

2013

Disciples of Christ

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Recommended Citation

Western Oregon University Archives, "Disciples of Christ" (2013). *Additional Resources*. 2.
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Disciples of Christ (Christian Church)

Many of the pioneers who wrote the Butler family letters were members of the Disciples of Christ Church (often called the Christian Church). They had settled in Polk County with the express purpose of founding a university where their children and those of other Disciples could gain an education. The church and the university were housed in the same building for many years until the first portion of Campbell Hall was built in 1871.

Monmouth University was established through the generous donations of land and money from individuals affiliated with the Christian Church, with ministers such as Rev. John E. Murphy riding throughout Polk and nearby counties to raise money for the church and University. However, the university was never formally administered by the Church; it was left in the hands of the Board of Trustees until 1882 when the institution was turned over to the State of Oregon.

Church Street, which runs east west from Stadium Street to Monmouth Avenue, was named after the first Christian Church erected in Monmouth, which stood on the corner of Church and Monmouth Avenue where Todd Hall stands today. The church was relocated several blocks to the south in 1893.

Bibliography

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