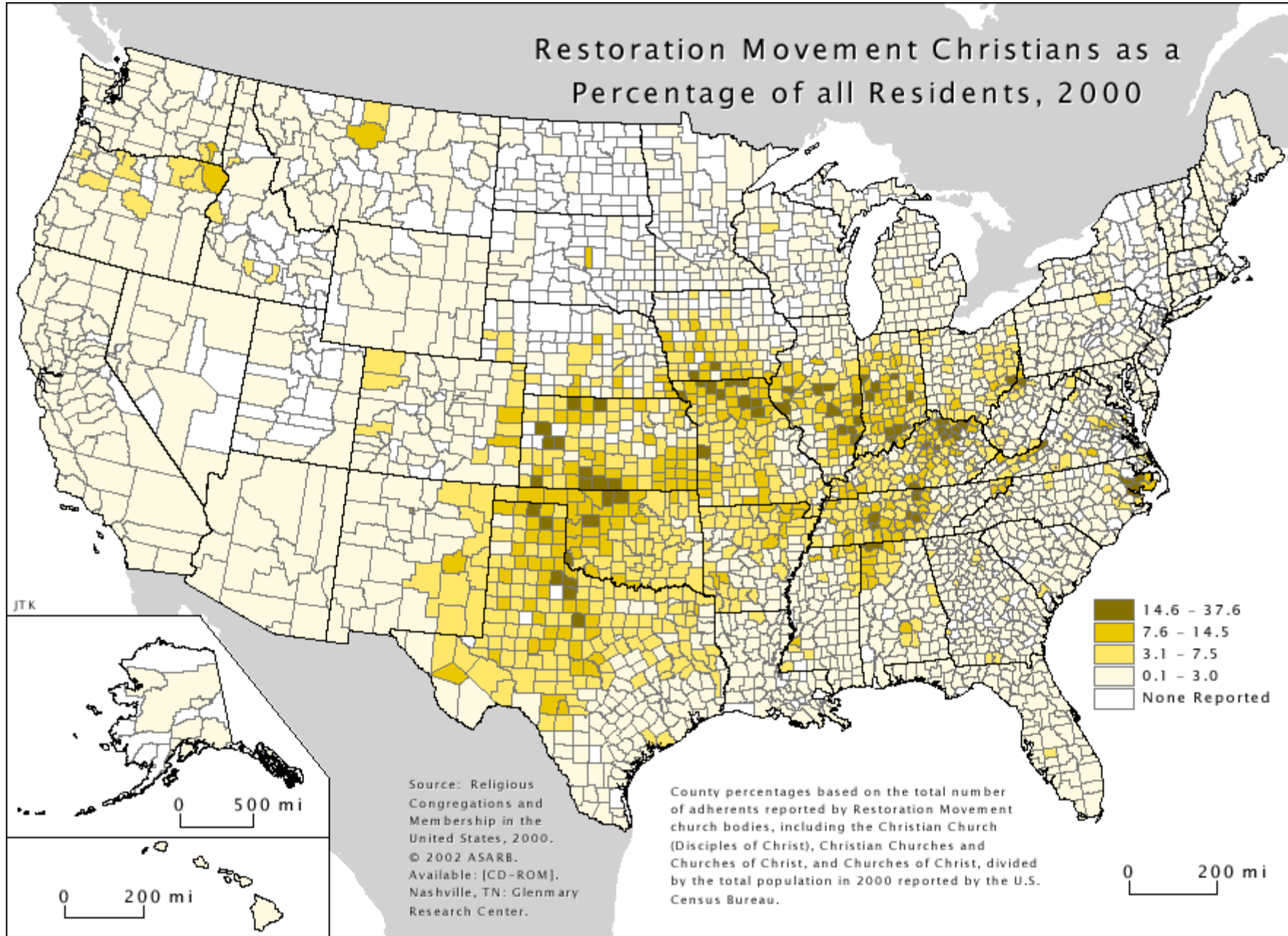
# 1909 Centennial Convention

- 10 days in Pittsburgh
- Largest communion service in American history (20,000+, in Forbes Field)

# QUESTIONS?

*Next week: In essentials, unity*

# Restoration Movement Christians as a Percentage of all Residents, 2000



# Mergers: Christian Church

Jones / Smith

Campbell

Stone

O'Kelley

