

M-607A: History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Theological Seminary
Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
E-mail: sseay@cts.edu

Course Description

This course explores the origins, growth, and present status of the Stone-Campbell Movement in North America, especially as it developed into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Some attention will be paid also to the global expressions of the Movement, not just as products of mission work, but also as fully autonomous and indigenized communities of faith. The course will focus especially on the most important principles as articulated by the founding generations and re-interpreted by subsequent generations in different contexts: the essential unity of the Church, the centrality of the Bible as the norm for faith and practice, the restoration of apostolic Christianity, and ecumenism. Finally, the course explores the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in its congregational, regional, and general expressions in North America.

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After completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

Objective	Measure
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Read and analyze some founding documents of the Disciples in their historical contexts	Reading primary sources; class lectures and discussions
Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

Understand the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Disciples of Christ and its relevance for ministry and leadership	Class lectures and discussions;
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Sep 5	Labor Day—No Class	
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Sep 12	Cummins, 1-37 <i>Design</i> , Preamble and ¶ 1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding Values of the Movement • The Congregation: The “Primary Expression” of the Church
Sep 19	Cummins, 38-79 Campbell, <i>Declaration and Address</i> (handout) <i>Design</i> , ¶ 14-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tension Between Unity and Restoration • The Region: “Mutual Commitment”
*Sep 26	Cummins, 80-123 Jha, 5-15 <i>Design</i> , ¶ 37-88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Movement’s Earliest Diversities • The General Assembly: “Representative Body”

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Oct 3	Jha, 16-27 Hamm, <i>Re-creating the Church</i> , 1-44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varying Interpretations of the “Plea” • “Modern” and “Post-Modern” Institutions
Oct 10	Ames, <i>The New Orthodoxy</i> (handout)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Classical Liberalism” among the Disciples • Discussion of Primary Source
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Toward a Mainline Denomination (1929-1968)

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*Nov 7	Cummins, 194-247 Jha, 66-77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring the Church • Contemporary Diversities and Issues of Polity
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Post-Modernity, Globalization, and Renewal (1968—Present)

Nov 14	Hamm, <i>2020 Vision</i> , 1-135	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disciples in a Post-Modern, Anti-Institutional Age • The Disciples 2020 Vision
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
Nov 28	“General Principles and Policies of the Division of Overseas Ministries” (handout) Cummins, 248-272 Jha, 78-98	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciples and the <i>Missio Dei</i> • Case Study in Globalization: Disciples in the Congo
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<http://www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/restmov.html>

Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement Resources

<http://www.bible.acu.edu/stone-campbell/index.html>

Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian University

<http://150.252.220/5/crs>

Disciples of Christ Historical Society
<http://www.dishistsoc.org>

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Homepage
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World Convention – Christian, Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ
<http://www.worldconvention.org>

North American Christian Convention
<http://www.nacctheconnectingplace.org>

European Evangelistic Society
<http://www.eesatlanta.org>

Institute for the Study of Christian Origins
<http://www.institut-urchristentum.org>

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M-607A: History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Theological Seminary
Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
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Course Description

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Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

Objective	Measure
Master some of the most important facts about the history of the Disciples	Reading secondary sources; timeline quizzes; class lectures and discussions
Read and analyze some founding documents of the Disciples in their historical contexts	Reading primary sources; class lectures and discussions
Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

Understand the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Disciples of Christ and its relevance for ministry and leadership	Class lectures and discussions;
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- Contribute substantively and insightfully to class discussions.

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Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
E-mail: sseay@cts.edu

Course Description

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Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

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Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian University
<http://150.252.220/5/crs>

Disciples of Christ Historical Society
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<http://www.eesatlanta.org>

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M-607A: History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Theological Seminary
Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
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Course Description

This course explores the origins, growth, and present status of the Stone-Campbell Movement in North America, especially as it developed into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Some attention will be paid also to the global expressions of the Movement, not just as products of mission work, but also as fully autonomous and indigenized communities of faith. The course will focus especially on the most important principles as articulated by the founding generations and re-interpreted by subsequent generations in different contexts: the essential unity of the Church, the centrality of the Bible as the norm for faith and practice, the restoration of apostolic Christianity, and ecumenism. Finally, the course explores the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in its congregational, regional, and general expressions in North America.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

Objective	Measure
Master some of the most important facts about the history of the Disciples	Reading secondary sources; timeline quizzes; class lectures and discussions
Read and analyze some founding documents of the Disciples in their historical contexts	Reading primary sources; class lectures and discussions
Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

Understand the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Disciples of Christ and its relevance for ministry and leadership	Class lectures and discussions;
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- Contribute substantively and insightfully to class discussions.

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Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
E-mail: sseay@cts.edu

Course Description

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Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

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Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian University
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Disciples of Christ Historical Society
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M-607A: History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Theological Seminary
Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
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Course Description

This course explores the origins, growth, and present status of the Stone-Campbell Movement in North America, especially as it developed into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Some attention will be paid also to the global expressions of the Movement, not just as products of mission work, but also as fully autonomous and indigenized communities of faith. The course will focus especially on the most important principles as articulated by the founding generations and re-interpreted by subsequent generations in different contexts: the essential unity of the Church, the centrality of the Bible as the norm for faith and practice, the restoration of apostolic Christianity, and ecumenism. Finally, the course explores the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in its congregational, regional, and general expressions in North America.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

Objective	Measure
Master some of the most important facts about the history of the Disciples	Reading secondary sources; timeline quizzes; class lectures and discussions
Read and analyze some founding documents of the Disciples in their historical contexts	Reading primary sources; class lectures and discussions
Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

Understand the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Disciples of Christ and its relevance for ministry and leadership	Class lectures and discussions;
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- Contribute substantively and insightfully to class discussions.

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Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
E-mail: sseay@cts.edu

Course Description

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Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

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Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian University
<http://150.252.220/5/crs>

Disciples of Christ Historical Society
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<http://www.eesatlanta.org>

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M-607A: History and Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Christian Theological Seminary
Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
Office: Room 235
Office Hours: Please speak with Joyce Krauser to schedule an appointment. Her office is Room 216; her phone number is (317) 931-2350; and her e-mail is jkrauser@cts.edu.
Office Phone: (317) 931-2347
E-mail: sseay@cts.edu

Course Description

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Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

Objective	Measure
Master some of the most important facts about the history of the Disciples	Reading secondary sources; timeline quizzes; class lectures and discussions
Read and analyze some founding documents of the Disciples in their historical contexts	Reading primary sources; class lectures and discussions
Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

Understand the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Disciples of Christ and its relevance for ministry and leadership	Class lectures and discussions;
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Fall, 2011

Contact Information

Instructor: Scott D. Seay, M.Div., Ph.D.
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Course Description

This course explores the origins, growth, and present status of the Stone-Campbell Movement in North America, especially as it developed into the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Some attention will be paid also to the global expressions of the Movement, not just as products of mission work, but also as fully autonomous and indigenized communities of faith. The course will focus especially on the most important principles as articulated by the founding generations and re-interpreted by subsequent generations in different contexts: the essential unity of the Church, the centrality of the Bible as the norm for faith and practice, the restoration of apostolic Christianity, and ecumenism. Finally, the course explores the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in its congregational, regional, and general expressions in North America.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should be able to do the following:

Objective	Measure
Master some of the most important facts about the history of the Disciples	Reading secondary sources; timeline quizzes; class lectures and discussions
Read and analyze some founding documents of the Disciples in their historical contexts	Reading primary sources; class lectures and discussions
Understand how the central principles of the Disciples have been embodied in its polity	Class lectures and discussions;

Understand the contemporary identity, ethos, and structure of the Disciples of Christ and its relevance for ministry and leadership	Class lectures and discussions;
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Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance, Preparation, and Participation (20%): Your consistent preparation, attendance, and participation is critical to the success of this class. This means that I expect you to:

- Read the assigned materials carefully and completely prior to coming to class;
- Arrive on time for class and remain for the entire class session;
- Inform the instructor ahead of time if missing class is absolutely necessary;
- Remain attentive during all classroom activities;
- Listen closely and respond respectfully to both the instructor and fellow students;
- Submit all work for the course on time as required by the due dates; and
- Contribute substantively and insightfully to class discussions.

You should expect this portion of your grade to be reduced significantly if you miss or are regularly late to class, appear not to have completed the readings, or fail to contribute to the class discussion. **Consistent with Seminary attendance policies, students who miss three or more class sessions – for whatever reason – will not receive credit for the course.**

2. Historical Research Paper (20%): You will be expected to write a historical research paper (10-12 pp. in length) on some aspect of the history of the Stone-Campbell Movement. In this paper you will be asked to demonstrate a clear understanding of a particular issue in the history of the Disciples, reflect critically on that issue from your perspective, and explain how understanding this historical issue remains relevant for your identity as a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). **The paper is due no later than December 12.**
3. Personal Theology Paper (20%): You will be expected to write a paper (10-12 pp. in length) on your personal theology, paying particular attention to the nature and purpose of the church. Your paper should demonstrate an understanding of the historic commitments of the Disciples, and an awareness of how your personal theology is consistent with and diverges from them. This paper should satisfy one of the writing requirements of the Commission on Ministry in your Region. **The paper is due no later than December 12.**
4. Timeline Quizzes (20%): You will be provided with a timeline of events important to the history of the Disciples. On the dates marked with an asterisk (*), a brief quiz will be given drawing from the events on that timeline. You will select one of two or three events given and will write a brief essay to identify the event and explain its significance for the history of

the Disciples.

5. **Final Conversation (20%):** You will be expected to participate in a final conversation about the course on December 12, during examination week. A detailed description of this class session and suggestions on how to prepare will be provided well in advance. Generally speaking, this final conversation will be designed to assess the degree to which you have mastered the learning outcomes listed above. *Please do not miss this class session; this requirement cannot be made up.*

Please note that the deadlines for all work in this course are firm, and incompletes will be granted only under the most extraordinary circumstances.

If you have a certified learning disability or physical or emotional challenges, you are required to inform us within the first week of the course concerning any special accommodations that you require. All efforts, consistent with the overall learning objectives of the course will be made to meet these learning needs.

Also, you are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty in all of your work for this course. Accordingly, no plagiarism, fabrication, or cheating of any kind will be tolerated. We will report all incidents of academic dishonesty to the Dean of the Seminary, who will follow the disciplinary procedures outlined in the academic catalog. In cases where it has been proven that you have plagiarized, fabricated, or cheated in any way, you will fail this course.

An Important Note about Grades

You should know that I am stridently opposed to all forms of grade inflation. If you complete the basic requirements of the course satisfactorily, you can expect to receive an average final grade (C-range). If you fail to meet the basic requirements in some way, you can expect your final grade to be lower than that (D-range). Because it is not an entitlement, an above average grade (B-range) must be earned by consistent effort and solid performance on all assigned work in the course. An exceptional grade (A-range) is just that: an exception to the rule. You will earn an exceptional grade only if you consistently perform above and beyond in all aspects of the course. We invite students who wish to earn above average or exceptional grades to consult with us about strategies for doing so. This is the grading scale that we will use in this course:

A	94-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-93%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
		B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%
						F	Below 60%

Freedom of Expression in the Classroom

In this course we will make every effort to cultivate a learning environment that encourages

free discussion, inquiry, and expression. Your performance will be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards. Accordingly, you should feel free to take *reasoned exception* to viewpoints and opinions offered by anyone in the class, including our own.

When engaged in this free discussion, inquiry, and expression, however, all of us are expected to adhere to commonly accepted standards of civility and respect. You should know that we will not tolerate expressions that are insulting, embarrassing, or otherwise hostile to specific individuals on account of their race, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. If such problems arise, we will deal with them in ways that are consistent with Seminary policies on student discipline.

Required Textbooks

The following books are required reading in this course:

1. Duane Cummins, *The Disciples: A Struggle for Reformation* (Chalice, 2009)
2. Doug Foster, et al., *The Encyclopedia of the Stone-Campbell Movement* (Eerdmans, 2004)
3. Richard Hamm, *2020 Vision for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* (Christian Board of Publication, 2002)
4. Richard Hamm, *Recreating the Church: Leadership for the Post-Modern Age* (Chalice, 2007)
5. William Chris Hobgood, *Born Apart, Becoming One: Disciples Defeating Racism* (Chalice, 2009)
6. Sandhya Jha, *Room at the Table: Struggle for Unity and Equality in Disciples History* (Chalice, 2009)
7. Michael Kinnamon and Jan Linn, *Disciples: Reclaiming of Identity, Reforming our Practice* (Chalice, 2009)
8. *The Design for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* (handout; if you prefer to have a Spanish-language version, please ask for one)

Each of these books may be purchased in the Seminary bookstore, and copies have been placed on reserve in the Seminary library for the duration of the semester. Additional readings will be provided in handout form.

Course Calendar

Date	Readings	Topics
Aug 29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction • The Historiography of the Stone-Campbell Movement

Sep 5	Labor Day—No Class	
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Origins and Founding Values (1801-1865)

Sep 12	Cummins, 1-37 <i>Design</i> , Preamble and ¶ 1-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding Values of the Movement • The Congregation: The “Primary Expression” of the Church
Sep 19	Cummins, 38-79 Campbell, <i>Declaration and Address</i> (handout) <i>Design</i> , ¶ 14-36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tension Between Unity and Restoration • The Region: “Mutual Commitment”
*Sep 26	Cummins, 80-123 Jha, 5-15 <i>Design</i> , ¶ 37-88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Movement’s Earliest Diversities • The General Assembly: “Representative Body”

Growing Pains and Global Expansion through Missions (1865-1929)

Oct 3	Jha, 16-27 Hamm, <i>Re-creating the Church</i> , 1-44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varying Interpretations of the “Plea” • “Modern” and “Post-Modern” Institutions
Oct 10	Ames, <i>The New Orthodoxy</i> (handout)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Classical Liberalism” among the Disciples • Discussion of Primary Source
Oct 17	Hobgood, 1-115	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Movement’s Development among African Americans • Disciples and Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Efforts
*Oct 24	Hamm, <i>Re-creating the Church</i> , 45-126	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Movement’s Early Missiology • Leading Congregations through Adaptive Change

Toward a Mainline Denomination (1929-1968)

Oct 31	Cummins, 155-193 Jha, pp. 43-65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciples in the Heyday of Cultural Protestantism • The Church Ecumenical
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*Nov 7	Cummins, 194-247 Jha, 66-77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring the Church • Contemporary Diversities and Issues of Polity
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Post-Modernity, Globalization, and Renewal (1968—Present)

Nov 14	Hamm, <i>2020 Vision</i> , 1-135	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disciples in a Post-Modern, Anti-Institutional Age • The Disciples 2020 Vision
Nov 21	Thanksgiving Break – No Class	
Nov 28	“General Principles and Policies of the Division of Overseas Ministries” (handout) Cummins, 248-272 Jha, 78-98	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciples and the <i>Missio Dei</i> • Case Study in Globalization: Disciples in the Congo
*Dec 5	Kinnamon and Linn, 1-140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges and Signs of Renewal Among Disciples • Search and Call and the Order of Ministry
Dec 12	Final Conversation	

Online Resources

You may find the following online resources helpful as you complete your work in this course. Some of them contain primary sources and other readings related to the Stone-Campbell Movement historically speaking. Others are home pages of different organizations affiliated with the three major branches of the Stone-Campbell Movement.

Restoration Movement Homepage
<http://www.mun.ca/rels/restmov/restmov.html>

Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement Resources
<http://www.bible.acu.edu/stone-campbell/index.html>

Center for Restoration Studies at Abilene Christian University
<http://150.252.220/5/crs>

Disciples of Christ Historical Society
<http://www.dishistsoc.org>

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Homepage
<http://www.disciples.org>

World Convention – Christian, Churches of Christ, Disciples of Christ
<http://www.worldconvention.org>

North American Christian Convention
<http://www.nacctheconnectingplace.org>

European Evangelistic Society
<http://www.eesatlanta.org>

Institute for the Study of Christian Origins
<http://www.institut-urchristentum.org>