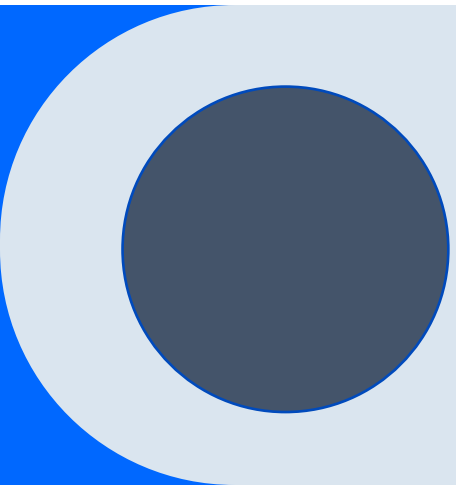





Seeking Undenominational Christianity

Tom Rucker – Hardin Valley Church



1 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love



The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 2/2 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written between the two staves.

We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,



The second system of musical notation consists of two staves, identical in notation to the first system. The lyrics are written between the two staves.

We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,

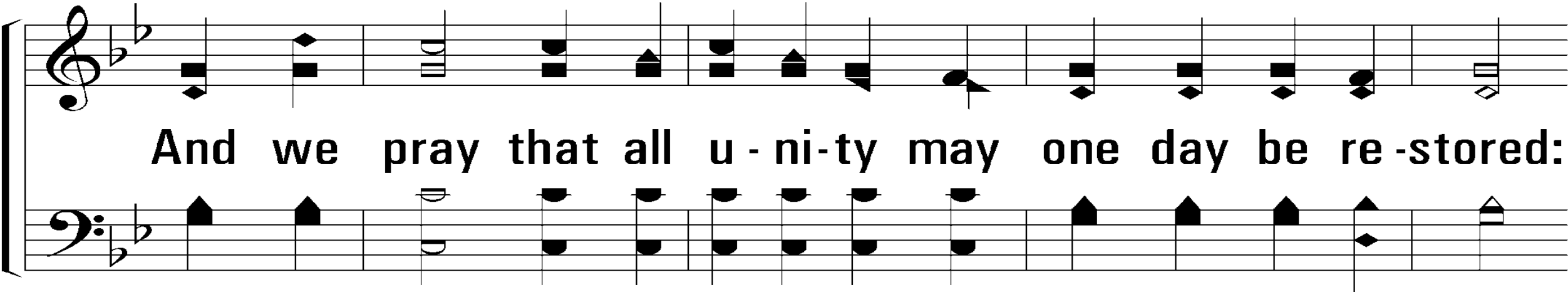
Words and Music by: Peter Scholtes

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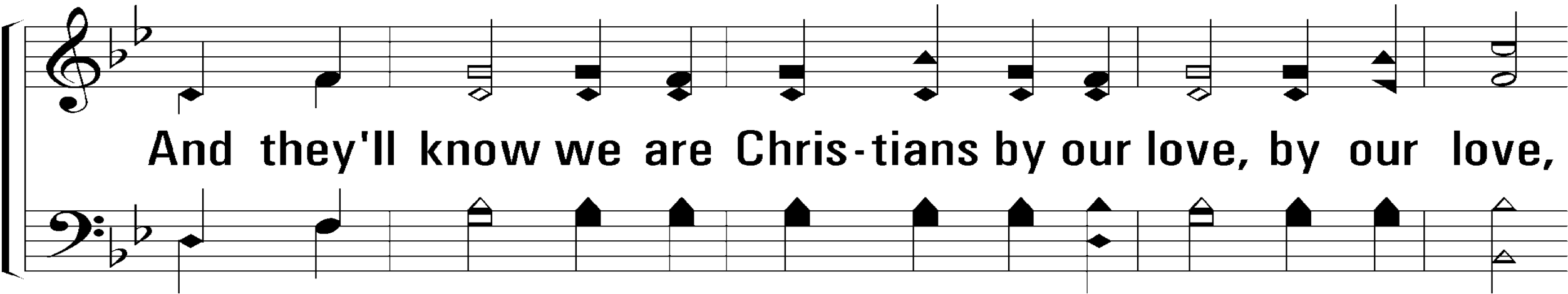
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PaperlessHymnal.com

1 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:



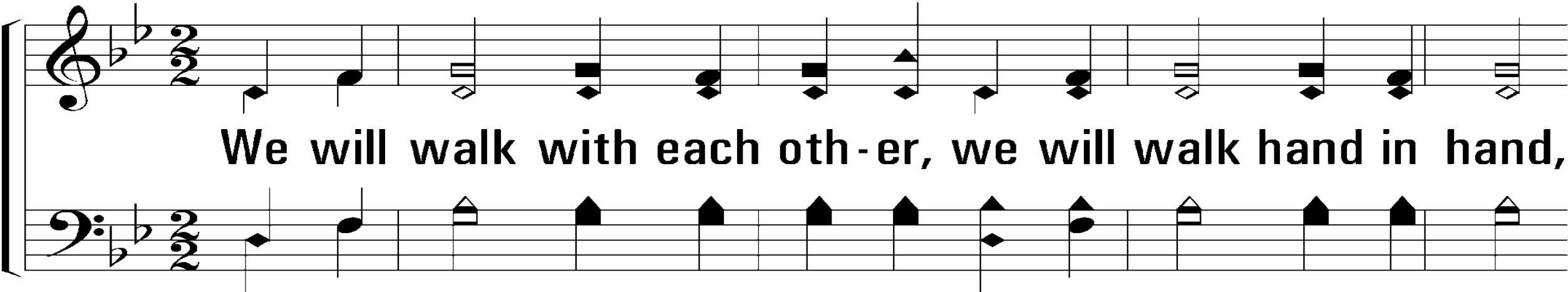
And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

1 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

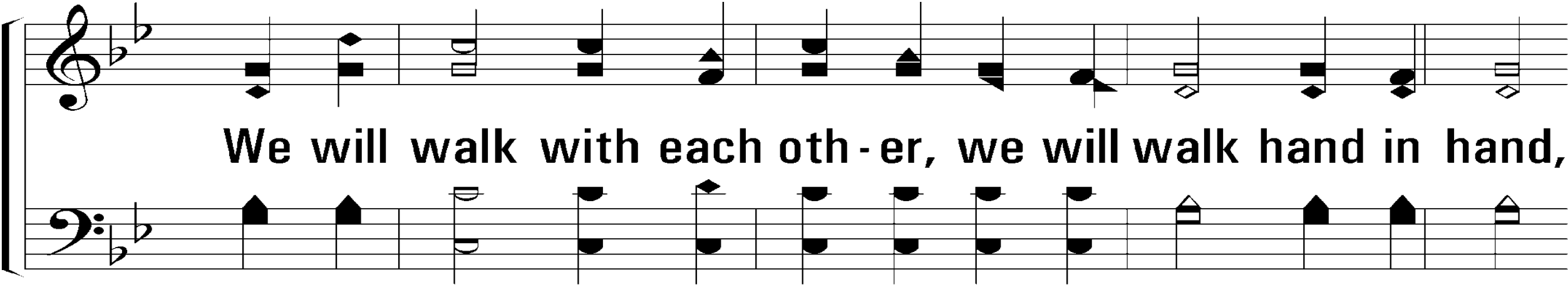
The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written in the center between the two staves. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love." The word "Christians" is hyphenated as "Chris - tians".

2 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love



The first system of music features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two flats and a 2/2 time signature. The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter and eighth notes, while the bass clef provides a simple accompaniment of quarter notes.

We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,



The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same musical structure and lyrics.

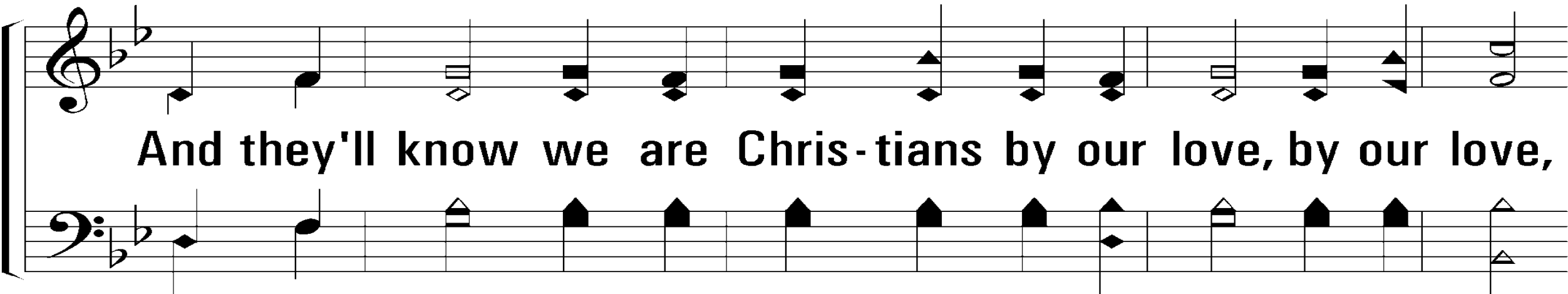
We will walk with each oth-er, we will walk hand in hand,

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2 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love



And to- geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:



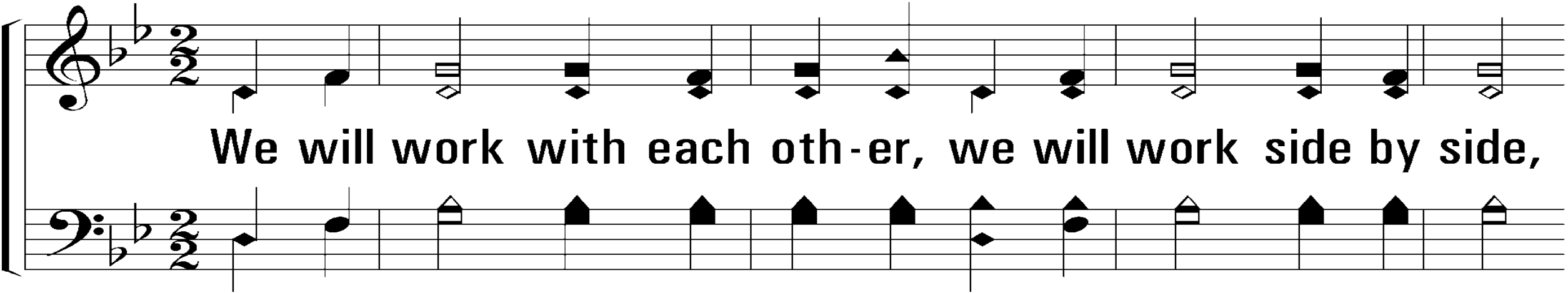
And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

2 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written in the center between the two staves. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with some accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love." The word "Chris" is hyphenated to "tians".

3 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love



We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,



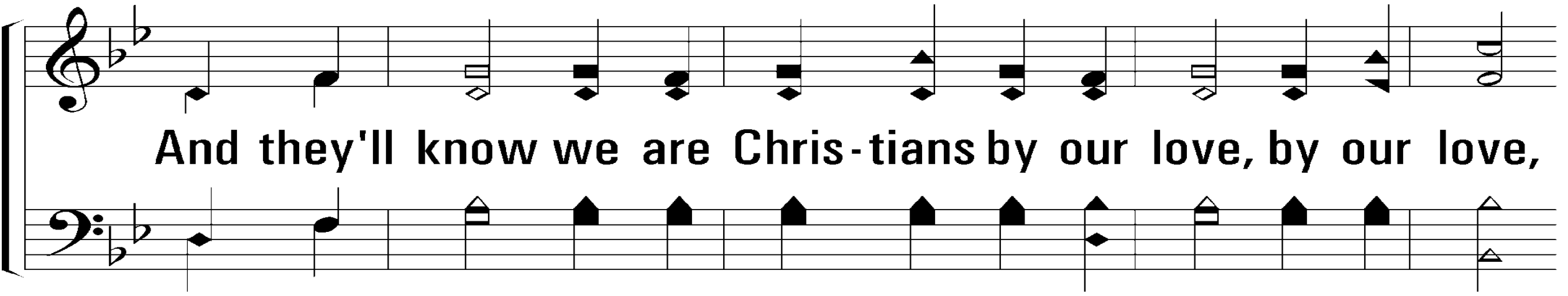
We will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side,

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3 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love



And we'll guard each man's dig-ni-ty and save each man's pride:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,

3 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The music is in 3/4 time, as indicated by the number '3' at the beginning of the title. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, then a half note Bb4. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, then a half note Bb2. The lyrics are: 'Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.'

4 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son,

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4 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

And all praise to the Spir - it who makes us one:

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,

4 – They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves. The music is in 4/4 time. The treble staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, then a half note Bb4. The next measure contains a half note C5 and a half note Bb4. The melody continues with quarter notes A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, Bb3, and A3. The bass staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The bass line starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note A2, then a half note Bb2. The next measure contains a half note C3 and a half note Bb2. The bass line continues with quarter notes A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, Bb1, and A1.



Seeking Undenominational Christianity

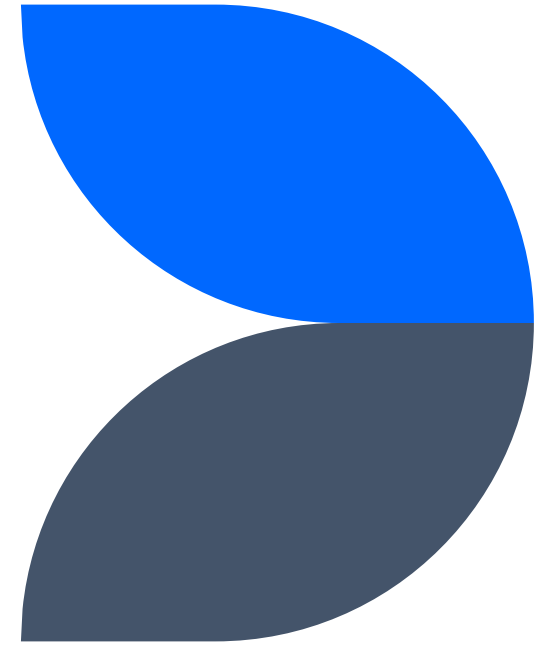
The Churches of Christ



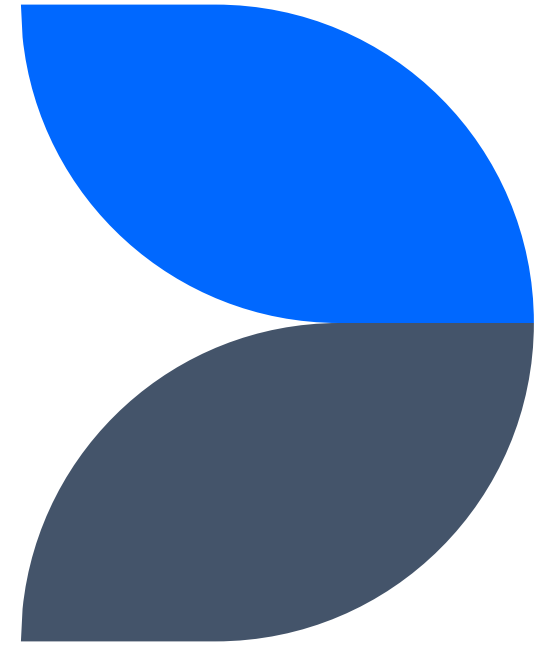
John 17:20-23

²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ **that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one** even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become **perfectly one**, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

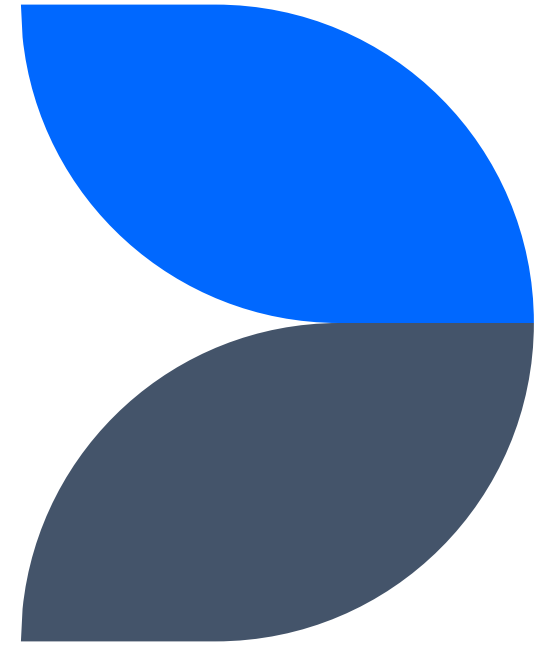
- Is it good or bad to be denominational.
- Is it good or bad to be sectarian in attitude?



Seeking a new paradigm
(way of thinking)!



Can we be “just Christians”?



From the HVCOC Website

“ We want to be **just Christians**, following Christ alone. We intentionally resist the dangerous pitfalls of religious systems created by man, Christian or otherwise. We seek to be held captive in the love of Christ and His Word rather than remain captive to sin or even by religious traditions or the rules of men that would set aside the Word of God. ”

From the HVCOC Website

“ What kind of Christian are you? The answer to that question is simpler than you ever dreamed possible. In the early church, followers of Jesus were known simply as “**Christians**” (Acts 11:26). Here at Hardin Valley we are interested in only wearing one label--- the name of Jesus! We simply desire to be **Christians** using the Bible as our only guide. **We are not the only Christians; but we are Christians only.** ”

“

At the Hardin Valley Church of Christ, we:

- consider the Bible to be the supreme guide,
- seek to duplicate the **form and function** of the church as it existed in the first century,
- do not consider traditions, doctrines and practices of men as binding, and
- **seek to be Christians only.**

”



From the HVCOC Member Handbook

We believe the Scripture can be understood by all men and clearly states what is required for our salvation and subsequent life in Christ. We also believe that just as Jesus prayed for unity in John 17, **all Christians** should be **united** in seeking to follow Christ. That by no means suggests we all agree on every matter but does recognize that we must all be striving for the **unity** that Jesus prayed for the night He died.



From the HVCOC Member Handbook

“

At the Hardin Valley Church of Christ, we have our roots in this restoration movement and it's emphasis on **Christian Unity**. We hold the Bible as the authority for all we believe and practice.

...Wherever God has **clearly** spoken, we hold firmly to that truth and require that all in our fellowship practice and teach the same truths.

”

From the HVCOC Member Handbook



On the other hand, God has not told us everything we might like to know or with the detail we might wish to have. There are questions and issues that interest us and for which we might have differing opinions. In such matters **we do not demand that everyone agree.** Therefore, we strive to **speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.** And in all things to have **love.**





From the HVCOC Member Handbook

We also strive to be **Christians only** – people who believe in Jesus as God’s Son and our Savior, people who have decided to obey Him in all things and to become like Him in our character. We do not want to emphasize the particulars that make us one “**flavor**” of Christian or another. Our experience is that these particulars are what divide Christians.



From the HVCOC Member Handbook

“ We recognize that while we are **Christians only**, we are **not the only Christians**. We believe that people throughout the world can read the Bible and come to the essentials of Christian faith even while holding to differing traditions, worship styles or doctrinal opinions. It is God who knows people’s hearts, and it is He who adds them to His church.”



Discussion – Denomination and Sectarian

- Is the Church of Christ a denomination?
- In what ways does our language betray us?
- How are the ideas of being non-denominational and being the only Christians connected?
- How can we avoid using the name Church of Christ in a denominational way?
 - Claim we are not a denomination because we are the only Christians.
 - Admit we are a denomination alongside others, learning from each other.
 - Wear the name loosely, viewing our institutional traditions and practices as less fixed and open to restudy. Be a “movement” of pilgrims on a journey.



Discussion – Restoration and Unity

- Is the idea of restoration a workable concept and a noble goal?
 - Is it divisive or unifying?
 - Is it a journey or a destination?
- What are some of the ways we can work for Christian unity?
- How can we break down barriers of “we” versus “them”
 - Be willing to learn from others as they learn from us.
 - If we can’t worship with them because of “contentious” differences , we can serve others with them.
 - We can meet for food and fellowship.
 - We can be reconciled and reconciling.

Discussion – Restoration and Unity



- We should be proud, not ashamed of our restoration heritage.
- We should be proud of our heritage of unity.
- We should be bold in proclaiming what is distinctive about our heritage without claiming to be the only Christians.
- We should focus at all times on the center of our faith, Jesus Christ, who reconciles us to God through the power of the Spirit.
 - Create opportunities for Stone’s “Fire Union”
 - Deeper, reality union.
 - Circle of Fire – Gary Holloway (handout)

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE STONE-CAMPBELL MOVEMENT?



COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST ADHERENTS (members and children)

United States	3,521,396
India	1,872,017
Congo DR	1,138,830
Ghana	763,412
Philippines	369,000
Nigeria	310,860
Zimbabwe	260,100
Kenya	155,102
Malawi	153,300
Zambia	148,820



Second Ten

Brazil	117,000
Ethiopia	110,000
South Africa	97,400
South Korea	90,460
Mexico	65,800
Guatemala	47,800
Papua New Guinea	40,800
Australia	38,747
Central African Republic	30,100
Angola	28,500



MOST BY CONTINENT

NORTH AMERICA	3,620,946
AFRICA	3,362,215
ASIA/MIDDLE EAST	2,491,479
LATIN AMERICA/CARRIBEAN	367,290
OCEANIA/AUSTRALIA/NZ	124,120
EUROPE	72,770





**HARDIN
VALLEY**
CHURCH *of* CHRIST

Thank you

Tom Rucker

Hardin Valley Church of Christ

ruckert@frontiernet.net