

# Lutherans and Other Denominations

## Brethren and Union Churches

### Welcome and Opening Prayer

#### Brethren

American descendants of German Protestants  
Pietists (similar to Puritans)  
Emphasize spirit of God within and binding love

#### Church of the Brethren (Dunkers)

Alexander Mack (1679-1735)  
1708 - Founded *Community of Believers* in Schwarzenau, Germany  
1720s - Group migrated to America to flee persecution  
German Mennonites  
Focus on complete freedom in all religious matters  
Complete obedience  
Ordinances (Like Sacraments)  
Believer's Baptism  
Complete Lord's Supper  
Anoint the sick and dying, Lay hands on Christian workers

#### Church of the United Brethren in Christ

William Otterbein (1726-1813)  
1754 - Converted to Arminianism  
German Methodists - Strict Arminian  
Language differences stopped merger with Methodist Church in 1700s  
1946 - Most merged with Evangelical Church  
1968 - EUBC merged into United Methodist Church  
Around 36K in CUBC today

#### Society of Friends (Quakers)

Stemmed from English Puritan Movement  
George Fox (1624-1690)  
*Inner Light*  
Scriptures are past revelations  
Every person is a walking church  
War and oaths prohibited by Sermon on the Mount  
Called *Quakers* when Fox told a judge to "tremble at the word of the Lord"  
1691 - William Penn (succeeded Fox) received charter for colony

#### Worship

No liturgy, no ordained ministers, no sacraments  
Monthly business meetings  
No true Quaker smokes, drinks, gambles, plays the stock market, buys lottery tickets

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## Restoration Movement - 1800s

Attempt to **restore** *one, holy, catholic and apostolic church*  
*In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love.*

James O'Kelly (1757-1826)

1792 - Republican Methodist Church

Bible is only rule and discipline, Only Christian character needed for membership

Abner Jones (1772-1841)

Bible Only

1801 - First Christian Church at Lyndon, Vermont

Created *General Convention of Christian Churches* (Unitarian Baptists)

1811 - Formed union with O'Kelly's Republican Methodist Church

Barton Stone (1772-1844)

Believed Christians could & should unite on basis of simple faith in Christ

Organized 1801 Cane Ridge Revival

Deeds are more important than creeds, Many attendees left denominations and formed *Christians*  
Congregations autonomous, lay people independent

Six Basic Christian Principles

Christ

The Bible

Christian Character

Scripture

Christian

Unity

Thomas Campbell (1763-1854)

1809 - Suspended for having open communion

Formed *Christian Association of Washington County, Pa*

Published *Declaration and Address*

Christian unity, Congregations independent, No creeds, Salvation only by obedience

*Where the Scripture speaks, we speak. Where the Scripture is silent, we are silent.*

Alexander Campbell (1788-1866)

Stressed individual faith, no creeds, weekly Lord's Supper, believer's baptism by immersion

Disciples of Christ - Believers grouped by Campbell

## Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

1832 - Stone's *Christians* merged with Campbell's *Disciples*

Campbell was trinitarian, Stone was unitarian

Began as Perfectionists and Pentecostals

"Progressive" stayed as *Disciples*; "Conservative" became *Churches of Christ*

1968 - Adopted a constitution

*Christian Churches and Churches of Christ*

Anti-creedal; No specific doctrine; Basically Arminian

Ordinances

Believer's Baptism (immersion only) and Lord's Supper (every Sunday)

*Class materials are available at [www.biblestoriesforadults.com/denominations](http://www.biblestoriesforadults.com/denominations)*

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## Churches of Christ

1906 - Broke from Disciples to maintain Campbell's *Declaration and Address*  
Everything in worship must be commanded by Christ  
    Forbid instrumental music, mission societies, open communion  
Dislike being called a denomination  
    Elders direct churches, not pastors; Diverse beliefs; Accept Trinity  
    Concentrated in South and Southwest US  
Believer's Baptism (immersion only) and Lord's Supper (every Sunday)

## Christian Churches and Churches of Christ

1920s - Some left CC(DoC) because of liberalism  
Midway between Disciples and Church of Christ  
    Trinitarian, but don't like the title

## United Church of Christ

### Mega-Merger

1931 - Congregational and Christian Churches  
    *Congregational Churches* with *General Convention of the Christian Church*  
1934 - Evangelical and Reformed Church  
    *Evangelical Synod of North America* with *Reformed Church in the US*  
1957 - United Church of Christ  
    *Congregational and Christian Churches* with *Evangelical and Reformed Church*

### Congregational Churches

Movement from Anglican Church wanting congregations to set their own doctrines  
    1609 - John Robinson led Separatists to Netherlands for free practice of religion  
    1620 - Most of group moved to New England  
Began Trinitarian; Many turned Unitarian (including Harvard)  
    Congregations can change their doctrines as new insights are gained

### General Convention of the Christian Church

Abner Jones' "Unitarian Baptists"

### Evangelical Synod

1817 - Evangelical United Church of Prussia  
    King Frederick William III ordered merger of all Lutheran and Reformed churches  
    Accepted Luther's Catechism, Augsburg Confession, Heidelberg Catechism  
1840 - Evangelical Union of the West  
    1849 - German Evangelical Synod of North America

### Reformed Church in the US

1793 - German Reformed Church  
1869 - *German* dropped from name after various arguments over language

## Closing Prayer

# Lutherans and Other Denominations Denominational Genealogy

