

A Health Sciences'

MULTIFAITH GUIDE

Spiritual and Religious Care Department
Niagara Health System - Welland Hospital Site

This package was first produced by *Kris Bouck & Bob Bond*, Welland County General Hospital, in 1993. Information for the profiles was obtained from the Ontario Interfaith Guide-1986, the Multifaith Information Package-1991, by personal interviews, and literary research.

In 1994, the Guide was revised by *Lee Barnai & Bob Bond*, Welland County General Hospital, incorporating "feedback" from the first edition, and working toward a more user-friendly format. Additional research was conducted as well, and the accuracy of the contents was verified by district/provincial/ national offices of all co-operating Faith Groups covered by this Guide.

On-going feedback from users, and contributions from the Faith Communities themselves, culminated in a 1996 edition by *Bob Bond*.

If, during your use, you notice any corrections or additions which you believe are pertinent, please feel free to write to:

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USER'S KEY

Each faith group is presented using the following format. *Please note that, throughout, blank fields in this guide mean that no corresponding restrictions or special requirements have been identified.*

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY	AUTOPSY
CHILD BIRTH	BODY HANDLING
MEDICAL/SURGICAL	BURIAL
DIET	CREMATION
OTHER/MISC.	EMBALMING
	rites
	SPECIAL NOTES

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
SCRIPTURE	

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AMISH

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Oppose the use of intoxicants and drugs (including tobacco).</p> <p>DIET * Oppose the consumption of intoxicants. * Caution against eating of blood foods.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* All believers are priests; they do not elevate their ministers to priestly status. * Live in communities. * Reject modernization. * Worship in homes. * No one from within their community should talk about God or pray publicly. * Require contracts and covenants to be put in writing. * Disputes must be settled within the community and before breaking the evening bread together. * No Sacraments. * The love feast and washing of feet are held as ordinances. * No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism. * Married men wear beards with no moustaches. * Strictly against any form of producing graven images of oneself, including photography.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Use the Bible and the Ausband. * Literal biblical interpretation.</p>	<p>* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship</p> <p>*** Participation in each of the following is not yet confirmed by the Amish community ***</p> <p>-Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent -Lent: Fasting -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Reformation Sunday -All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs.</p>

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ASSOCIATED GOSPEL

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p> <p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion allowed only if the physical life of the mother is threatened.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Adult and youth believer's Baptism by immersion; is not necessary for salvation.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Use of prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands for healing purposes.</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p> <p>BURIAL * Burial of the dead is preferred.</p> <p>CREMATION * Cremation is acceptable.</p>
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<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p> <p>* Strongly evangelistic. * No infant Baptism. Adult and youth believer's Baptism by immersion; is not necessary for salvation. * Communion is practiced monthly; is not a Sacrament.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments. * No creeds.</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p> <p>* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent -Lent: Fasting -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church</p>
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BAHA'I

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Sterilization is prohibited.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Drugs or alcohol may be taken when prescribed by a doctor; otherwise, abstinence from alcohol and mind-altering drugs.</p> <p>DIET * Consumption of alcohol and use of mind-altering drugs is prohibited unless prescribed by a doctor. * Fasting and prayer usually performed in conjunction with medical techniques. * Annual period of fasting: sunrise to sunset Mar 2-20.</p>	<p>BODY HANDLING * The body should be treated with respect and dignity before and after death. * The body should remain within one hour's distance of the death site.</p> <p>BURIAL * Recommended.</p> <p>CREMATION * Not recommended.</p> <p>EMBALMING * Should only be done when it is required by law.</p> <p>RITEs * For persons over 15 years, the Prayer of the Dead is to be recited at the burial.</p> <p>SPECIAL NOTES * The soul leaves the body upon death. * The chaplain or charge nurse should notify the nearest Spiritual Assembly before proceeding with any arrangements.</p>

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BAHA'I

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Founded by Baha'u'llah* Worship of one God* Belief in oneness of God, the oneness of religion, and the oneness of humanity* All great religions and prophets are divine in origin* Strongly against prejudice in race, religion, and gender* There is harmony between religious and scientific truth* Desire to eliminate extreme wealth and poverty* Begging is forbidden.* Seek chastity before, and fidelity within marriage* Each individual is responsible for her/his own search for truth* There is no church-style setting. Feasts and gatherings are often held in homes, a rented hall or Baha'i centre.* Local Spiritual Assemblies are formed from nine elected members <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Works by Bab, Baha'u'llah and 'Abdu'l-Baha.* Works by Shoghi Effendi are authoritative but not sacred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Daily prayers and readings of Scripture and sacred writings, carried out by the individual believer.* The Baha'i holy days are as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ridvan: Baha'u'llah declared his mission (1863)-Declaration of the Bab: Announcement of new faith (1844)-Ascension of Baha'u'llah: Anniversary of death (1892)-Martyrdom of Bab: Anniversary of execution (1844)-Birth of Bab (1819)-Birth of Baha'u'llah (1817)-Naw Ruz: New Year-Day of Covenant: celebration of 'Abdu'l-Baha's Appointment-Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha: Anniversary of death (1921)-Intercalary Days-The Baha'i Fast

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BAPTIST

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Many would oppose abortion.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism by immersion. Baptism is not required for salvation.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * A small minority may resist medical treatment.</p> <p>DIET * Many would abstain from alcohol.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Use of prayer and (for some) Laying on of Hands for healing purposes.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Tolerance and liberty towards ideas and beliefs.</p> <p>* No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism by immersion. Baptism is not required for salvation.</p> <p>* Communion is practiced monthly; is not a Sacrament.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>* No creeds.</p> <p>* Freedom of interpretation.</p>	<p>* Follow these standard Christian holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection

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BRETHREN ASSEMBLIES

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p> <p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion only if the physical life of the mother is threatened.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Adult and youth believer's Baptism by immersion. Baptism not necessary for salvation.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Use of prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands for healing purposes.</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p> <p>BURIAL * Burial of the dead is preferred.</p> <p>CREMATION * Cremation is acceptable.</p>
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<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p> <p>* Evangelistic.</p> <p>* No infant Baptism. Adult and youth believer's Baptism by immersion. Baptism not necessary for salvation.</p> <p>* Communion is practiced weekly; is not a Sacrament.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>* No creeds.</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p> <p>* Follow these standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Christmas -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection</p>
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BRETHREN IN CHRIST

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion allowed only if the physical life of the mother is threatened.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism by immersion.</p> <p>DIET * Total abstinence from alcohol and tobacco.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands are all used for healing purposes.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism by immersion. It is an ordinance, not a Sacrament.</p> <p>* Communion is practiced and includes foot washing and the love feast. It is an ordinance, not a Sacrament.</p> <p>* Prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands are all used for healing purposes.</p> <p>* Strive for a simple life and attempt to avoid luxury.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments.</p> <p>* No creeds.</p>	<p>* Follow these standard Christian holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church

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BUDDHISM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion allowed for therapeutic reasons.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Persons may be reluctant to use medication or medical techniques, preferring the body's self-healing capabilities if possible. This is especially significant on religious holidays.</p> <p>DIET * There is strong encouragement for vegetarianism. * The use of intoxicants is discouraged.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Meditation is used to relax mind and body, which in turn may aid in healing. Privacy is required for this.</p>	<p>BODY HANDLING * After death, the body is to be washed by a designated member of the Buddhist community.</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">CREMATION</p> <p>* The body is to be cremated.</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">RITES</p> <p>* Loved ones may conduct Last Rite Chanting at the bedside. * A person may choose to transfer merit to the deceased.</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <p style="text-align: right;">SPECIAL</p> <p>NOTES * Dying individual may wish to be left alone to meditate. * Death reflects the lack of permanence and the constant possibility for change. * For cultural variations please contact the appropriate temple.</p>

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BUDDHISM

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* There is no belief in a soul or a god</p> <p>* One is continually reborn until enlightenment is reached. This is obtained by following Buddha and gaining a Buddha nature. (Buddha means "the Awakened One".)</p> <p>* Adherents aim for a lifestyle that is mid-way between the extremes of asceticism and self indulgence.</p> <p>* The schools of Buddhism are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theravada: Oldest form - Mahayana: Most common form in Canada. Two major sub-groups: Zen and Tibetan <p>* There are Four Noble Truths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suffering is universal - Selfish desire leads to suffering - Suffering can be relieved - Suffering is relieved by the 8-fold path <p>* The Eight-fold Path:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Right Views - Right Intent - Right Speech - Right Conduct - Right Livelihood - Right Effort - Right Mindfulness - Right Concentration <p>* There are Five Moral Precepts. Adherents undertake to train themselves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not to kill - not to use wrongful speech (i.e. lie) - not to take what has not been given - not to engage in sexual misconduct - not to place oneself under the influence of alcohol or drugs <p>* There are four recognized segments of society: monks, nuns, laymen, laywomen.</p> <p>* There are ordained Sangha leaders, and lay leaders (each temple is different)</p> <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Tipitaka * The Dhammapada * Diamond Sutra (Mahayana) * Good Fortune Sutra (Theravada) * writings by other teachers Top 	<p>* Daily meditation and prayer in front of a Butsudan (altar with Buddha statue, incense, flowers, candles, fruits {oranges}, Buddhist Rosary of 108 beads, and table cloth)</p> <p>* Ceremonies vary with sect although some major days are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -St. Shinran Memorial Day: Remembrance of Shinran -Nirvana Day: Buddha's final enlightenment -Buddha Day: Buddha's birthday -St. Shinran's Birthday -Obon Service: Ancestors Day -BCC Day: Buddhist Churches of Canada Day -Bodhi Day: Concentration on enlightenment

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
	BURIAL/CREMATION * Earth burial is most commonly used by Christadelphians, but cremation is chosen by some. (It is an individual choice of preference.) rites * A funeral or memorial service is usually conducted by one of the brethren.

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CHRISTADELPHIAN

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Founded by John Thomas (1805-1871).</p> <p>* Strict monotheists: there is one God, the Father, who created the world and has purpose for it.</p> <p>* The Holy Spirit is God's own power, by which He works out His will.</p> <p>* Jesus is the Son of God; also son of man born of the virgin Mary. Jesus overcame all temptation and died to save his followers from sin and death. God raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus ascended to heaven, but he will return, and will raise & judge the responsible dead, rewarding immortality to the faithful. Jesus will be King over the restored Kingdom of God in Israel, and over the whole world.</p> <p>* The devil is not a supernatural being but is another name for sin, destroyed only in Jesus.</p> <p>* Salvation involves (1) covering from sin through Christ, and (2) freedom from sin and death at his second coming. Repentance and baptism into Christ (adult immersion) are necessary for ultimate salvation; so is the following of Christ in one's daily life.</p> <p>* When man dies he ceases to exist ... there is no further conscious existence. Resurrection of the faithful, at Christ's return, is the only hope for new life.</p> <p>* Each assembly (congregation) is autonomous. The assembly is a lay community whose leadership is elected or appointed to serve, without remuneration.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <p>* The Holy Bible (any reliable translation) - this is the only true message from God, and is entirely given by Him.</p>	<p>* Sunday is the weekly meeting for the purpose of worship, exhortation, and the Memorial Service (sharing of bread and wine in memory of Jesus Christ). Also held are Sunday School Classes for children and adults.</p> <p>* Mid-week Bible Study Classes are offered for further advancement of scriptural knowledge.</p> <p>* Public Lectures are held regularly for the proclamation of the Gospel message.</p> <p>* Christadelphian Youth Circle - a Bible Study, recreation and social activity for young people.</p>

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CHRISTIAN REFORMED

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion only if the life of the mother is at risk.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * Infant Baptism by sprinkling is a Sacrament, performed only by ordained clergy. It is not necessary for salvation.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Use of prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands is practiced by some members of the clergy, in some congregations, for healing purposes.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Infant Baptism by sprinkling is a Sacrament, but is not necessary for salvation.</p> <p>* Communion, practiced at different intervals by different congregations, is a Sacrament.</p> <p>* Use of prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands for healing purposes.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments are considered the inspired Word of God, sufficient for life and salvation.</p> <p>* Use of Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds.</p> <p>* Confessions: -Heidelberg Catechism -Canons of Dort -Belgic Confession</p>	<p>* Follow mostly the standard Christian holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Old Year's Eve -New Year's Morning -Prayer Day (a Wednesday in March) -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Thanksgiving Day -Reformation Sunday

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Decline any diagnostic procedures (eg. biopsies) or medical treatments (eg. medications, blood transfusions) * Decline immunization/vaccines unless required by law. * Reject precautionary measures such as quarantine. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, coffee, and drugs. <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Healing comes through faith in God alone.	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Matter and evil are illusionary and do not exist.* Spirit is real and exists for eternity.* Man is really sinless and free.* Sickness, accident, and death only seem to be real; so healing is spiritual renewal. No medical interventions are allowed, only trust in God and realization of divine truth.* Weekly services led by lay persons.* Importance is placed on thanksgiving celebration. <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Use of the Bible, with "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" as an aid.	

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**CHURCH OF CHRIST;
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES/CHURCHES OF CHRIST;
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Youth and adult believer's Baptism by immersion.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Use of prayer; individuals may request anointing of oil, and Laying on of Hands for healing purposes.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Weekly Communion.</p> <p>* No infant Baptism. Youth and adult believer's Baptism by immersion.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * New Testament community; use Old and New Testaments.</p>	<p>* Follow these standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Christmas -Easter</p>

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CHURCH OF GOD

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Tend toward in vitro fertilization between husband and wife only. * Tend towards a pro-life stance. CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Youth and adult believer's Baptism by immersion. MEDICAL/SURGICAL * A conservative minority have prohibitions with respect to medical treatment. * Oppose active euthanasia. OTHER/MISC. * Tend toward passive euthanasia. * Use of prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands for healing purposes.	SPECIAL NOTES * Death is a place/time of rest/non-existence, and eternal life begins in the resurrection at the second coming of Christ.

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* No infant Baptism. Youth and adult believer's Baptism by immersion. * The Son is divine but not deity. The Son is less than God the Father. * The Spirit is the divine presence of God or Son in the world. SCRIPTURE * Use the Old and New Testaments; the Bible is God inspired.	* Follow these standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Christmas -Good Friday -Easter

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DOUKHOBOUR

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
DIET * Do not eat meat and abstain from tobacco and alcohol.	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* Try to lead a Christ-like existence. SCRIPTURE * Scripture is the Book of Life, composed of Psalms.	* Every day is holy and special, there are no special holidays.

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HARE KRISHNA

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Drugs and intoxicants are forbidden. DIET * Hare Krishna's follow a vegetarian diet. * Intoxicants are forbidden. * Garlic and onions are seen as intoxicants, so are forbidden.	CREMATION * The body is to be cremated.

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* Belief in one God with many forms * Belief in reincarnation * Bhanti Yoga is practiced as a way to enhance spirituality * Mantras or chants are regularly practiced * The four main abstinences are gambling, intoxicants, meat, and illicit sex * Pujari are the priests and Gurus are the teachers * There are three stages to life for the lay person: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Single life- Married life- World renouncement * Common mode of apparel for men is that of a loose shirt with a skirt-like Dhoti * Women will commonly wear a Sari * Beads are worn as a symbol of devotion to Krishna while shaved heads show a rejection of vanity SCRIPTURE * The Vedas	* Although every day is holy, group gatherings are commonly held on Sunday * Fire Ceremonies are held on Honour Days which celebrate events such as weddings, deaths, memorial

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HINDUISM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>CHILD BIRTH * A Hindu child is named in a ceremony performed by a priest on the 10th or 11th day after birth. * For the Mundan (first haircut), the head of the infant is completely shaved.</p> <p>DIET * Foods which must not be consumed are beef, pork, and eggs, and these should not be cooked with non-restricted foods. * "Dedicated food", which will vary with each individual Hindu, is forbidden for consumption. (i.e. one must inquire of the individual.) * Often complete vegetarianism is favoured. Killing of living things is not encouraged.</p>	<p>AUTOPSY * Autopsy is frowned upon.</p> <p>BODY HANDLING - see RITES</p> <p>BURIAL * Only children less than two years old are usually buried.</p> <p>CREMATION * The body is to be cremated on the same day as death.</p> <p>EMBALMING * Embalming is prohibited.</p> <p>RITEs * Home is the preferred area for death. * The dying person should be placed as close to the ground as possible. * Immediately before death, confining objects such as belts, rings, and necklaces should be removed. * Gita recitation is to be performed. * After death the priest will fill the corpse's mouth with water and may bless the body by tying a string around the neck or wrist. * The body is washed by the family. * Funeral arrangements are to be made by the eldest son. * The body should not be left alone before cremation. Cremation is to take place the same day as the death. * There are no rituals for the death of children under two years of age. * The mourning period lasts two weeks, ending with a worship event.</p>

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HINDUISM

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* There are many pathways to God and all are acceptable* Forced conversions are unnecessary* Belief in reincarnation and transmigration* Respect is held for all living creatures* There is but one central God who manifests itself in numerous forms* Boys of priestly lineage are initiated at age 15* Marriage is considered Holy and a step towards one's spiritual perfection <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* There are several different sacred writings used by the Hindus; these include the Vedas, Upanishads, the Gita, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, the Puranas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Worship occurs in both the temple and the home* Worship must be performed barefoot* The major Holy Days are as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Tarpan: Obligations to forefathers, on the fortnight during the waning moon-Makar Sankranti/Pongal: Celebration of Spring-Shivaratri: Celebration for Lord Siva-Holi: Celebrates triumph of good over evil-Ram Navami: Birthday of Lord Rama-Raksha Bandham: Hindu Sister's Day-Janmashtami: Birthday of Lord Krishna-Ganesh Chaturthi: Celebration for Lord Ganesh-Navaratri: Nine day festival-Dussera/Vijaya Dashami: Death of Demon Ravana-Deepavali: Festival of light-Bhratri Dvitiya: Hindu Brother's Day

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ISLAM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Abortion is forbidden. * Birth control is usually accepted with physicians advice. * Sterility tests are accepted, and artificial insemination is allowed from husband to wife. <p>CHILD BIRTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * If the husband cannot be present, a female relative or friend should be allowed to be present. * Pads that are used should be cotton. * Newborn babies are immediately washed in flowing water, followed by a call to prayer and a notice that prayer is to commence in the baby's ear. * The placenta is to be burned. * First Feeding: Elderly or pious person gives the child a small amount of food. * By 7 days the child is named, the head is shaved, and oil with saffron is applied. By 21 days the male child is circumcised. <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Intoxicants can be used if prescribed. * Object to organ retrieval and transplant. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Pork is forbidden. * Abstain from alcohol and consumption of blood. (Intoxicants can be used if prescribed). * Fish with fins and scales are permitted. * Meat allowed if the killing is performed properly (the name of Allah is spoken and the throat is slit). <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Women should be treated by females, or have a female present. * During the examination of females, privacy should be observed. Only the required parts of the body are to be exposed. * Only women can share a hospital room or ward with other women. * Running water available after toiletry, and a ritual bath following menstruation. * Older males have difficulty with women in authority (eg. female doctors, nurses, technicians). 	<p>AUTOPSY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Object to autopsy. <p>BODY HANDLING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Object to organ retrieval. * Body to be buried ASAP. <p>BURIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Fetuses that abort naturally are to be buried. * Body is to be buried without coffin ASAP. <p>CREMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Cremation not permitted. <p>rites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Confession and forgiveness of sin is important prior to death. * In terminal illness the Imam (religious leader) can be called (first consult the family). * At death, ceremony of final prayers, and washing the body. <p>SPECIAL NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Judgement Day is the beginning of eternal life.

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ISLAM

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Creed: There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet</p> <p>* "Islam" means "Peace"</p> <p>* The Five Pillars of Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Daily recital of creed -Prayer, offered five times daily -Almsgiving -Fasting from dawn to dusk in the month of Ramadhan -Pilgrimage to Mecca once in one's life <p>* Worship may take place in any clean location using a prayer rug or clean cloth</p> <p>* Ablution (cleansing with running water) is a prerequisite to worship</p> <p>* Community of believers are all those who revere Allah, his prophet, the Quran, and the Day of Judgement (the beginning of eternal life)</p> <p>* Ideal of democracy and universal brotherhood without discrimination</p> <p>* There are several different Sects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Shi'ites: Line of succession through the family of Muhammad -Sunni: Line of succession through the followers of Muhammad -Sufis: A spiritual order of Muslims -Ahmadiyya Movement: A recent group who believe that the modern-age prophet has arrived by the name of Hazart Ahmad <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <p>* The Quran: The word of God revealed to Muhammad through the Angel Gabriel</p> <p>* The Hadith: Recordings of the teachings, sayings, and actions of the Prophet Muhammad</p>	<p>* Friday is the day of worship and prayer at the mosque</p> <p>* Ramadhan is the month of Fasting</p> <p>* Feasts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Id al-Adhia: Feast commemorating the intended sacrifice of Abraham's son -The Day of Hijrat: Marks Muhammad's emigrations to Medina from Mecca -Mawlid an-Nabi: The birthday of Muhammad -Lailat al-Qadr: Celebrates the night Muhammad first received Allah's message from the angel Gabriel -Celebration of Creation: Sunni's only celebrate this day

JAINISM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>CHILD BIRTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A newborn is to be bathed and the mouth washed with wool dipped in sugar cane, water, and butter. * The exact moment of birth is to be recorded for future religious rites. * The child is named on the 12th day. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strict vegetarian, with dairy products allowed. * Please see also food under DEATH AND BURIAL - RITES. 	<p>BODY HANDLING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * At death, the floor is sprinkled with cow dung and the body is moved from the bed to the floor. <p>CREMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The body is to be cremated. <p>RITES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * When person is dying, the relatives will summon a monk or nun to preach to the patient. * When near death, the patient may refuse food. * The relatives may weep as loudly as possible to announce the death to others.

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Belief in reincarnation, nirvana, and the transmigration of souls * Jinas are enlightened men who have defeated the cycles of life * Commonly, spiritual dress is of loose clothing with Indian style garb at ceremonies * Jainism is based on Four Pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ahimsa (non-violence) -Anekantavada (relativity) -Aparigraha (non-acquisition) -Karma (deeds) * Accumulated Karma affects one's future lives * Community is referred to as the Sangha, and is comprised of lay men and women, monks and nuns * Complete respect for other forms of life * Worship commonly takes place in Jainist temples * Three forms of rituals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Samayika: Prayer, meditation, readings -Pratikraman: Prayer, meditation, readings -Snatra: Worship involving Jina idols <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Numerous Holy Books and Sutras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Major Holy Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tapa-Kalyanka: The birthday of the 1st Jina -Mahavir Jayanti: Birthday of the 24th Jina -Moksha-Saptami: Celebration of the 23rd Jina -Paryushana Parva: An eight day festival the last day being Samvatsari the Holiest day of the year -Ananta-Chaturthi: Last day of the Dasalaksani Parva -Mahavir Nirvana: Celebration of Lord Mahavir's salvation

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JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Artificial insemination, other than between a husband and wife, is not acceptable.* Sterilization is forbidden unless for serious health risks.* Birth control is allowable except when the device allows conception before termination.* Abortion is forbidden unless the mother's health is at risk. <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Organ donation and transplant are the patient's decision.* Transfusions of whole blood, packed RBC's, plasma, WBC and platelets are objected to.* Fractions such as albumin, immunoglobulins and hemophiliac preparations are left to the patient's discretion.* There is no official objection to the use of a closed blood circuit that is constantly linked to the patient's circulatory system, where there is no storage of the patient's blood and no blood prime is used.* Use of vaccinations and serums are a matter of individual choice.* Euthanasia is allowed if patient's death is inevitable and immanent, though the right to life or death is left to the individual's conscience.* <i>For more detailed information, contact your area "Hospital Liaison Committee". (In Welland, call Robert Dobbins [905]735-8568.)</i> <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Avoid food which contains blood. <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Faith healing is not practiced.	<p>AUTOPSY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Autopsy is allowed if required by law, however, no organs are to be removed. (As well, the appropriate relative(s) can decide if a limited autopsy is advisable in order to determine the cause of death.) <p>BURIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The burial of a fetus is a personal decision to be made by the mother or parents.

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JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Jehovah is the one true God, the Creator.* Jesus Christ is the only-begotten Son of God, the only one created directly by God himself.* Satan is the ruler of the world.* Only 144,000 people will go to heaven; others who have God's approval will live forever on earth.* Hell is humankind's common grave, not a place of eternal torment; the dead are conscious of nothing.* Leadership: Men are selected as elders or overseers of each congregation.* Baptism, by immersion, for all believers (individuals old enough to make personal decision and commitment).* Kingdom: God's Kingdom, under Christ, will replace all human governments and will become the one government over all humankind. <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Bible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Meetings three times a week in a Kingdom Hall:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Public Meeting and Watchtower Study</i>: presentation on a current-needs topic; questions-and-answers on Bible subjects- <i>Congregation Book Study</i>: a systematic discussion of religion's role in life- <i>Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting</i>: Speaking course featuring Bible teachings and knowledge.* Assemblies and Conventions: These larger gatherings are held three times a year, and are open to the public.* Jehovah's Witnesses celebrate the Memorial of Christ's sacrificial death on the date Nisan 14 of the first century Jewish calendar (i.e. 15 days after the new moon nearest the spring equinox).* Do not celebrate the holidays of the mainline Christian calendar; also do not celebrate birthdays; wedding anniversaries may be commemorated in a modest fashion.

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JUDAISM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Artificial insemination is acceptable between husband and wife. * Birth control is allowable when necessary for medical reasons. * Sterilization is forbidden unless for serious health risks. * Abortion is forbidden unless mother's health is at risk. Fetuses are to be buried. <p>CHILD BIRTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Circumcision is performed on male children eight days after birth. <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Limb amputation acceptable <i>with amputated members being buried.</i> * Organ donations and transplants should be discussed between religious leader and the patient. * Euthanasia is not allowed. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Only "Kosher" food is eaten, "kosher" meaning fit for consumption. * In strict Judaism, the priest must inspect and bless the foodstuff before it is deemed Kosher. * Kosher: fresh fruit, raw vegetables, cows, sheep, goats, tuna, salmon, carp, trout, bass, pickerel, chicken, goose, duck, eggs. * Non-Kosher: pigs, rabbit, lobster, shrimp, crab, squid, frog, turtle, catfish, quail. * Meat and dairy products must not be eaten at same meal together. <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Recovery prayers for the sick are practiced. 	<p>AUTOPSY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No autopsy unless ordered by a coroner and/or after consultation with the Rabbi; however, no organs are to be removed. <p>BODY HANDLING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Organ donation should be discussed with the Rabbi. * Body is not to be left unattended after death and is to be washed by religious members at the funeral home. <p>BURIAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Body is to be buried, not cremated, within 24-48 hours. * Aborted fetuses are to be buried. <p>CREMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Is not permitted. <p>rites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * When death is immanent, the patient should not be left alone and the family should summon a Rabbi who will then perform prayers for the patient. <p>SPECIAL NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Euthanasia is not allowed. * There is a seven day period of visitation mourning, followed by thirty days of social withdrawal, and a year of official mourning.

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JUDAISM

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Worship occurs in the Synagogue* The Rabbi is the religious leader within the community* Four major divisions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Orthodox-Conservative-Reform-Reconstructionist* Daily prayers recited at morning, afternoon and evening* Circumcision, symbolizing commitment to the faith of Israel, is performed on male children eight days after birth* Bar Mitzvah for 13 year old male symbolizes age of responsibility* Bat Mitzvah for 13 year old females of Reform and Conservative divisions <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Torah, which is the Five Books of Moses* The Talmud is the series of works which outline and interpret the Torah.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Sabbath or Holy Day is a time of rest. Worship in a Synagogue, begins at 18 minutes before sunset Friday and lasts to 42 minutes after sunset Saturday* Special Religious Days are as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rosh Hashanah (Celebration of New Year): God judges what will befall each person-Ten Days of Repentance: Reflection and repentance, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur-Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement): Fasting and asking for forgiveness-Sukkoth (Feast of Tabernacles): Nine day harvest festival includes Hoshana Rabba, Shemini Atzereth and the Simhat Torah-Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication): Commemorates Jewish battle against Syrian-Greek overlords-Purim (Feast of Lots): Celebrates rescue of Jews of the Persian Empire-Pesach (Passover): Celebrates the exodus of the Hebrews from Egypt-Shavuoth (Giving of the Commandments)

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LUTHERAN

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p>
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion only in cases of incest, rape, or if the mother is at risk.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * Infant or adult Baptism.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Oppose active euthanasia.</p>	<p>RITES * Some clergy perform Anointing and Blessing of the Sick for near death patients.</p>

<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p>
<p>* High ethics without emphasis on rules and regulations. * Sacraments: -Weekly or monthly Communion. -Infant or adult Baptism. * Some clergy perform Anointing and Blessing of the Sick for near death patients.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments; the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God. * Use of the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. * Confessions: -Augsburg Confession -The Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther</p>	<p>* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent -Lent: Fasting -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Reformation Sunday -All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs.</p>

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MENNONITE

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion only if the physical life of the mother is at risk.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * Reject infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism usually by affusion and sometimes by immersion.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands are all used for healing purposes.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Infant Baptism rejected. Adult believer's Baptism by affusion and sometimes immersion. * Baptism and Communion are practiced, but not considered to be Sacraments. * Prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands are all used for healing purposes. * Foot washing is observed as a sign of true humiliation and of the purification of the soul. * Obedient to only those civil laws which do not militate against the Law, will, and commandments of God.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments.</p>	<p>* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent -Lent -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Reformation Sunday -All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs.</p>

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MENNONITE (OLD ORDER)

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>CHILD BIRTH * Reject infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism usually by affusion and sometimes by immersion.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Are against personality altering medications.</p> <p>DIET * Caution against eating of blood foods.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * The sick may request prayers and anointing with oil.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Adult believer's Baptism usually by affusion and sometimes by immersion. * Neither Baptism nor Communion are considered to be Sacraments. * Communion held during worship and is normally served several times a year. * Foot washing is observed as a sign of true humiliation and of the purification of the soul. * Reject modernization. * Wear dark plain clothing. * Worship in white houses. * Obedient to only those civil laws which do not militate against the Law, Will, and Commandments of God.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * The Bible * Use the Dordrecht Confession of Faith.</p>	<p>* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship</p> <p>*** Participation in each of the following is not yet confirmed by the Old Order Mennonite community ***</p> <p>-Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent -Lent: Fasting -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Reformation Sunday -All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs.</p>

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METHODIST

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Youth and adult believer's Baptism. MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Patient may request Communion prior to major medical treatments.	BODY HANDLING * Organ donation after death is encouraged.

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* No infant Baptism. Youth and adult believer's Baptism. SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments.	* Follow these standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church

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MORMON

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p>
<p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Youth and adult believer's Baptism, by immersion.</p> <p>DIET * Abstain from tea, coffee, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and limit meat intake.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Laying on of Hands used as a healing technique.</p>	<p>BURIAL/CREMATION * Burial of the body is preferred over cremation.</p>

<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p>
<p>* Christ is Redeemer. * Believe that men will be punished for their own sins and not for Adam's transgressions. Salvation comes by grace after all we can do. * Baptism performed on the living or the dead. * Infant Baptism rejected. Youth and adult believer's Baptism by immersion. * Receive Holy Spirit by Laying on of Hands. * Laying on of Hands used as a healing technique.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Use King James Version of the Bible, along with the Book of Mormon, The Doctrine and the Covenants, and The Pearl of Great Price.</p>	<p>* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent -Lent: Fasting -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs.</p>

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NATIVE SPIRITUALITY

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rattles are often used to call the spirit of life to attend to the sick. * Ceremonies and rituals dealing with doctoring and health include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sweat lodges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Purification procedure. -Includes building of lodge, prayers, singing and pipe smoking. -Feasting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Eating of sacred foods. (see DIET) -Fasting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Special form of prayer. -Renunciation of food and water. -Elders and doctors consulted before practiced. -The Pipe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Used in private and group prayers. -Purifying ceremony. -Sacred Circle: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Similar to pipe ceremony -Participants may address the circle. -Further practices may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Water ceremony. -Use of feathers, talking sticks, candles. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consumption of alcohol is prohibited. * Possible sacred foods are bannock, corn, wild rice, choke cherries, strawberries, berries, wild meats such as deer, moose, goose. * Water is considered the high sacrament and is used before and after meals. * Please see also Feasting, Fasting under <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p>	<p>BODY HANDLING - see RITES</p> <p>rites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Upon death of the individual, the body is prepared for the journey to the spirit world. * The body is given provisions and moccasins are placed on the feet. * The spirit remains with the body for three days before departing on the journey. During this time the family is present, grieving occurs, and a sacred fire is lit. * Fruit is often available at the funeral as a symbol of the last meal with a friend.

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NATIVE SPIRITUALITY

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Divine Spirit is the Creator* The Creator is supreme and represents love, kindness and forgiveness* Before birth one's spirit is with the Creator* The after-life is a place of peace* Strong unity between humanity and nature which demands respect for all creation* Elders are the spiritual leaders and can be either women or men* There are seven sacred teachings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Faith-Generosity-Humility-Kindness-Love-Peace-Sharing* Man has a triple nature:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Body-Mind-Soul* A clean body yields a clean mind producing a clean soul* Religious Articles:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Eagle wings and feathers-Rawhide gourds-Drums-Abalone shells-Rattles-Sweetgrass, sage, cedar, tobacco, kinikink <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Originally derived from seven sacred scrolls, however these are now communicated verbally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Burning of sweetgrass, sage, or cedar is performed daily, accompanied by prayers in mornings and evenings* Seasonal changes are important events* Other Holy times include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Planting time: Ceremony of thanksgiving-Harvest time: Ceremony of thanksgiving-January: Moon is closest to the earth; it is a time of prayer and meditation

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NAZARENE

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY * Oppose laws that allow abortion on demand. Abortion only when mother is endangered and then only on the basis of sound medical and Christian counsel. * Support genetic engineering to achieve gene therapy (for prevention and cure of disease, and of anatomical and mental disorders - not for Eugenics).</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * Term stillborns are to be buried. * Infant or adult Baptism practiced; not necessary for salvation.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Belief in divine healing alongside medical treatments. * Believe that euthanasia is incompatible with the Christian faith. * When death is imminent, either not originating or withdrawing artificial life support systems is permissible (within the range of Christian faith and practice)</p> <p>DIET * Alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs are prohibited.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Laying on of Hands used for healing purposes.</p>	<p>BODY HANDLING * Organ donation is encouraged.</p> <p>BURIAL * Term stillborns are to be buried.</p> <hr/> <p>rites * Do not have "Last Rites".</p>

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NAZARENE

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* Infant and adult Baptism are practiced; not necessary for salvation.</p> <p>* Practice Communion.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <p>* Old and New Testaments.</p>	<p>* Follow the standard Christian holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sunday: Rest/Worship-Advent: Christmas preparation-Christmas-Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi.-Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent-Lent: Fasting-Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem-Holy Week: Week preceding Easter-Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper-Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion-Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection-Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension-Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church-All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs.

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ORTHODOX

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * Baptism is an important Sacrament and the newborn should be baptized within 40 days of birth.</p> <p>DIET * "Fasting" means that meat and dairy products are avoided. * Fasting periods are commonly practiced ... Wednesdays, Fridays, and during Lent especially. * Patients desiring to fast should be allowed to do so if there is no health risk or medical conflict, however, fasting may be abandoned during times of health crisis.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Patient may wish for a priest to administer Holy Communion during health crisis.</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p> <p>RITEs * The priest should be notified to perform Last Rites while the patient is still conscious.</p>
<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p> <p>* Self-perception: The one, holy, apostolic Church * The Church is infallible * Rejects Mary's Immaculate Conception and Assumption * Believe that Mary was without sin * Do not believe in purgatory * The Church is administrated by Bishops who maintain celibacy * Belief in 7 Sacraments: -Baptism -Chrismation -Holy Eucharist -Confession -Ordination -Marriage -Holy Unction * Open confession is practiced</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments * Use of the Nicene Creed</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p> <p>* Follow these standard Christian holidays, but using the Julian Calendar: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Christmas -Lent: Fasting -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Holy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Transfiguration Day</p> <p>* Follow these further holidays: -Birth of the Mother of God -Feast of the Elevation of the Cross -Feast of Protection of the Mother of God -Meeting of our Lord -Feast of Transfiguration -Feast of Dormission: Celebration of the sleep of Mary -Presentation of Mother of God to the Temple</p>

PENTECOSTAL

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>CHILD BIRTH * No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism by immersion.</p> <p>OTHER/MISC. * Use of anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands as healing methods. * Miracle healing by God.</p>	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<p>* No infant Baptism. Adult believer's Baptism by immersion.</p> <p>* Must have a born again experience.</p> <p>* Practice/promote speaking in tongues.</p> <p>* Communion is practiced and is considered an ordinance.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments. Scriptures are infallible and given directly by God.</p>	<p>* Follow these standard Christian holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sunday: Rest/Worship-Christmas-Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem-Holy Week: Week preceding Easter-Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion-Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection

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PRESBYTERIAN

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
CHILD BIRTH * Infant and adult Baptism by sprinkling; not required for salvation.	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* Infant and adult Baptism by sprinkling; not required for salvation. * Quarterly Communion as a commemoration. SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments. The Scriptures are God inspired. * Westminster Confession of Faith and the Longer and Shorter Westminster catechisms are standards subordinate to the Bible.	* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent -Lent:Fasting -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Reformation Sunday -All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs.

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QUAKER

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
CHILD BIRTH * No practice of Baptism.	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* The essence of God is within all people. * Each person should find their own meaning in life. * No specific clergy. * No practice of Baptism. * Worship in Meeting Houses. * Generally no belief in life after death. SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments.	* Only some of the standard Christian holidays are recognized, and these only as secular days.

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RASTAFARIANISM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Contraceptives are frowned upon.* Abortion is not an acceptable practice. <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Ganja or marijuana is beneficial to one's spiritual, mental and physical health. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Only natural vegetarian foods are eaten.* Prohibited foods include eggs, fish, poultry, and meat.* Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.* Prefer rainwater over tap water.* May prefer to eat with fingers. <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Nature gives life and healing, therefore the ways of nature are preferred to artificial methods.* Hair cuts and shaving are desecration of the body.	<p>SPECIAL NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* After death, believe in life ever-lasting for those who have followed the ways of the Bible. * Believe that Ethiopia is heaven and that black people will be repatriated to Africa.

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RASTAFARIANISM

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Haile Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia, was born the Religion's Founder and the true and living God. He is now reigning in the spiritual body * Blacks are God's chosen people * Western civilization is seen as the godless evil and is referred to as Babylon * The Pope is the head of Babylon, leading the oppression and enslavement of black people * Police are mistrusted as they are the protectors of the white society * Worship is held weekly * Worship meeting groups are called circles * Worship meetings consist of Bible readings, dance, music, prophecy and Ganja smoking * Women are not allowed to be spiritual leaders * The hair is never cut and is grown in Dreadlocks; the longer the hair the holier the person * Smoking marijuana opens the mind and soul for God's illumination <p style="text-align: right;">SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * King James version of the Bible * Political statements and releases produced by their leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Meet weekly for worship * Holy days observed include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Grounation: A renewal of commitment -Haile Selassie's Birthday -Marcus Garvie's Birthday -Jamaican Independence Day: The first Monday in August

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REFORMED

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion only if the life of the mother is at risk. CHILD BIRTH * Infant Baptism by sprinkling is a Sacrament, but is not necessary for salvation. OTHER/MISC. * Use of prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands for healing purposes.	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* Communion, practiced quarterly, is a Sacrament. * Infant Baptism by sprinkling is a Sacrament, but is not necessary for salvation. * Use of prayer, anointing oil, and Laying on of Hands for healing purposes. SCRIPTURE * The Old and New Testaments are believed to be the inspired Word of God, sufficient for life and salvation. * Use the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. * Confessions practiced are: -The Heidelberg Catechism -The Canons of Dort -The Belgic Confession	* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Lent -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Reformation Day

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ROMAN CATHOLIC

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* No use of contraceptives.* Sterilization is forbidden.* Abortion is prohibited.* Sterility tests are permitted. <p>CHILD BIRTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Infant baptism is a Sacrament, but is not necessary for salvation. <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Amputated body parts are to be cremated. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Fasting is often performed in religious context of penance, especially likely during Lent and on Fridays.* Abstinence from meat is performed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.* Fasting and/or abstinence may be delayed or pardoned due to health reasons. <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Previously consecrated Eucharist is given in the Sacrament of the Sick.* Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick is to be performed for the seriously ill.	<p>BURIAL/CREMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The body is usually buried with the rite of Mass of Christian Burial (although normal burial or cremation are acceptable).* Fetuses and body parts are to be cremated. <p>RITEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Special prayers are to be given prior to, during, and after the death of a patient.

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ROMAN CATHOLIC

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Self-perception: The one, holy, apostolic Church* The Church is headed by the Pope and the clergy, who must remain celibate* The Pope is infallible on religious matters* Belief in Purgatory* Seven Sacraments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Baptism (Infant)-Chrismation-Eucharist-Confession-Ordination-Marriage-Holy Unction* Christ is substantially present during Eucharist. There are no shared Sacraments between the Roman Catholic Church and other Christian denominations.* Confession to a Priest is practiced* Christ is man's redeemer <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Bible including the Apocrypha	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Major day of worship is Sunday, while extra services are held on Saturday* Follow the standard Christian holidays:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Sunday: Rest/Worship-Advent: Christmas preparation-Christmas-Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi.-Ash Wednesday: Beginning of Lent-Lent: Fasting-Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem-Holy Week: Week preceding Easter-Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper-Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion-Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection-Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension-Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church-Transfiguration Day-All Saints' Day: Commemorates Saints and Martyrs. <p>Also Celebrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Solemnity of Mary-Annunciation Day-St. Joseph the Worker-St. Jean Baptiste-Feast of the Assumption of Mary-Immaculate Conception

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THE SALVATION ARMY

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p> <p>REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY * Artificial insemination and in vitro fertilization are acceptable from husband to wife. (The Salvation Army strongly advises against the use of donors because of legal, moral, social, psychological and ethical complications and implications.) * Abortion is justified when the pregnancy threatens the life of the mother; in the case of rape or incest; when post-natal survival of the fetus diagnostically has been shown to be impossible; or when there is no cognitive function in the fetus.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Euthanasia is not supported. Palliative care is promoted. Life support may be removed following brain death.</p> <p>DIET * Abstain from use of alcoholic beverages. * Abstain from the non-medical use of addictive drugs.</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p> <p>BODY HANDLING / BURIAL / CREMATION * Autopsy, embalming, cremation/burial are the personal choice of each individual.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ RITES</p> <p>* A funeral or memorial service is held.</p>
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<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p> <p>* Organization based on a military model.</p> <p>* No Sacraments.</p> <p>* Uniform worn while on duty and on Sundays as an expression of Christian faith and service.</p> <p>SCRIPTURE * Use of Old and New Testaments.</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p> <p>* Follow these standard Christian holidays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Lent: "Self Denial Campaign" -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church
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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Abortion permitted only if the mother's life is in danger, or if severe congenital defects are carefully diagnosed in the fetus, or if pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.* Family planning recommended; cohabitation between husband and wife only.* Artificial insemination - between husband and wife only.* Eugenics - the individual's decision <p>CHILD BIRTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Baptism by immersion. <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Drugs: minimal use is recommended.* Euthanasia is not acceptable. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Some follow a lacto-ovo vegetarian diet.* Abstain from pork, shellfish, tea, coffee, alcohol, narcotics.* "Clean meats" such as chicken, beef, and mutton are acceptable.* Therapeutic diets are acceptable. <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Medical efforts are promoted alongside belief in divine healing and the practice of anointing with oil accompanied by prayer.	<p>SPECIAL NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The dead await the return of Christ.* Belief in two resurrections: When Christ returns, the resurrected righteous and living righteous will be glorified. The second resurrection - that of the unrighteous - will take place 1,000 years later.

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Evangelical, monotheistic Christian.* Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ.* Strong belief in the imminent return of Christ and the end of the world.* Non-liturgical worship; emphasis on biblical preaching.* Celebrate the Lord's Supper (Communion) quarterly.* Baptism by immersion. <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God. They are the standard of character and the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the test of experience.* The Ten Commandments are the Christian's daily guide.* Writings of Ellen G. White as an aid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Do not recognize the standard Christian holidays as holy days.* The seventh day, Saturday (from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown), is observed as the biblical Sabbath of the fourth commandment, a day of rest and worship. No secular work or activities allowed.

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SIKHISM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Abortion is considered an interference in God's will. * No prohibitions with regard to the use of contraceptives.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Fasting is permitted for medical reasons only. * Euthanasia is not permitted.</p> <p>DIET * An animal from which meat is taken must be killed in one sword stroke. * A vegetarian diet is sometimes followed. * Alcohol and tobacco are prohibited. * Except for medical reasons, fasting is not considered an acceptable practice.</p>	<p>BODY HANDLING * After death the body is bathed and dressed.</p> <p>CREMATION * Body disposal is performed through cremation. * The eldest son must be present at the cremation of the father.</p> <p>rites * A Sikh priest may be summoned to perform bedside prayers for the terminally ill. * There are two common "funeral" services: -Short service: For relatives which includes hymns. -Long service: 48 hour period following cremation, involving the continuous reading of the Guru Granth Sahib.</p>

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SIKHISM

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Monotheistic: There is but one God who created all things.* God seen as a compassionate friend of the sinner.* Historically, there were ten Gurus; then, in 1708, Guru leadership was replaced by the collective community of the Khalsa.* Humankind's natural tendency is to the evil, resulting in a cycle of birth and rebirth.* To receive salvation is to be released from the birth-rebirth cycle.* Strong belief in equality of all.* Five stages of appearance are the marks of Khalsa, representing honour:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Kesh (uncut hair): Spirituality-Kangha (comb): Orderliness-Kirpan (sword): Courage-Kara (steel bracelet): Discipline-Kach (undershorts): Moral constraint* Child is named by randomly opening the Granth Sahib and selecting the first letter of the first verse on the left page as the child's first initial.* Do not support begging, pilgrimages, idleness, or sacred stream bathing. <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Guru Granth Sahib (the Collection of Sacred Wisdom): a book of collected religious writings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* There is no specific weekly holy day since all days are holy.* Personal worship occurs twice a day.* In the morning there are bathing, prayer, meditation, and hymns.* In the evening there are prayers, hymns, selective prayers, and bathing.* The main Sikh Holidays are as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Birthday of Guru Nanak-Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh-Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur-Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev-Baisakhi Day (Founding of the Khalsa)-Parkash (Institution of Adi Granth Sahib)

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UNITARIANS & UNIVERSALISTS

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p> <p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY * Do not support laws limiting freedom of conscience, and oppose laws such as anti-abortion.</p> <p>CHILD BIRTH * Infants are baptized in order to symbolize dedication.</p> <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL * Some adherents support active euthanasia.</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p> <p>BURIAL/CREMATION * Cremation is a common practice; burial is acceptable.</p> <p>SPECIAL NOTES * Tend not to believe in an afterlife, but this is variable. * Some support the right to choose one's time and place of death.</p>
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<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Belief in one God, not a Trinity * Jesus is one of the greatest religious teachers * Strong support for freedom of belief * It is held that there are no unquestionable beliefs or doctrines * The search for truth is primary * Mutual respect for all * Belief in the democratic process * Congregations may be led by clergy or laity * Infants are baptised in order to symbolize dedication * Believe that God helps those who help themselves * Flower Communion, the sharing of flowers, is patterned after the mainline Christian Communion service <p>SCRIPTURE * Centred on Judeo-Christian writings but also study the writings of other religions; philosophical and scientific writings; poetry and literature</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Celebrate Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, United Nations Sunday, Religious Education Sunday
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UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
CHILD BIRTH * Infant and adult Baptism by sprinkling or immersion.	

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
* Infant and adult Baptism by sprinkling or immersion. SCRIPTURE * Old and New Testaments. * The Bible is not taken as literal or infallible but is to be a guide.	* Follow the standard Christian holidays: -Sunday: Rest/Worship -Advent: Christmas preparation -Christmas -Epiphany: Manifestation of Jesus; visit by the Magi. -Lent -Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem -Holy Week: Week preceding Easter -Maundy Thursday: The Last Supper -Good Friday: Jesus' crucifixion -Easter Sunday: Jesus' resurrection -Ascension Day: Jesus' ascension -Pentecost: Birth of the Christian Church -Reformation Sunday

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WICCAN

<p>MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET</p>	<p>DEATH AND BURIAL</p>
<p>CHILD BIRTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Rite of Trimester consists of three ritual blessings of pregnant females. * Children are named and blessed in the rite of Wiccaning. <p>OTHER/MISC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * There is belief in the power of laying on of hands and in Healing rites. 	<p>RITEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Wiccan Church of Canada should be notified before post-death arrangements are performed to insure proper instructions are met.

<p>RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS</p>	<p>HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Worship gods and goddesses of pre-Christian civilizations * Reverence for nature and life * Search for self-excellence * Belief in Moira or Karma (that every action has an effect) * Respect and tolerance toward other religions, races, gender * The church contains a council body composed of priests and priestesses * Elevation to priest/priestess requires three levels of initiation <p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Book of Shadows * Book of Pagan Rituals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Rituals held on Sunday evenings * Religion classes are held on every Monday evening * There are a number of Holidays that the Wiccan Church recognizes, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Beltain: Celebration of spring -Summer Solstice: Celebration of mid summer -Lamas: First harvest -Harvestide: Full harvest -Samhain: Feast of the dead -Yule: The sun is born -Imbolc: Festival of light and fire -Lady Day: The return of the maiden from the underworld -Full Moon -New Moon

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ZOROASTRIANISM

MEDICINE, HEALTH, AND DIET	DEATH AND BURIAL
<p>REPRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Zoroastrians are opposed to abortion.* Sterilization is discouraged except for health reasons. <p>CHILD BIRTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Some will require that the delivery room be consecrated before birth.* The Placenta is to be buried.* Some will require that a light burn in the mother's room for three days (continually) after a birth, to ward off evil. <p>MEDICAL/SURGICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Medications and transfusions recommended by a physician are acceptable. <p>DIET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* For some Sects of Zoroastrianism, there are no prescribed restrictions in diet.* Some follow a prohibition against eating pork.* Some will choose a vegetarian diet on certain days.	<p>BODY HANDLING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The head should not be facing the NORTH.* After death the body (in some Sects) is bathed with gomez and water and is clothed in fresh garments.* Organ/Body donation is discouraged. <p>BURIAL/CREMATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* In some Sects, the body must be cremated; in others, the body may be buried or cremated. <p>rites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Upon death, the ritual of Riman is performed for purification of the corpse: Along with elements noted in "Body Handling", above, selected prayers from the Khordeh Avesta are recited in the ear by a relative or a Zoroastrian priest.* Prescribed funeral rites should be performed.* In the case of Still Birth, these same procedures apply.

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ZOROASTRIANISM

RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS	HOLY DAY OBSERVATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Belief in the one supreme God called Ahura Mazda* Founded by the prophet Zoroaster* Belief in the existence of heaven, purgatory, and hell* The sun, or FIRE, represents the Spirit of Ahura Mazda. It is symbolic of purity, power, light, warmth.* Judgement on three basic truths:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Humata: Good thoughts-Hukhta: Good words-Havarasra: Good deeds* The Padyab ritual is performed several times daily and consists of prayer, washing of exposed body parts, and the untying and tying of sacred thread* Basic beliefs also include preservation of the natural elements and environment, such as fire, water, air, earth, vegetation and animals.* Followers wear undergarments of muslin (Sadra) and a sacred thread about the waist (Kusti)* There are three major Sects:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Shenshadi-Kadimi-Fasli* Temples are Atash Behrams or Fire Temples* Community worship is recommended but not required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* There are several major holidays that are celebrated dependant on one's Sect:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Nao Ruz: New Year-Muktad: Remembrance of deceased relatives-Jamshedi Naoroz: Ceremony of spring thanksgiving-Farverdegan: Commemorating the memory of the deceased-Khordad Sal: Birthday of Zoroaster-Zarthost-no-diso: Death of Zoroaster-Ghambers: The Six Seasonal Festivals
<p>SCRIPTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* The Khordeh Avesta	

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