



The Episcopal Church

# Building Bridges in the Body of Christ

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. -Ephesians 4:4-6*

**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
Celebrates living in full communion with the  
The Episcopal Church.**

**Let's take some time to celebrate our similarities and differences.**

**Members:** 2.4 million

**Congregations:** 7,390

**Sacraments:** Holy Baptism and Holy Communion as well as "lesser" sacraments

**Origin:** Church of England. 1780 in Kent County, Maryland, TEC officially became autonomous from the Church of England and became the "Protestant Episcopal Church." TEC continues to maintain relational ties with Anglican communions throughout the world.

**Clergy:** Women and men educated in 11 seminaries and 10 colleges and universities throughout the U.S.

**Worship traditions:** Liturgical (*Book of Common Prayer*)

**Best Known For:** Music, liturgics, polity, and a commitment to social justice, first female presiding bishop elected in 2006.

*Through baptism, we all become ministers, called to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world and to take our place in the life, worship, and governance of the church.*

To learn more about building bridges in your congregation and synod, visit

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Living in God's amazing grace

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**Ephesians 4:4-6**

**The ELCA Celebrates living in full communion with 5 other Christian Denominations. Let's take some time to celebrate our similarities and differences. Information about the ELCA:**

**Members:** 4,930,429 in the U.S.

**Congregations:** 10,585 in the U.S.

**Sacraments:** Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

**Origin:** Europe in the late 1500's as followers of Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic Augustinian Friar who is credited with starting the protestant reformation.

**Clergy:** 17,694 women and men who are educated in 8 seminaries, 28 colleges and universities, and numerous grade schools and pre schools.

**Worship Traditions:** Practice a liturgical worship style with a variety of music traditions including classical and contemporary.

**Best Known For:** Hymnody, theological studies and practices

*We are saved by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ.*

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Moravian Church in North America

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**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
Celebrates living in full communion with the  
Moravian Church.**

**Let's take some time to celebrate our similarities and differences.**

**Members:** 740,000 World-Wide, 50,000 in the U.S.

**Congregations:** 1,200 World-Wide

**Sacraments:** Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

**Origin:** Czech Republic, 1457 as followers of the reformer John Hus, 60 years before Martin Luther began his reformation.

**Clergy:** Women and men educated at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA. Other schools include Moravian College, and Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC.

**Worship traditions:** Liturgical and non-liturgical.

**Best Known For:** Missions, Music, Easter dawn worship, and lovefeasts (simple, symbolic meals eaten during worship to mark our common love for one another and for God.)

*In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things love.*

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The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

## Building Bridges in the Body of Christ

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**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
Celebrates living in full communion with  
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) .**

**Let's take some time to celebrate our similarities and differences.**

**Members:** 2.6 million

**Congregations:** 11,178

**Sacraments:** Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

**Origin:** Part of the Reformed family of Protestantism, descending from John Calvin. The largest Presbyterian denomination in the USA, established in 1983 out of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States, a southern branch of American Presbyterianism, and the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, a northern branch

**Clergy:** Women and men educated in 10 seminaries and at numerous colleges and universities throughout the U.S.

**Worship traditions:** Liturgical and Blended

**Best Known For:** Church's faith guided by The Book of Confessions—A collection of ten creeds and confessions from the early Church, the Reformation, and the twentieth century.

*It is everyone's job - ministers and lay people alike - to share this Good News with the whole world.*

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**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
Celebrates living in full communion with the  
Reformed Church in America.**

**Let's take some time to celebrate our similarities and differences.**

**Members:** 300,000

**Congregations:** 950

**Sacraments:** Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

**Origin:** Calvinist Reformed Protestant denomination formerly known as the Dutch Reformed Church. Early Dutch settlers organized the first congregation in New Amsterdam in 1628. 17th and 19th century immigration moved the church westward.

**Clergy:** Women and men educated in 5 seminaries and other institutions of higher learning.

**Worship traditions:** Liturgical and non-liturgical

**Best Known For:** Oldest Protestant church with a continuous ministry in the United States; one of the founders of the National Council of Church of Christ USA and of the World Council of Churches; 40 member churches in Canada.

*Following Christ in Mission*

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United Church of Christ

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United Church of Christ.**

**Let's take some time to celebrate our similarities and differences.**

**Members:** 1.4 million

**Congregations:** 5,750

**Sacraments:** Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

**Origin:** The United Church of Christ came into being in 1957 with the union of two Protestant denominations: the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Each of these was, in turn, the result of a union of two earlier traditions.

**Clergy:** Women and men educated in 7 seminaries and 19 colleges and universities throughout the U.S. Additionally, the UCC has associations with 8 other seminaries including Yale Divinity and Harvard Divinity Schools.

**Worship traditions:** Liturgical and "free church"

**Best Known For:** Social justice, human rights, societal unity, ecumenism, ordained first female pastor in 1853.

*That they may all be one.*

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**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)  
Celebrates its relationship of interim Eucharistic sharing with  
The United Methodist Church .**

**Let's take some time to celebrate our similarities and differences.**

**Members:** 8.3 million

**Congregations:** 35,609

**Sacraments:** Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

**Origin:** The United Methodist Church is the largest Methodist church and second largest Protestant denomination in the United States. Formed in 1968 as a merger between the Evangelical United Brethren and The Methodist Church, its origins are in John and Charles Wesley—Anglican priests of the eighteenth century.

**Clergy:** Men and women who are ordained by Bishops as Elders and Deacons and are appointed to various ministries. Elders in the UMC are part of what is called the itinerating ministry and are subject to the authority and appointment of their bishops. They generally serve as pastors at local congregations. Deacons make up a serving ministry.

**Worship traditions:** Liturgical and non-liturgical

**Best Known For:** Hymnody, large variety of races and cultures, accepting of a broad range of Christian theology.

*Open hearts, open minds, open doors.*

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