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# Denominational Terms

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**Anglican** - relating to, or denoting the Church of England, or any Church in communion with it.

**Baptist** - a Protestant Christian denomination advocating baptism only of adult believers by total immersion. Baptists form one of the largest Protestant bodies and are found throughout the world and esp. in the U.S.

**Catholicism** - the faith, practice, and church order of the Roman Catholic Church. An adherence to the forms of Christian doctrine and practice which are generally regarded as Catholic rather than Protestant or Eastern Orthodox.

**Church of England** - the English branch of the Western Christian Church, which combines Catholic and Protestant traditions, rejects the Pope's authority, and has the monarch as its titular head.

**Community Church** - a Fellowship known as the House Church Movement and preaching a return to New Testament Christianity.

**Congregational** - congregationalists believe in the autonomy of each local church and in the responsibility of its members to corporately discern the will of God in all matters relating to the life of the local church.

**Countess of Huntingdon Connexion** - the Connexion was founded by the Countess of Huntingdon who was a friend of John and Charles Wesley. In the UK the connexion is currently a small fellowship of churches.

**Ecumenical** - representing a number of different Christian churches.

**Evangelical** - a tradition within Protestant Christianity emphasising the authority of the Bible, personal conversion, and the doctrine of salvation by faith in the Atonement.

**Free Church** - a small Christian fellowship.

**Methodist** - the 18th-century evangelistic movement of Charles and John Wesley and George Whitefield. The Methodist Church grew out of a religious society established within the Church of England, from which it formally separated in 1791. Methodism has a strong tradition of missionary work and concern with social welfare, and emphasises the believer's personal relationship with God.

**Presbyterian** - a form of Protestant Church government in which the Church is administered locally by the minister with a group of elected elders of equal rank, and regionally and nationally by representative courts of ministers and elders.

**Protestant** - a member or follower of any of the Western Christian churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church and follow the principles of the Reformation, including the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches. All Protestants reject the authority of the papacy, both religious and political, and find authority in the text of the Bible.

**Quaker** - a Christian movement founded by George Fox c. 1650 and devoted to peaceful principles. Central to the Quakers' belief is the doctrine of the "Inner Light," or sense of Christ's direct working in the soul.

**Religious Society of Friends** - see Quaker

**Roman Catholic Church** - the part of the Christian Church that acknowledges the Pope as its head.

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# Denominational Terms (Continued)

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**Salvationist** - a member of the Salvation Army.

**Salvation Army** - a Christian body organised along military lines, with the preachers being known as officers and the members being referred to as soldiers.

**United Reformed Church** - formed in 1972 by the union of the Congregational Church in England and Wales and the Presbyterian Church of England, the United Reformed Church has continued to express its deep commitment to the visible unity of the whole Church. In 1981 it entered into union with the Re-formed Churches of Christ and in the year 2000 with the Congregational Union of Scotland.

**Wesleyan** - relating to, or denoting the teachings of John Wesley or the main branch of the Methodist Church that he founded.

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# Denominational Terms (Continued)

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