

The Founders

When Barton W. Stone (1772-1844) and Alexander Campbell (1788-1866) first met at Georgetown, Kentucky, in 1823 they found much to discuss. As they exchanged views on many subjects they found that they agreed on some items and disagreed on others. On one subject they were both agreed: There is no place for a creed or statement of faith to be required as a test of fellowship or membership in the church of Christ.

Furthermore, both Stone and Campbell as well as the other two "founding fathers," Thomas Campbell (1763-1854) and Walter Scott (1796-1861), were agreed that all persons should be admitted into fellowship with the congregation upon a simple statement of Peter's confession, "Who do you say that I am?" and the reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15-16). From that time forward this is the manner in which confessions of faith are taken when a person presents herself or himself for admission into a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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