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Reformed and Presbyterian Denominations: A Primer

Statement on "micro-churches": You will see many denominations listed here that have three, five, or ten churches. Most of these smaller ones have little difference from all the others. It is my personal view that most of the NAPARC churches should unite, and I think it's sad that the Reformed community has grown so fragmented that we have these tiny little groups that recognize each other but they're "not good enough". They have their reasons, but oftentimes they are weak. It's a sad testimony to the spirit of American individualism that this is so rampant. Anyway, here is as complete a list as I can gather for now. [Email me](#) (and remove "no spam") if you have other suggestions.

Questionable/erroneous positions are listed in green, while major doctrinal error is in red. (Per my humble opinion.)

Grouping The Churches

I'm expanding some of the information to be listed. The chart now includes more detailed information on the general theological orientation, worship, and Bible versions used.

Worship Type:

T - Traditional	Services follow a set order, use traditional hymns (and often Psalms as well), accompanied by piano, organ, orchestra, choir, or a combination thereof.
L - Liturgical	Follow an extremely fixed order of worship, including set Scripture readings for the year, set forms of prayer and response, and traditional hymns or chants.
C - Contemporary	Use praise & worship bands, modern cultural music, multimedia, focusing on stirring the emotions or even entertainment.
P - Psalmody	Churches only sing the Psalms of David (in rare circumstances, other songs from Scripture), usually without any instrumental accompaniment.
M - Mixed	Churches use any of the above, depending on the congregation, or even blend the various forms.

Theological Orientation

C - Confessional	Theologically conservative, sticking generally with the church standards and Reformational doctrine. Calvin, the Three Forms, the Westminster Divines, the Puritans, and any individual church Testimony are given heavy weight. Usually associate only with other Reformed churches.
M - Mixed	No real dominant theology; conservative, but depending on the congregation could be more confessional, evangelical, or fundamental.
E - Evangelical	Theologically conservative but focusing on basic doctrines that unite the church with the Church Universal around them. Orthodox doctrines of God, the Bible, and Salvation are emphasized to the minimization of Reformed distinctives, and there is more interaction with non-Reformed groups and churches.
F - Fundamental	Similar to Evangelicals in theology, but more focused on personal piety and practice, with an emphasis on separation from anything they consider worldly (e.g., don't generally permit the use of alcohol, tobacco, frown on modern entertainment); more likely to associate with other fundamentalists than with other Reformed bodies.
L - Liberal	Theologically liberal, more concerned with social issues and ailments than beliefs about God. Usually open to novel and modernistic views of God, often reject miraculous events as mythical, take higher critical views of the Bible and female ordination as a given, and consider orthodox doctrines as mere "theories" that can be ignored or discarded.

Standards (Confessions of Faith)

WS	Westminster Standards	The Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger & Shorter Catechisms. May use the original 1647 edition, the Americanized 1789 edition, the fundamental 1938 version, or the more
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		liberal 1903 edition, with minor variations between them. There is a modern-language update of the 1903 edition, dated 1984.
WS+	Westminster Standards & Subordinates	Westminster Standards plus the Directory for Public Worship, Form of Government, National Covenant, Solemn League & Covenant
3FU	Three Forms of Unity	Belgic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dordt
BOC	Book of Confessions	Ecumenical Creeds, Scots Confession, Second Helvetic Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Westminster Standards, Barmen Declaration, Confession of 1967, Brief Statement of Faith (1983)
T	Testimony / Statement	Some denominations have a distinct testimony or confession of faith in addition to one of the above.
OTH	Other	Statements of faith beyond what is listed here, listed in the notes section.

Bible Translations in Use

KJVE	KJV Exclusive	Only the KJV is to be used or promoted for public use and private study. (Geneva is often the exception.)
KJVS	KJV Standard	The KJV used in all services and publications, but personal use of others for comparison is permitted
***	Others Dominant	Stated translation is predominant in official sources, though others are used in churches and publications
MIX	Mixed Use	No preferred, standard, or dominant translation that I am aware of.

Ecumenical Memberships

NAPARC	North American Presbyterian & Reformed Council	USA Canada	Confessional & Evangelical Reformed
WRF	World Reformed Fellowship	Worldwide	Confessional & Evangelical Reformed
ICRC	International Conference of Reformed Churches	Worldwide	Confessional Reformed
WCRC	World Communion of Reformed Churches	Worldwide	Liberal Presbyterian, Reformed, Congregationalist
NAE	National Association of Evangelicals	USA	Broad Evangelical
ACC	American Council of Christian Churches	USA	Fundamentalist
NCC	National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA	USA	Liberal/Ecumenical
WCC	World Council of Churches	Worldwide	Liberal/Ecumenical

NORTH AMERICAN CHURCHES

Name	Members	Churches	Worship	Theology	Standards	Bible Version	Notes
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)	351,406	1,771	M	M	WS 1789	MIX	<i>This church was formed in 1973 as the National Presbyterian Church, adopting its current name the next year. It is now the second-largest</i>

							<p>Reformed denomination in the U.S. There is a blend of Reformed practice and <i>modern broad evangelicalism</i>. The author of the site attends a PCA church (and is on the right wing of the membership).</p> <p>Notables: RC Sproul Sr, Harry Reeder, George Grant, Rick Phillips, Tim Keller, Steve Brown</p> <p>Memberships: NAPARC, WRF, NAE</p>
Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC)	30,555	322	T	C	WS 1789	ESV	<p>A very conservative Reformed denomination. The OPC came into being (as the Presbyterian Church of America) in 1936 as a breakaway from the old northern PCUSA, then changed its name later due to a lawsuit by the parent body.</p> <p>Notables: J.G. Machen+, Greg Bahnsen+, G.I. Williamson, D.G. Hart, John Fesko, Alan Strange, Robert Reymond</p> <p>Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC</p>
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP)	35,472	255	T	C	WS 1903	MIX	<p>The ARP Church is the oldest Presbyterian denomination in America, being formed in 1782 as a merger of Seceder and Covenanter churches. The Associate Reformed Church is solidly conservative, but does <i>allow female deacons</i>.</p> <p>Notables: Billy Graham (raised ARP), Vaughn Hathaway, Sinclair Ferguson, Jay Adams</p> <p>Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC, WRF</p>
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)	6,818	102 (Five in Japan)	P	C	WS 1647, T	MIX	<p>Another very conservative Reformed Church, a successor to the Covenanters. <i>Allows female deacons</i>.</p> <p>Notables: Ray</p>

							<i>Lanning, Frank J. Smith</i> Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC
Korean-American Presbyterian Church (KAPC)	33,000	400+	T	C	WS 1789	UNK	<i>A conservative ethnic Korean body.</i> Memberships: NAPARC
Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS)	4,000+	46	T	C	3FU	KJV/ NKJV	<i>By most authorities the most conservative of significant Reformed denominations. The RCUS is a descendant of the German Reformed Church, most of which is now part of the United Church of Christ.</i> Notables: Phillip Schaff+, C.W. Powell, Robert Grossmann Influence: Hermann Kohlbruegge Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC
Reformed Church of Quebec (ERQ)	Unknown	5	M	C	OTH	MIX	<i>Conservative, evangelical Reformed, ethnic French-Canadian successor to the Huguenots.</i> Creeeds: Westminster Confession, Heidelberg Catechism Memberships: NAPARC, WRF
United Reformed Churches in North America (URCNA)	22,500	112	M	C	3FU	MIX	<i>Formed in 1995, the URCNA is a breakaway from the Christian Reformed Church. This church continues the conservative Continental Reformed tradition of its predecessor.</i> Notables: Michael Horton, Robert Godfrey, Kim Riddlebarger. R. Scott Clark Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC
Free Reformed Churches of North America (FRCNA)	4,500	21	P	C	3FU	KJVS	<i>Conservative denomination, Dutch background, from the Free Reformed Churches of the Netherlands.</i> Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC

Heritage Reformed Churches (HRC)	2,000	9	P	C	3FU	KJVS	<i>Very Conservative, ethnic Dutch background, formerly with the Netherlands Reformed Congregations.</i> Notables: Joel Beeke Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC
Canadian and American Reformed Churches (CanRC)	17,000	55	T	C	3FU	UNK	<i>Conservative, mostly Dutch church based in Canada and the northern United States.</i> Influences: Klaas Schilder Memberships: NAPARC, ICRC
Presbyterian Reformed Church (PRC)	Unknown	6	P	C	WS 1647	KJVS	<i>Breakaway from the Canadian PC, but with congregations in the United States and England as well.</i> Memberships: NAPARC
American Presbyterian Church (APC)	60	2	P	F	WS 1938	KJVS TR-E	<i>Fundamentalist breakaway from the BPC. While the BPC allows freedom on millennial views, the APC requires premillennialism. Also <i>opposed to any use of alcohol as sinful.</i></i> Memberships: NAPARC (Past Observer)
Bible Presbyterian Church (BPC)	10,000	18	T	F	WS 1938	UNK	NAPARC Observer <i>Moderate fundamentalist breakaway from the OPC (1938). Along with conservative Reformed theology, the majority of the BPC advocates historic premillennialism, abstention from alcohol, and a strong separatistic tradition.</i> Notables: Carl McIntire+ Memberships: NAPARC (Observer), ACCC
Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)	140,000	507	M	E	WS 1984	MIX	<i>Evangelical breakaway from the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (1981) The EPC holds to conservative Reformed doctrine, but allows the <i>ordination of women as elders and</i></i>

							<i>deacons and also is more tolerant of semi-Arminian and charismatic views than most others. Many PCUSA churches have jumped to them recently.</i> Notables: Chuck Baynard, Robert Norris, John Wood Memberships: NAPARC (Past Observer), WRF, WCRC
Hungarian Reformed Church in America (HRCA)	6,000	34	T	C	OTH	UNK	Moderately Conservative, ethnic Hungarian. Now a part of the Reformed Church of Hungary. Creds: Heidelberg, 2nd Helvetic Confession Memberships: NAPARC (Past Observer), NCC, WCC
Netherlands Reformed Congregations (NRC)	10,080	26	P	C	3FU	KJVS	Very Conservative, ethnic Dutch; is <i>said to have hyper-Calvinistic tendencies.</i> Memberships: NAPARC (Past Observer)
Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin)	Unknown	Unknown	T	C	WS 1789	UNK	I know they're an ethnic Korean denomination, and are conservative Presbyterian. Nothing else as yet. Memberships: NAPARC (Observer)
Protestant Reformed Churches in America (PRCA)	7,000	31	P	C	3FU	KJVS	A very conservative breakaway from the CRC (1926) that <i>denies the doctrine of common grace and any love of God for nonbelievers (Hoeksemism);</i> also <i>require officers to attend their own Christian schools and forbid homeschooling when one is available.</i>
North American Fellowship of Reformed Churches (NAFRC)	Unknown	17	T	C	3FU	UNK	A Christian Reformed Church breakaway, formerly the Alliance of Reformed Churches.
Association of Ministers of the Reformed Faith (AMRF)	Unknown	Unknown	T	F	UNK	UNK	Apparently Reformed and Fundamentalist. No other information. Memberships: ACCC

Calvin Synod of the United Church of Christ (CS-UCC)	Unk	25	T	C	OTH	UNK	<i>Moderately conservative, ethnic Hungarian synod of the United Church of Christ. Many members of the conservative "Faithful and Welcoming" movement are in this body. Ordain women to the ministry.</i> Creeds: Heidelberg, 2nd Helvetic Confession Memberships: NCC, WCC, WCRC
Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA)	252,000	1,099	M	E	3FU	NIV	<i>An evangelical continental Reformed denomination, somewhat conservative but allows ordination of women and also has a lot of ministers who hold to higher-critical views of the Bible.</i> Notables: Anthony Hoekema+, Jerry Dykstra Memberships: NAE, NAPARC (Expelled), WCRC
Covenant Presbyterian Church (CoPC)	Unknown	18	T	C	WS 1647	UNK	<i>A breakaway from the RPCGA. No Sunday school or youth groups, require educated elders, and practice paedocommunion.</i> Notables: R.C. Sproul, Jr.
Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church (CRPC)	Unknown	4	T	C	WS 1647	KJVS	<i>A recent denomination which mostly broke from the PCA. They are mildly theonomic and strongly Reformed.</i>
Covenanting Association of Reformed Presbyterian Churches (CARPC)	Unknown	3	T	C	WS 3FU	UNK	<i>A small group that holds to the Westminster Standards and to the Three Forms of Unity, centered in California.</i>
Evangelical Assembly of Presbyterian Churches (EAPC)	Unknown	73	C	E	WS 1903, OTH	MIX	<i>This denomination which seems to have Korean connections, but congregations speak English, Korean, Spanish, and various languages. They seem to be broadly evangelical with some Reformed elements, and a number of multi-site congregations.</i>

							<p>Creeds: WS (combination of 1789, 1903, PCUS edition), EAPC Statement of Faith</p> <p>Memberships: NAE, World Evangelical Alliance</p>
ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)	40,000	112	M	E	BOC	MIX	<p>This is a new denomination in process of with drawing from the PC(USA). Abandonment of the supremacy of Scripture and Reformed confessions, especially the ordination of homosexuals in the PC(USA) led them to leave. However, they are fully egalitarian and anti-complementarian, and use the entire PC(USA) Book of Confessions, including the neo-Orthodox Barmen Declaration and Confession of 1967.</p>
Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church (ERPC)	Unknown	6	T	C	WS 1789	ESV	<p>Formed due to perceived apostasy in the PCA and OPC over the perceived acceptance of the Federal Vision theology. Very similar to those of the PCA/OPC, but are aiming to be much more ground-up in church government. (The man behind the ERPC left shortly after because he became a Baptist.)</p>
Faith Presbytery, Bible Presbyterian Church (FPBPC)	Unknown	9	T	F	WS 1938	KJVS	<p>A group from BPC's South Atlantic Presbytery that separated from the BPC in 2008, partly because of BPC relations with the OPC. They are Reformed and fundamentalist.</p>
Federation of Reformed Churches (FoRC)	Unknown	9	T	C	OTH	UNK	<p>Postmillennial, paedo-communion (weekly)</p> <p>Creeds: FRC Distinctives, Others chosen by congregation</p>
Free Presbyterian Church of North America (FPCNA)	Unknown	22	T	F	WS 1647 T	KJVE	<p>A very conservative Reformed church affiliated with the larger</p>

								<i>FPC of Ulster (below), led by Ian Paisley. This church is fundamentalist/separatist (e.g require abstinence from alcohol) and is very adamantly anti-Catholic. They practice both paedobaptism (but only "babes in arms", not minors) and credobaptism (anyone older than an infant has to confess Christ before baptism).</i> Memberships: ACCC
Reformation Presbytery of the Midwest (RPM)	Unknown	3	P	C	WS 1647	KJVS		<i>A former confederate of the RPCGA.</i>
Reformed Congregations of North America (RCNA)	Unknown	4	P	C	3FU	UNK		<i>Another Dutch Reformed-Pietist denomination, connected with C. Steenblok. No website.</i>
Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States (RPCUS)	Unknown	9	T	C	WS 1647	NASB NKJV		<i>A remnant of a breakaway from the PCA (1983), this church is conservative and avows the Christian Reconstructionism of Rushdoony, Bahnsen, and others.</i> Notables: Joe Morecraft, Wayne Rogers
Reformed Presbyterian Church General Assembly (RPCGA)	Unknown	10	T, P	C	WS 1647	MIX		<i>A breakaway from the RPCUS (1990s). Small, mildly theonomic, opposed to incorporation with the government.</i> Notables: Kenneth Talbot, Kenneth Gentry
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Hanover Presbytery (RPCH)	500	8	T, P	C	WS 1647	KJVE		<i>Another breakaway from the RPCUS (1990s). Joined recently by the former American Reformation Presbyterian Church, a PCA breakaway.</i> Notables: Edwin Elliott+, Richard Bacon
Westminster Presbyterian Church in the United States (WPCUS)	Unknown	2	P	C	WS 1647	KJVS		<i>Another Reformed micro-church; by its name obviously very Calvinistic, and also theonomic. Breakaway from the RPCNA and CRPC.</i>

							Notables: Brian Hanley, Brian Schwertley
Reformed Church in America (RCA)	238,493	907	M	E, L	3FU	NRSV	An ecumenical denomination combining somewhat <i>broad evangelical</i> congregations and leadership with <i>liberal positions on women's ordination, scriptural inerrancy & evolution, and some leaders who want them to abandon Biblical sexual ethics also.</i> Notables: Norman Vincent Peale, Robert Schuller Memberships: NAE, NCC, WCC, WCRC
Cumberland Presbyterian Church (CPC)	78,451	740	M	L	OTH	NRSV	An <i>Arminian</i> Presbyterian church (only believes in the fifth point of five) formed during the Second Great Awakening. They are long-time practitioners of <i>women's ordination</i> and permit <i>higher-critical</i> views of the Bible. Creeds: Cumberland Confession of Faith (1984) Memberships: NCC, WCC, WCRC
Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA)	15,000	109	M	L	OTH	NRSV	Another <i>Arminian and somewhat liberal</i> denomination, associated with the former and with the same beliefs. The CPCA was once known as the Colored CPC, and its membership is still mostly black. Creeds: Cumberland Confession of Faith (1984) Memberships: NCC, WCC, WCRC
Upper Cumberland Presbyterian Church (UCPC)	1,000	12	T	F	OTH	KJVE	<i>Arminian</i> conservative breakaway from the CPC. Known for their exclusive use of the KJV and rejection of modernism.

							Creeds: UCPC Statement of Faith (1963)
Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad (KPCA) (Formerly Korean Presbyterian Church in America)	55,000	302	T	L	WS	UNK	<i>Liberal-ecumenical</i> Korean Denomination, affiliated with the Presbyterian Church of Korea. Memberships: NCC, WCC, WCRC
Presbyterian Church (USA) (PCUSA)	1,849,496	10,262	M	L	BOC	NRSV	The largest Reformed Denomination in the U.S., has a <i>strongly liberal leadership and has approved of homosexual marriage and ordination</i> , a few of its churches are solidly Biblical and are fighting this, but most are jumping ship to the EPC, PCA, ECO, or other bodies. Original PCUSA formed in 1789, this one in 1983 with the union of Northern and Southern Churches. You can find everything from traditional to contemporary to postmodern to pagan worship of Sophia if you know where to look. Notables: Jack Rogers, Parker Williamson, Fred "Mister" Rogers+, Lloyd John Ogilvie Memberships: NCC, WCC, WCRC
Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC)	120,000	952	M	L	OTH	NRSV	From what I can tell, pretty much a <i>carbon copy of the PCUSA</i> in terms of theology and practice. Says that a certain Bible is bad because it " <i>claims there are no contradictions in the Bible</i> " (i.e. Biblical inerrancy is not only not mandated, it is fully rejected by the denomination since they know more than God). Even some churches in the "Great White North" need asbestos suits,

							<p>apparently...</p> <p>Creeds: <i>Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief; Catechism For Today</i></p> <p>Memberships: WCC, WCRC</p>
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NON-PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED DENOMINATIONS

Name	Members	Churches	Worship	Theology	Standards	Polity	Notes
<p>Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC)</p> <p>(Formerly <i>Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches</i>)</p>	Unknown	88 (Incl. some outside NA)	L	C	OTH	CONG/ PRES	<p><i>Composed of Presbyterian, and Reformed Baptist churches, presbyteries are advisory rather than hierarchical. They allow believers and infant baptism and communion, depending on what the local church says, Many advocates of the Federal Vision doctrine, which questions justification by faith alone and perseverance of the saints, have come here, though there are said to be some who do not follow this.</i></p> <p>Creeds: <i>Westminster Creed, Evangelical Statment</i></p> <p>Notables: <i>Doug Wilson, James Jordan, Steve Wilkins</i></p>
<p>Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC)</p>	43,000	306	M	E	OTH	CONG	<p><i>One of the successors of the old New England Congregationalists, this denomination is officially modern evangelical but has a large Reformed contingent. Several UCC churches which left that apostate group joined this Biblical church.</i></p> <p><i>Permit but do not mandate women's ordination.</i></p> <p>Memberships: <i>NAE</i></p>
<p>Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches (EARCCC)</p>	Unknown	86	M	E	OTH	CONG	<p><i>A Reformed and evangelical group with current and prior ties to</i></p>

							<i>the United Church of Christ.</i>
Reformed Bible Church (RBC)	Unknown	3	P	C	WS 1647, 3FU	CONG	<i>A distinctly Reformed and theonomic body, governed only by local elders. KJVS, closed communion.</i>
Reformed Congregational Fellowship (RCF)	Unknown	3	T	C	OTH	CONG	<i>Classical Calvinist congregationalists. Creeds: Savoy Declaration, Cambridge Platform</i>
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC)	70,000	386	M	L	OTH	CONG	<i>Well, I guess they're not <u>as</u> bad as the United Church of Christ (below). Good roots, but a number of churches have embraced strong theological liberalism. Very much a mixed bag of very good churches and not so good. Several UCC churches have joined the NACCC recently, and others are members of both groups.</i>
United Church of Christ (UCC)	998,906	5,154	M	L	OTH	CONG	<i>Reformed in name only. This merger of old German Reformed, German Evangelical, Congregationalist, and one Disciples group allows practically any belief by its ministers, including homosexual ordination and marriage. A sad descendant of several historically good churches, though there are a few who have "not knelt the knee to Ba'al." Creed: UCC Statement of Faith (1961) Memberships: NCC, WCC, WCRC</i>
Evangelical Methodist Church of America (EMCA)	Unknown	Unknown	T	F	OTH	CONG	<i>A body of fundamentalist Whitefieldian (Calvinist) Methodists, who line up more with Whitefield and Spurgeon. (Not to be confused with the EMC - without America - which</i>

							is Wesleyan). Membership: ACCC
Anglican Mission in the Americas (AMiA)	Unknown	54	L, C	E	OTH	ANG	<i>Episcopal breakaway that is endorsed by several Anglican bishops from other nations. A number of priests in this church are Reformed in their theology.</i> Creeds: Thirty-Nine Articles Worship: Traditional and contemporary, depending on the church
Reformed Episcopal Church (REC)	14,000	149	L	C	OTH	ANG	An older Calvinist Episcopalian group, formed in opposition to Catholic influences in the Episcopal Church in the 19th century. <i>Has become more high-church and Anglo-Catholic and less Reformed in recent years.</i> As of 2009 is part of the Anglican Church in North America. Creeds: Thirty-Nine Articles
Reformed Anglican Church (RAC) <i>Formerly the Protestant Episcopal Church, US (PECUSA)</i>	Unknown	5	T	C	OTH	ANG	A recent split from the Episcopal Church or one of its successors. Is strongly confessional, evangelical, and Reformed. Thomas Cranmer and King Edward VI would recognize them more than all other Anglican bodies. Creeds: Thirty-Nine Articles
Traditional Reformed Episcopal Church (TREC)	Unknown	1 (5 in the UK)	L	C	OTH	ANG	Split from the REC because of the Anglo-Catholicism growing in the mother body. Associated with the Free Church of England - Evangelical Connexion. Creeds: Thirty-Five REC Articles
Association of Reformed Baptist Churches in America (ARBCA)	Unknown	77	T, C	C	OTH	BAP	A Calvinistic Baptist association of churches formed in the last few

							years to get a more unified witness among Reformed Baptists Creed: Baptist Confession of 1689
Fellowship of Independent Reformed Evangelicals (FIRE)	Unknown	85	T	C	OTH	BAP	Another Calvinistic Baptist association, with churches outside the US. Creeds: Baptist Confessions of 1644, 1689 Notables: Phil Johnson, Curt Daniel
The Founders Online	NA	NA	T	C	OTH	BAP	Not a denomination, but a Calvinist renewal movement in the historically Reformed Southern Baptist Convention
Primitive Baptist Churches (PB.org) (Primitive Baptist Online) (Primitive Baptist Page)	75,000	1000+	T	C	OTH	BAP	Aka Hard-Shell Baptists, the Primitive Baptists are an old grouping of Calvinistic Baptist churches concentrated in the Southern US. In addition to Calvinist view of salvation, they sing only acapella hymns, do not have paid clergy, reject any formal schooling of ministers, celebrate closed communion and foot washing, accept only immersion baptisms from Primitive Baptist sources (so no sprinkling or Southern Baptist dunking), and are KJV-Only .
Every Nation Churches	Unknown	53	C	E	OTH	CHA	Reformed Charismatic denomination. As the name suggests, they have more congregations than this across the globe.
Sovereign Grace Ministries	Unknown	81	C	E	OTH	CHA	Another Reformed Charismatic body. This is best known as the home of C.J. Mahaney and (formerly) of courtship-advocate Joshua Harris, but has come under scrutiny due to

accusations of hiding child molestation among its leaders.

BRITISH PRESBYTERIAN DENOMINATIONS - Scotland (Presbyterians) and England (Puritans) are the founding countries of the Reformed faith in America for the most part, so I've brought in a chart of their church bodies. Some of them also have congregations in the U.S. and Canada.

Name	Members	Churches	Worship	Theology	Standards	Bible Version	Notes
Associated Presbyterian Church of Scotland (APCS)	Unk	21	P	C	WS 1647	KJVS	<i>An ethnic Scottish split-off from the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland over the issue of Christian liberty. (2 in Canada)</i>
Free Church of Scotland (FCS)	5,400	100+	T	C	WS 1647	MIX	<i>An ethnic Scottish denomination, which left the Church of Scotland in 1843. (7 in North America) NA Equivalent: PCA or ARP</i>
Free Church of Scotland, Continuing (FCC)	1,000	39	P	C	WS 1647	KJVS	<i>A split-off from the FCS, with similar beliefs and worship (but still retain EP and no instrumental accompaniment). (6 in North America) NA Equivalent: OPC, PRC</i>
Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland (FPCS)	1,000 - 2,000	41	P	C	WS 1647	KJVE	<i>Another split-off from the FCS, with similar beliefs and worship. Extremely Sabbatarian (to the point of shutting down their website on the Lord's Day), but they have the best print edition of the Westminster Standards to be found. (2 in North America, 13 others outside the UK) NA Equivalent: RPCNA (19th Century)</i>
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland (RPCS)	270	6	P	C	WS 1647	MIX	<i>The remnant of the old Covenanter church in Scotland. The FCS renunciation of Exclusive Psalmody has grown this small body in recent months. NA Equivalent: RPCNA</i>
United Free Church of Scotland (UFCS)	3,200	62	M	E	OTH	MIX	<i>The United Free Church is the remnant of a body that united with the Church of Scotland (1929). They are</i>

								<i>broadly evangelical, permit women's ordination, and have ecumenical fellowship with extremely liberal churches.</i> Creed: Brief Statement of the Church's Faith (1921) NA Equivalent: EPC or ECO
Church of Scotland (Cofs)	489,000	1,200	M	L	WCF	NRSV REB		The mainline Presbyterian Church of John Knox has fallen far since its glory days. <i>They are moving toward the ordination of active homosexuals, bless same sex unions, and long ago abandoned the Reformed faith and life.</i> NA Equivalent: PCUSA
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales (EPCEW)	UNK	16	T	C	WCF 1647	MIX		A growing Presbyterian church re-constituted after the union of the United Reformed Church. They are solidly Biblical and comitted to the Westminster Standards and Biblical inerrancy. NA Equivalent: PCA or OPC
International Presbyterian Church (IPC)	UNK	15	C	E	WCF, TFU	MIX		An evangelical Presbyterian denomination based in Britain but with churches as far away as Korea. They are complemetarian, but seem to have a more "missional" (read: contemporary) view of worship. NA Equivalent: PCA
United Reformed Church in the United Kingdom (URCUK)	90,000	1,700	M	L	OTH	NRSV REB		This is a union of Presbyterian, Congregational, and Church of Christ bodies. They are very <i>ecumenical and liberal, and talk more about "diversity" and "social justice" than the Christian gospel and Biblical truth.</i> NA Equivalent: PCUSA
Eglwys Bresbyteraidd Cymru (Presbyterian Church of Wales) (EBC)	29,000	680	M	M	OTH	MIX		Mainline Welsh church, also known as the Calvinistic Methodist Church. NA Equivalent: Not Sure; ECO or PCUSA perhaps.

Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster (FPCU)	12,000	60	T	F	WCF 1647	KJVE	<i>This church is fundamentalist/separatist (e.g require abstinence from alcohol) and is very adamantly anti-Catholic. They practice both paedobaptism (but only "babes in arms", not minors) and credo-baptism (anyone older than an infant has to confess Christ before baptism). (See above)</i>
Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI)	300,000	550	T	L	OTH	MIX	<i>Standard mainline Presbyterian church - consider homophobia more a problem than homosexual practice. NA Equivalent: PCUSA Creed: Coleraine Declaration</i>
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland (RPCI)	1,952	39	P	C	WCF 1647 T	KJVS	<i>Irish Covenanters, whose beliefs line up with the RPC of Scotland and North America. NA Equivalent: RPCNA</i>
Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland (NSPCI)	4,000	23	M	L	NONE	MIX	<i>Unitarian & Pelagian denomination focusing more on social issues and extreme leftist theology, which abandoned the gospel and the Christian faith long ago; they consider reason equal to Scriptural authority, and refuse any additional "test of faith". NA Equivalent: American Unitarian Conference, Unitarian Universalist Association</i>
Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ireland (EPCI)	UNK	9	T	C	WCF 1647	MIX	<i>Left the PCI in 1927 due to liberal theology. Require annual re-subscription to the Westminster Standards. NA Equivalent: OPC</i>

DEFUNCT REFORMED DENOMINATIONS

	Members	Churches	Worship	Theology	Standards	Notes
Associate Presbyterian Church (APC)	650	4	P	C	WS 1647 T	<i>The Seceder church from old Scotland, led by the Erskines. Strongly Calvinist and Exclusive</i>

						<p><i>Psalmody.</i></p> <p>Union 1: With Reformed Presbytery to form ARPC (1782)</p> <p>Union 2: With (northern) ARPC to form the UPCNA (1858)</p> <p>Union 3: With RPCNA (1969)</p>
Evangelical Presbyterian Church (1961) (EPC)	6,769	169	T	F	WS 1938	<p>The majority of the BPC which was deserted by the current BPC in 1956. The BPC (Columbus Synod) became the EPC in 1961.</p> <p>Notables: J. Oliver Buswell, Francis Schaeffer</p> <p>Union: With RPCGS to form RPCEs (1965).</p>
Evangelical & Reformed Church (E&R)	818,000	2,727	T	L	OTH	<p>Formed by a union of the liberal majority of the RCUS (minus the current RCUS) with the semi-Lutheran Evangelical Synod of North America. Used the Heidelberg Catechism along with Luther's Catechism and the Augsburg confession. Very neo-orthodox.</p> <p>Notables: Reinhold Niehbur, Richard Niehbur, George Richards</p> <p>Union: With the Congregational Christian Church to form the United Church of Christ (1961)</p>
Orthodox Christian Reformed Churches (OCRC)	1,400	5	T	C	3FU	<p>Conservative breakaway from the CRC.</p> <p>Union: With the URCNA in 2008</p>
Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS)	815,000	4,250	T	C, L	WS 1903	<p>This had been the old "Southern" Presbyterian Church, formed as the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate State in America (PCCSA) in 1861. Was conservative until the 1950s and 1960s, when liberalism took control. The PCA left the PCUS in 1973.</p> <p>Notables: James Henley Thornwell, R.L. Dabney, L. Nelson Bell, Ernest Trice Thompson</p> <p>Union: With the UPCUSA to form the PC(USA) in 1983</p>
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA)	2,775,000	8,351	T	C, L	WS 1903	<p>This had been the old "Northern" Presbyterian Church, founded in 1789. It was a solid Reformed body until the 1920s when it began to openly tolerate liberalism and modernism, then censured those who opposed them (e.g. J. Gresham Machen). It joined the UPCNA in 1958.</p> <p>Notables: Archibald Alexander,</p>

						Charles Hodge, A.A. Hodge, B.B. Warfield, Charles Erdman Union: United with the UPCNA to form the UPCUSA in 1958.
Providence National Presbytery (PNP)	Unknown	3	L	C	WS 1647	Distinctive of this church is their belief in paedocommunion . Creeds: WS Worship: Traditional hymns and Psalms Union: Apparently joined the CREC
United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA)	2,350,000	8,975	T	L	BOC	The Northern Church formed by the union of the original PCUSA and the UPCNA church in 1958. Carried into liberalism by the old Northern Church. Union: United with the PCUS to form the PC(USA) in 1983
Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States and Canada (RPCUSC)	440	1	P	C	WS 1647, T	Broke from the RPCGS in 1883 due to a church discipline issue, but rejoined around 1910. Union: With RPCGs after 1906.
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod (RPCGS)	2,403	21	P, T	C	WS 1647, T	Broke from the RPCNA in 1833 because that church had forbidden members to vote or hold office, while the RPCGS supported this. Drifted from Covenanter distinctives and joined with the (old) Evangelical Presbyterian Church in 1965. Notables: Gordon H. Clark Union: With EPC (1961) to form the RPCES
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod (RPCES)	20,000	154	T	C	WS 1789	Formed in 1965 with the union of the EPC (of 1961) with the RPCGS. Broadly evangelical with Reformed streak. Notables: Gordon H. Clark, Francis Schaeffer Union: With the PCA in 1983.
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Covenanted (RPCC)	17 (1906)	4 (1883) 1 (1906)	P	C	WS 1647, T	A breakaway from the RPCNA (1840), held to an extreme view of Exclusive Psalmody, saying that those who use hymns and don't sing via lining are idolaters. They refused fellowship, not only with hymn-singers, but even Psalm-singers who didn't line the Psalms, use the Directory for Publick Worship (1646) or covenant. The site today seems to promote the writings of the Covenanters, the Reformers, and David Steele without organizing an actual

						congregation or church court. Dissolved: Presbytery in 1887, Last church after 1906
Reformed Presbytery of North America, General Meeting (RPNA-GM)	95	2	P	C	WS+ 1647	Another modern successor to the RPCC (see below), holding to most of the same views. Their members were very active on the net despite the church's small size. Require total doctrinal conformity for fellowship, including the idea that all Biblically constituted churches must accept the Bible, but also the Westminster Standards, Solemn League and Covenant, National Covenant, and the Directory of Publick Worship. The website is active but the church fell apart and no longer exists. Notables: Greg L. Price, Still Waters Revival Books
United Presbyterian Church of North America (UPCNA)	258,000	839	P, T	C	WS 1647, T	A merger of the Associate and northern Associate Reformed Churches (1858), this was a conservative Reformed witness until its union with the northern PCUSA in 1958 and it lost its distinctives. Notables: John Gerstner, Gordon H. Clark Union: United with the PCUSA to form the UPCUSA in 1958.
Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church (WCMC)	14,566	135	T	C	OTH	Established by the Calvinistic Methodist Church in Wales, founded by the followers of George Whitefield. Government and theology was Presbyterian. Union: United with the PCUSA in 1920.

Sources, other websites:

- 1) [Adherents.com](#)
- 2) Melton, J.G. *Encyclopedia of American Religions*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 2003.
- 3) Mead, F. and Hill, S. *Handbook of Denominations in the United States*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1985 (8th Ed)
- 4) [BJ Mora's site on Reformed Denominations](#) - Another individual Reformed believer and well-done site
- 5) [Grace Alone's site](#) - Brian Hanley's thorough site about Presbyterian Churches; don't miss it!
- 6) [Association of Religion Data Archives](#) - Has taken off where Adherents stopped

If anyone has any further or updated info I can't find, email me [here \(rmv NOSPAM\)](#). I've tried to correct my errors, but I'm sure I still have some work to do. Help me out, guys!

Last update: 15 February 2014