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ORGANIZE NEW LOCAL CHURCH

Church of Christ Is Small Group Planning Formal Congregation

Now being organized in Iowa City is a local congregation of the Church of Christ, a Protestant denomination which estimates a membership of about 2,500,000, principally in the southern states.

Active locally are about 14 men and women who have been meeting here since early August. Sunday worship services are held at 10 a.m. at the Doyle O'Rear residence at 534 South Dodge street.

Fred Barton, 802 Finkbine park, leader of the group says plans are under consideration to found a church, purchase property and later select elders and deacons.

Mr. Barton, 35, a resident of Abilene, Texas, is studying toward a Ph.D. degree here while working as graduate assistant in the speech department. Married, he lives here with his wife and two children.

He is on leave of absence as head of the speech department at Abilene Christian college in Texas, one of five such institutions in this country which derive their principal support from members of the Church of Christ.

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Mr. Barton, who was instrumental in getting organizational work started here, describes the local group as "democratic and congregational in organization."

Although no other Church of Christ has ever been initiated in Iowa City, he said, a number of Iowa Citians have participated in the work of two congregations at Cedar Rapids.

Historically, he explains, the Church of Christ denomination goes back to the same origins as the Christian church or Church of the Disciples, a movement which began early in the 1800's.

Departure of the Church of Christ along a separate denominational path occurred in the third quarter of the same century, he said.

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Doyle and Marie O'Rear host the first meetings of the Church of Christ in home on Dodge Street

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