Varieties of Orthodox Communities in Chicagoland

There is fluid movement among the groupings of Orthodox Jews listed here.

REFORM
Movement founded ca.1820
Asserts human autonomy,
Faith in human progress,
Ethical monotheism

RECONSTRUCTIONIST
Movement founded ca. 1922
Founder, Mordechai Kaplan,
saw Judaism as a
civilization

CONSERVATIVE
Movement founded ca. 1890
Views Halacha (Jewish Law)
as an evolving process

ORTHODOX
Term first used early 19th c.
Strict adherence to Halacha
and traditional teachings about God and Torah



"Centrist" or "Modern" Orthodox

Generally:
Combine observance and openness to secular culture
College educated, no or some yeshiva education
Religious Zionists (see religious value in the State of Israel)
Modern dress code
Crocheted or black yarmulkes (Skull caps)
Women may cover their hair, may wear skirts
Watch TV, movies, read secular literature

"Right Wing" Orthodox

Generally:
Stricter standards
Less university education, more yeshiva education
Darker clothes
Black yarmulkes; sometimes hats
Women cover their hair, wear skirts
May watch TV, see movies, read secular literature

"Ultra"-Orthodox or "Chareidi"

Generally:
Even stricter standards
Less university education, more yeshiva education
Not religious Zionists
Darker clothes
Black yarmulkes and hats
Women cover hair, longer skirts
Usually do not watch popular TV, movies



"Yeshivish" / "Litvish" (non-Chasidic)

Identify with learning in yeshiva and Roshei Yeshiva (Yeshiva deans)
such as Telshe (Chi., Cleveland), Lakewood (NJ), etc.
Sometimes: Men: payos (sidelocks) behind ears

"Chasidish" (Chasidic)

Identify with a particular dynasty of Chasidic rebbes (Grand Rabbis)
such as Lubavitch (Chabad), Zhidachov, Veitzen, Hornsteipl, etc.
Sometimes: Men: Chasidic garb, long payos (sidelocks)