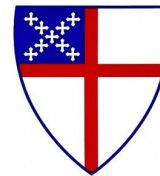


Why Denominations No Longer Matter to Most Folks Now

- Two+ generations of intermarriage
- Older generation: tired of fault-finding and hostility
- Younger generation: diversity and inclusivity
- Inter-denominational cooperation in politics, social ministry
- Alliance in response to encroaching secularism
- consumerism and church shopping
- cross-pollination (and cross-confusion) among denominational themes and theological traditions due largely to Christian bookstores, Christian radio, and the Internet
- _____



The Point: Our instruction does not require expertise in all the theological fine points of every church movement. Today, teaching oriented to a particular spiritual tradition does include both a sensitivity to other traditions and being informed and conversant in the basic orientations of those denominations and traditions.

We also need to be conversant in the prevailing secular themes and the interests of those with no religious persuasion.

If this seems like work, compare the genuine expertise present in the room in such interests as athletics, politics, finances, etc. We pursue and learn what is important to us.