BACKGROUND: *Terms in the Religion category refer to the religion, denomination, sect., etc., associated with the group members (e.g., Bahais; Lutherans; Protestants). Terms for members of individual congregations are not eligible for inclusion in LCDGT. For example,* **African Methodist Episcopal Church members** *refers to a denomination and is eligible, while "Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church members" would refer to a specific congregation in Fort Washington, Maryland, and is not eligible for inclusion. Terms for members of religious orders (e.g., Benedictines) are not included in the Religion category; instead, they are in the Social category (see L560).*

In MARC authority records the category is represented by the three-letter code **rel**. *This instruction sheet provides specific guidelines on assigning terms from the Religion category to bibliographic records and to authority records for works, as well as guidelines on establishing new terms in the category. For examples of MARC 21 records to which demographic group terms have been assigned, see L 410-412. For examples of MARC 21 authority records for LC demographic group terms, see L 405.*

Except where otherwise indicated, the word "religion" as used in this instruction sheet shall mean religion, denomination, sect., etc.

1. Assigning terms in bibliographic records and in authority records for works. There are not any special provisions for assigning terms from the Religion category. Assign terms in accordance with L 480 and L 485.

2. Proposing terms.

a. General rule. Establish terms according to the guidelines in L 435-476 and the special provisions below.

b. Form of term. Establish terms in the form most commonly used to refer to the members in English. *Examples:*

```
Catholics

Hindus
```

If there is not a collective term in English that is commonly used to refer to the members, establish the term in the form **[religion] members**. *Examples:*

```
Church of Scotland members

Russian Orthodox Church members
```

2. Proposing terms. *(Continued)*

c. References.

(1) UF references. If the religion exists primarily in a country that is not English speaking, and its name in the language of the country is readily available, make a UF for the form in the language of the country. *Example:*

```
Protestant Church in the Netherlands members
UF Nederlands Gereformeerde Kerken members
UF Protestantse Kerk in Nederland members
```

Apply this provision chiefly to denominations. Do not attempt to make UFs of this type for members of religions that are generally considered to be worldwide (e.g., Catholics).

(2) BT references.

(a) General rule. Do not make BTs for members of religions. For members of a denomination, sect, etc., make a BT for the religion of which they are a part. *Examples:*

```
Episcopalians
BT Anglicans

Pure Land Buddhists
BT Buddhists

Romanian Orthodox Church members
BT Christians

Wiccans
     [No BT is made because Wiccan is a religion.]

Christians
     [No BT is made because Christianity is a religion.]
```

(b) Catholics. The term **Catholics** refers to Roman Catholics and has the BT **Christians**. Assign the BT **Christians** to all Catholic rites, including those that are in unity with Rome.