

The Restoration Movement

The Bethesda Christian Church is a part of the Restoration Movement dating back to the early 1800's. This movement, unlike the Reformation of the 1500's and 1600's aims to restore the church as it was in the 1st century A.D. Based on the Bible book of Acts and the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles, church members are Christians only. No denominational ties or organizational hierarchy is present. The Movement's motto is, " No creed but Christ, No book but the Bible."

The Restoration Movement grew from ministers of Presbyterian and Baptist backgrounds in southwestern Pennsylvania and northern Kentucky. Thomas Campbell, his son Alexander, Barton W Stone, Walter Scott, Isaac Erret, and "Raccoon" John Smith were some of the early leaders of the movement. Thomas Campbell's "Declaration and Address," of 1809 was a basic document leading to the Restoration Movement and its emphasis on the unity of all Christians based solely on the principles found in the New Testament. In the 1820's, churches were started in Pennsylvania, western Virginia, eastern Ohio and Kentucky. The Movement soon spread throughout the country expanding westward.