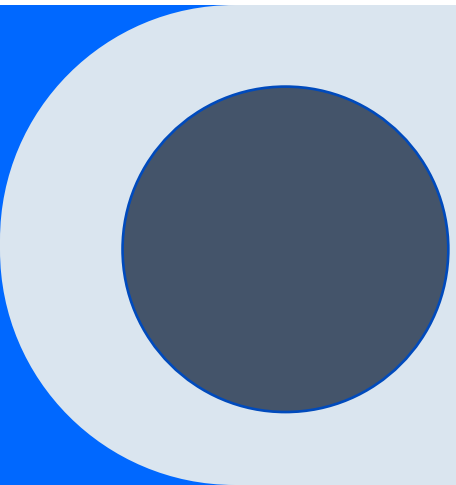
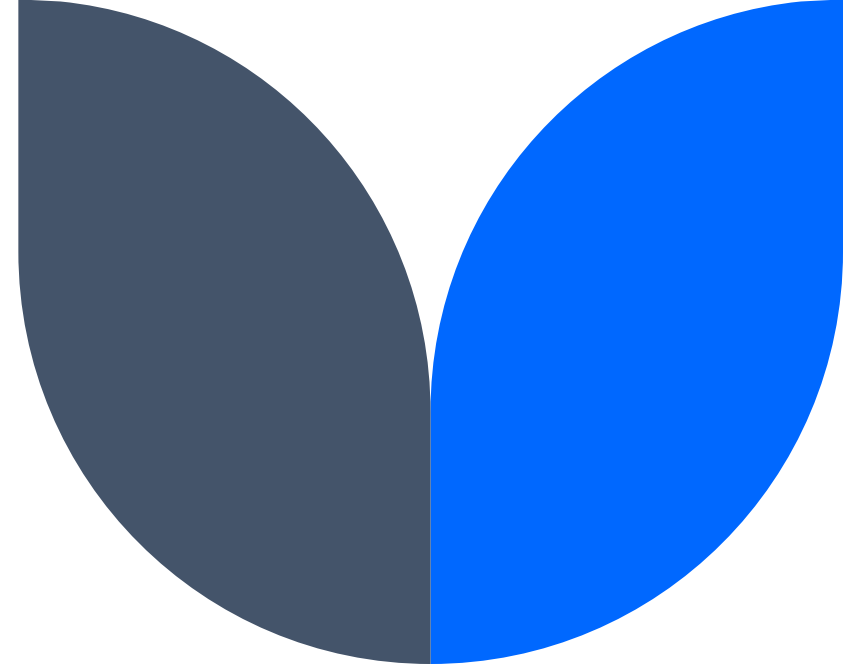




Seeking Undenominational Christianity

Tom Rucker – Hardin Valley Church



Growing Everyone

T. L. Rucker

Hardin Valley Church Vision Song

T. L. Rucker

S
A

Fol - low - ing Je - sus as one lov - ing fam - ily we are

T
B

Detailed description: This system contains the first two measures of the song. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "Fol - low - ing Je - sus as one lov - ing fam - ily we are". The Soprano and Alto parts are written on a treble clef staff, and the Tenor and Bass parts are written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the vocal lines.

3

grow - ing eve - ry one; to be more like Je - sus and to

Detailed description: This system contains the next two measures of the song. It features four vocal parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "grow - ing eve - ry one; to be more like Je - sus and to". The Soprano and Alto parts are written on a treble clef staff, and the Tenor and Bass parts are written on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the vocal lines. The first measure of this system begins with a measure rest (indicated by a '3' above the staff) for all parts.

6

love one an - oth - er we are grow - ing eve - ry

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 6 and 7. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are: 'love one an - oth - er we are grow - ing eve - ry'. The bass line provides harmonic support with similar rhythmic patterns.

8

one. Lord make us more and more like Je - sus as we

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 8, 9, and 10. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the top staff and a bass clef on the bottom staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody in the treble clef includes eighth notes and quarter notes. The lyrics are: 'one. Lord make us more and more like Je - sus as we'. The bass line continues the harmonic accompaniment.

11

fol - low your son. Lord make us one lov - ing

This musical system contains measures 11, 12, and 13. It features a treble and bass staff in a key with one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "fol - low your son. Lord make us one lov - ing". The melody in the treble staff includes a half note "son." with a fermata, followed by a quarter note "Lord" and a half note "make us", and finally a half note "one" and a quarter note "lov - ing". The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

14

fam - ly as we're grow - ing eve - ry one.

This musical system contains measures 14, 15, and 16. It continues in the same key signature. The lyrics are: "fam - ly as we're grow - ing eve - ry one.". The melody in the treble staff includes a half note "fam - ly", a quarter note "as", a half note "we're", a quarter note "grow - ing", a half note "eve - ry", and a quarter note "one." with a fermata. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

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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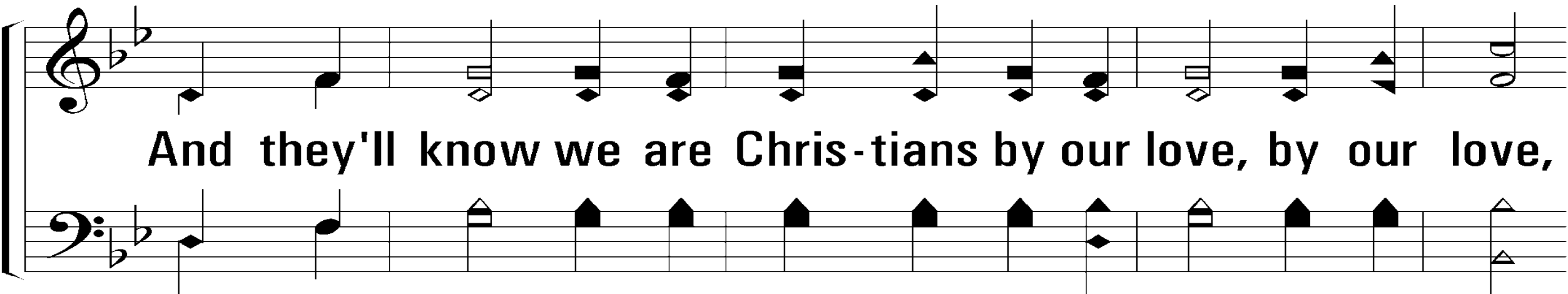
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PaperlessHymnal.com

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 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) 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 "Chris" is hyphenated as "Chris - tians".

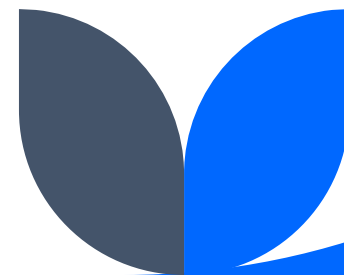
What does Undenominational Mean?

Webster Definitions

Undenominational: not restricted or belonging to a religious denomination; not denominational

Synonyms: nonsectarian; unsectarian

Nondenominational: open or acceptable to people of any Christian denomination



What is a Denomination?

Webster Definition

- *Denomination*: NAME, DESIGNATION
- A religious denomination is a subgroup within a religion that operates under a common name, tradition, and identity, beliefs and practices.
- Synonyms: Sect



What makes a Church a Denomination?

- A religious group is a denomination if it wears a distinctive name which “denominates” if and separates it from others seeking to follow Christ
- A religious group is denominational if it possess a sectarian attitude.
- It may or may not have a legislative or executive organization, an authoritative creed, or a basic doctrine that is extrabiblical.

Taken from “Redigging the Wells,” Monroe Hawley



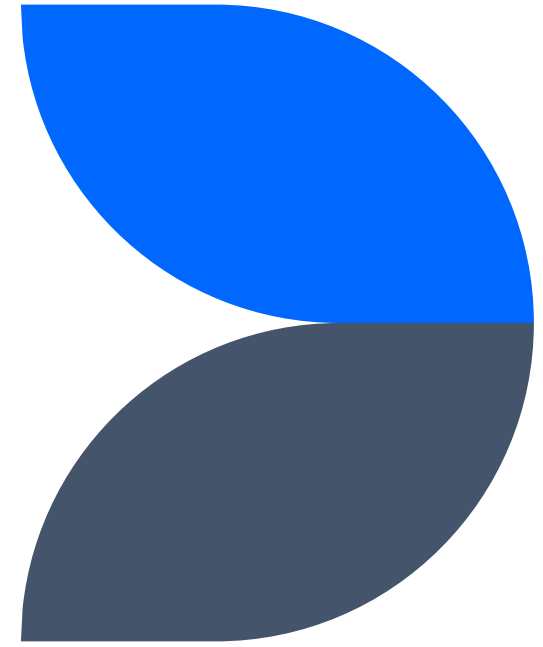
What is a sectarian attitude?

Webster Definition

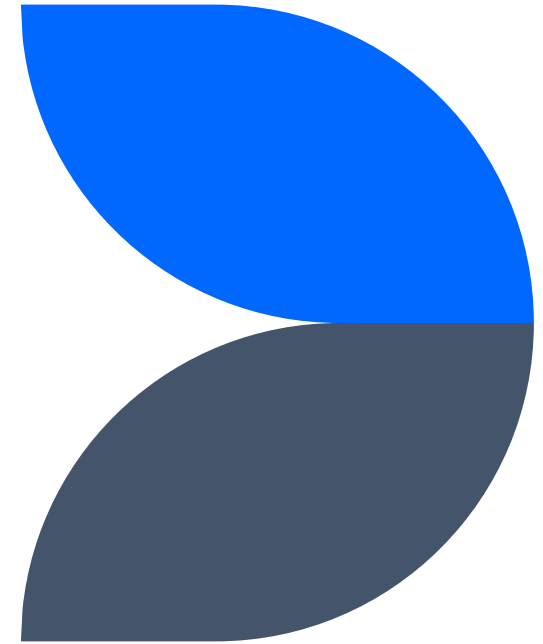
Sectarian: characteristic of a sect; limited in character of scope; narrow or bigoted.

Sectarian Attitude: excessive devotion to a particular sect, especially in religion.

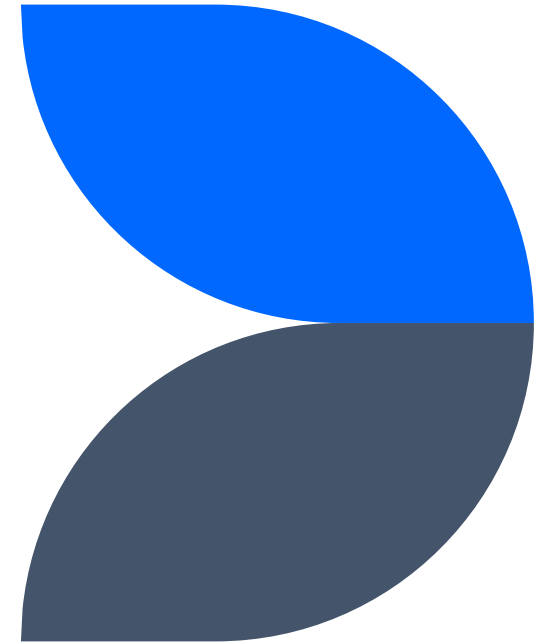
Is there a “Churches of Christ”
Denomination?



- Are you a member of the Church of Christ?
- What did you have in mind when you answered that?



- Is it good or bad to be part of a denomination?
- What are the pros and cons?
- Is it good or bad to be sectarian in attitude?



1 Corinthians 1:10-13

“¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. ¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is **quarreling among you**, my brothers. ¹² What I mean is that each one of you says, “**I follow Paul,**” or “**I follow Apollos,**” or “**I follow Cephas,**” or “**I follow Christ.**” ¹³ Is Christ **divided**? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

1 Corinthians 3:1-5; 21-23

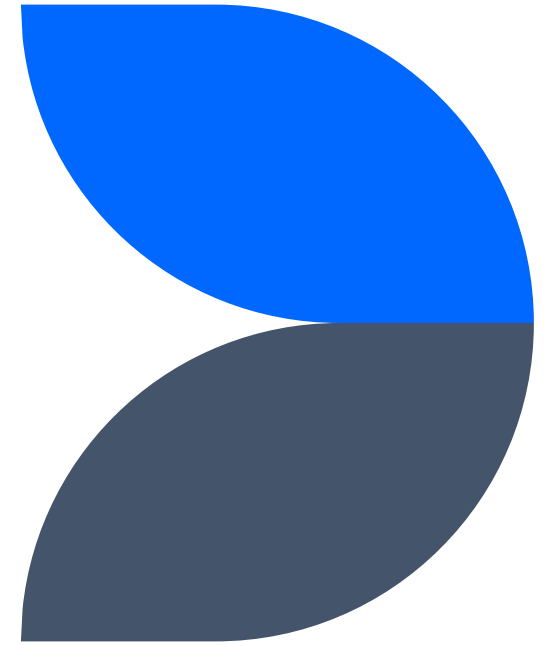
“ But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³ for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴ For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human? ”

1 Corinthians 3:1-5; 21-23

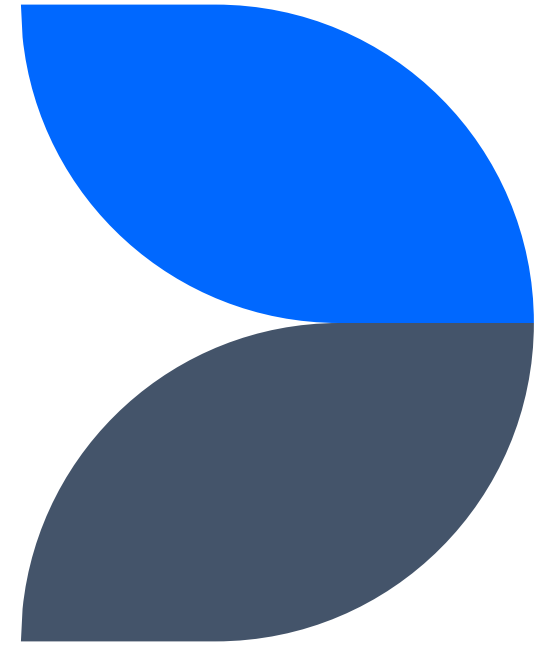
⁵ What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each....

²¹ So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³ and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

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 former 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.** ”

From the former HVCOC Website

“ We are a church which bears Christ's name. We desire to be the presence of Jesus in this world. That is our calling. That is our mission. So, we invite you to be a part of our family of faith. We welcome you to exalt Jesus with us. Come and help us continue the ministry of Jesus in Hardin Valley. ”

From the HVCOC Member Handbook

“

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

“ The concept of **unity** between all believers has been a theme of many church leaders throughout the centuries and reached a defining point in what has historically been referred to as the Restoration Movement. The movement began in the late 1700’s and spilled into the early 1800’s when men from 4 independent movements from a variety of backgrounds shared the goal of using the Bible as the only guide for faith and doctrine. ”

From the HVCOC Member Handbook

“ These restorationist were concerned about "denominational names and creeds" and decided to **seek** to be called **just Christians**, thus becoming a more unified church by using the Bible as their only guide. They contended that the church's doctrines should include only those that were as old as the New Testament. This was not considered to be the start of a new church, but rather a return to Christ's church as described in the Bible. ”

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.

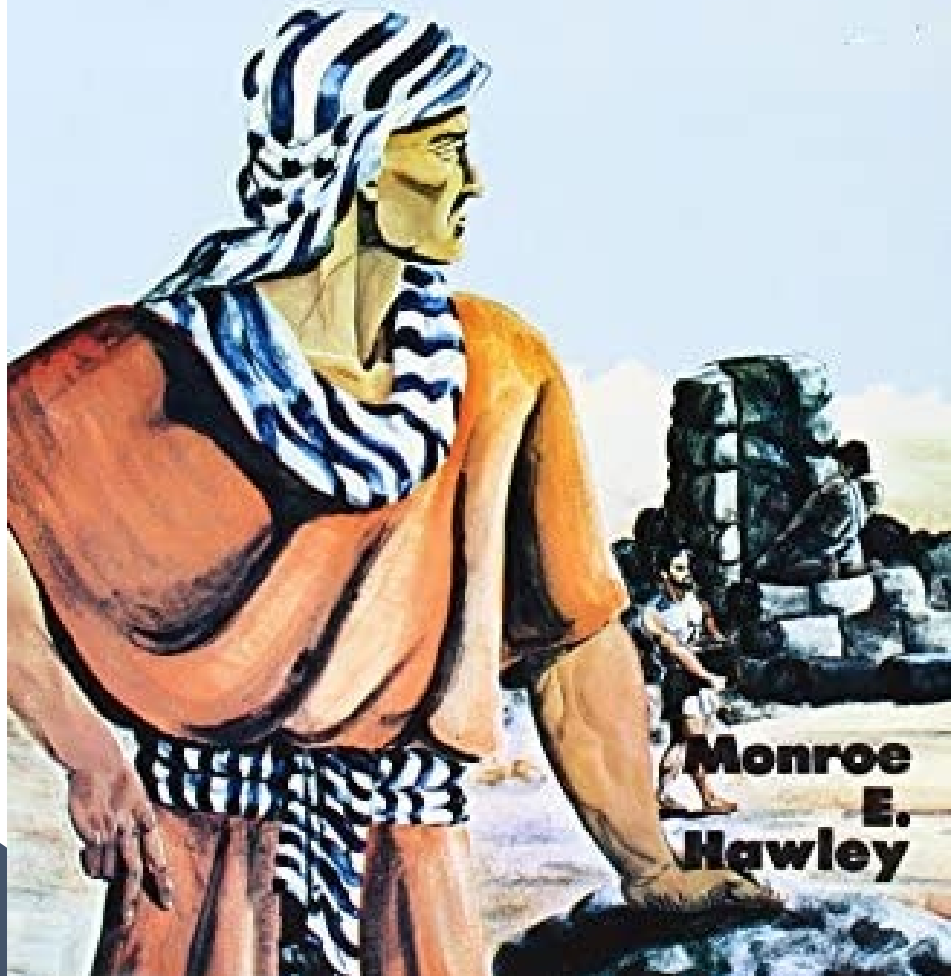
”

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.”

REDIGGING THE WELLS

—Seeking Udenominational
Christianity



Monroe
E.
Hawley

*I Just Want
to Be a Christian*

Rubel Shelly

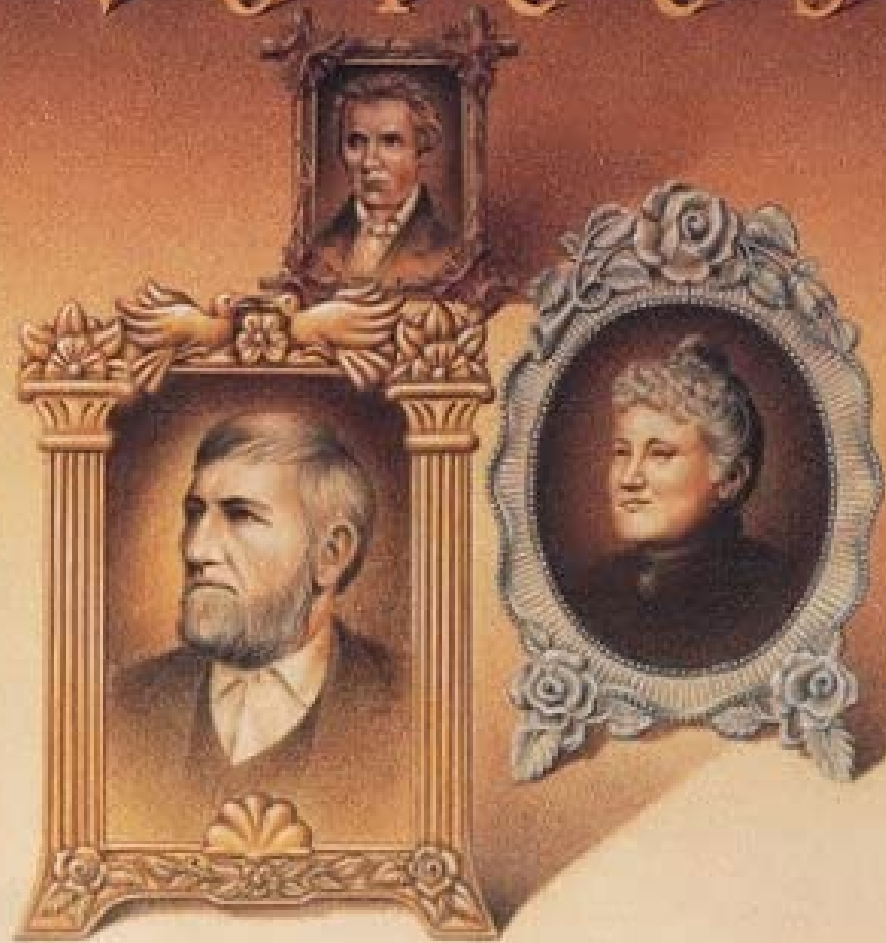
Introduction by Dr. Robert Hooper

The Eternal Kingdom

A History of the Church of Christ

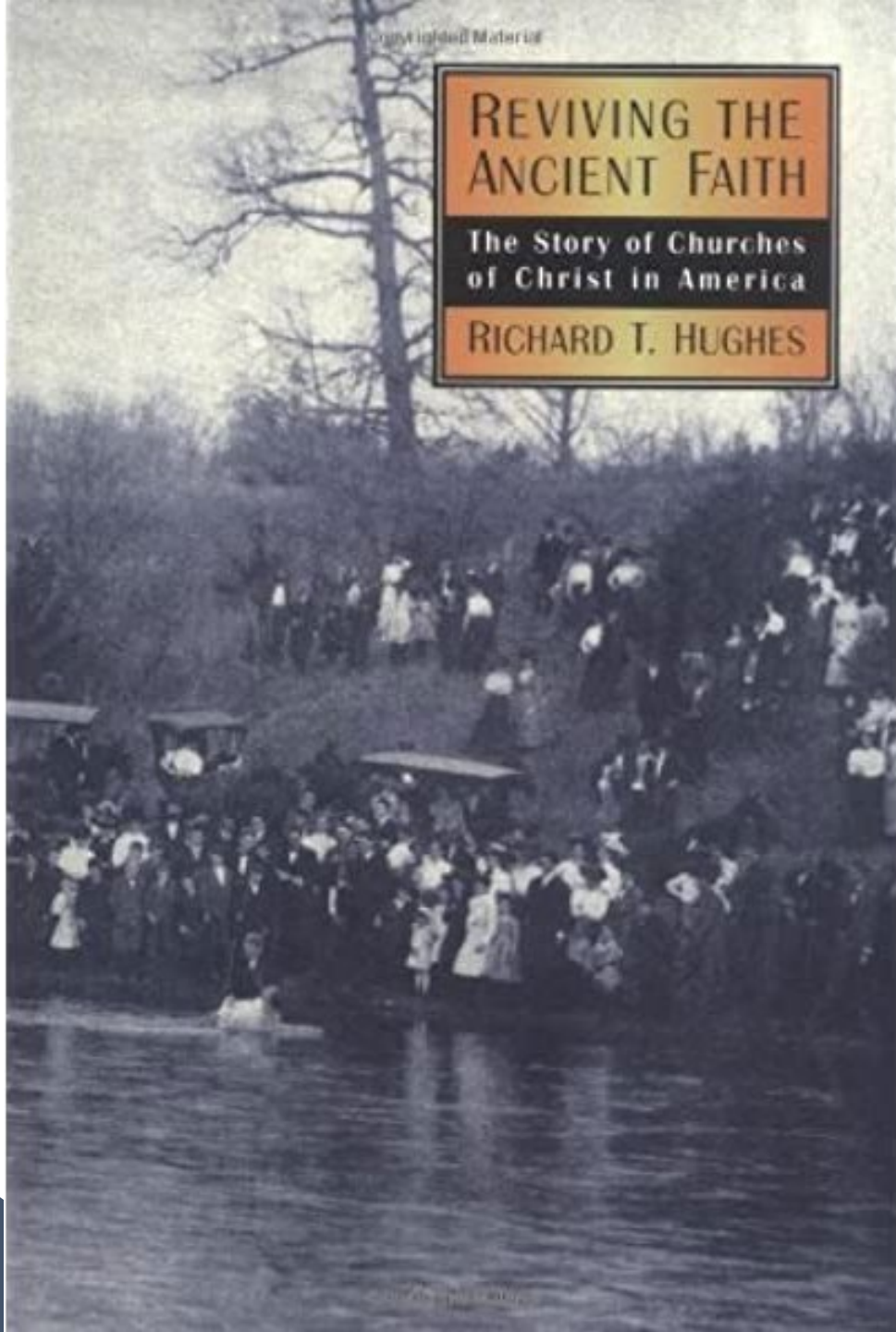
F.W. MATFOX
JOHN MCRAY

Distant Voices



Discovering a Forgotten Past for a Changing Church

C. Leonard Allen



REVIVING THE
ANCIENT FAITH

The Story of Churches
of Christ in America

RICHARD T. HUGHES

GARY HOLLOWAY
& DOUGLAS A. FOSTER

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GOD'S PEOPLE

A Concise History of Churches of Christ

WITH A NEW STUDY GUIDE

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of the matter

Crisis, Tradition,
and the
Future of
Churches of Christ

Jeff W. Childers
Douglas A. Foster
Jack R. Reese



Seeking Undenominational Christianity

Tom Rucker – Hardin Valley Church

