

METHODIST BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Methodist churches of America, in common with those of England and other lands, trace their origin to a movement started in Oxford University in 1729, when John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, and a number of others began to meet for religious exercises. Finding as they read the Bible that, as John Wesley expressed it, they "could not be saved without holiness, they followed after it, and incited others so to do." During the succeeding years the little company was derisively called "The Holy Club," "Bible Bigots," "Methodists," etc.; and this last term, intended to describe their methodical habits, seems to have been accepted by them almost immediately, as the movement they led soon became widely known as the "Methodist movement." The next step and its outcome are described by John Wesley as follows: "They saw likewise that men are justified before they are sanctified, but still holiness was their object. God then thrust them out to raise a holy people. * * * In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to me in London and desired that I would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come; this was the rise of the United Society."

About this time, the Wesleys came into intimate relations with the Moravians, first on a visit to America¹ and subsequently in London, and at their headquarters in Herrnhut, Saxony, and to the influence of these conferences may be traced much of the spiritual power of the new movement.

The three leaders, although ordained ministers of the Church of England, soon found themselves excluded from many of the pulpits of the Established Church on the ground that they were preachers of new doctrines, and they were obliged to hold their meetings in private houses, halls, barns, and in the fields. As converts were received they were organized into societies for worship, and as the work expanded class meetings were formed for the religious care and training of members. Then the circuit system was established, by which several congregations were grouped under the care of one lay preacher; the itinerancy came into existence, as the lay preachers were transferred from one appointment to another for greater efficiency; and finally, in 1744, the annual conference was instituted, in which Mr. Wesley met all his workers. Thus the principal distinctive features of the Methodist organization grew out of the necessities of the work.

As was natural, the doctrinal position accorded in the main with that of the Church of England, and the Articles of Religion were largely formulated from the Thirty-nine Articles of that church, although no formal creed was accepted save the Apostles' Creed. The stricter doctrines of Calvinism, predestination, and reprobation were cast aside, and the milder emphasis of Arminianism on repentance, faith, and holiness was accepted. As John Wesley said: "The first of these we count as it were the porch of religion; the next, the door; the third, religion itself." This acceptance of Arminianism caused a divergence, though not a permanent breach, between the Wesleys and Whitefield. Whitefield was Calvinistic, though not of the extreme type, and became identified with the Calvinistic Methodists, both the Welsh body² and the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection. He afterwards withdrew from the leadership of the latter body, and gave himself to general revival work in England and America.

¹ See Methodist Episcopal Church, p. 926.

² See Presbyterian bodies, p. 1112.

Though the Wesleys lived and died in full ministerial relations with the Church of England, serious differences arose, as already noted, between that church and the Methodists. In 1745 John Wesley wrote that he was willing to make any concession which conscience would permit, in order to live in harmony with the clergy of the Established Church, but he could not give up the doctrines he was preaching, dissolve the societies, suppress lay preaching, or cease to preach in the open air. For many years he refused to sanction the administration of the sacraments by any except those who had been ordained by a bishop in the apostolic succession, and he himself hesitated to assume authority to ordain; but the Bishop of London having refused to ordain ministers for the Methodist societies in America, which were left by the Revolutionary War without the sacraments, Wesley, in 1784, by the laying on of hands, appointed or ordained men and gave them authority to ordain others. He thus ordained Thomas Coke, D. C. L., who was already a presbyter of the Church of England, to be superintendent of the Methodist societies in America, and set apart for a similar purpose in Great Britain Alexander Mather, who had not been episcopally ordained.

The development of church government, while following the general lines laid down by Wesley, was somewhat different in England and in America. In England the conference remained supreme, and the superintendency was not emphasized. In America the superintendency was in fact an episcopacy which, while not corresponding exactly to the episcopacy of the Church of England, became a very decided factor in church life. In each country, but especially in America, considerable opposition has developed at different times in connection with some features of the parent body, and divisions have resulted. In every case, however, the general principles of the founders have been preserved, and, notwithstanding the various separations, the Wesleyan Methodist Connection in England and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States remain the strongest representatives of the movement initiated in Oxford nearly two centuries ago.

It is to be noted that the influence of the Methodist doctrine and church organization has not been confined to those bodies which have adopted the name Methodist, but has been manifest in the development of a number of bodies which use modified forms of the episcopal, presbyterial, and congregational systems. In the United States several bodies, including the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church (now one denomination), the United Brethren bodies, and particularly the large number of organizations emphasizing the doctrine of "holiness," or entire sanctification, claim to be true exponents of the doctrines of the Wesleys, while their polity is generally Methodist in type. On the other hand, the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, with whom Whitefield identified himself, were Presbyterian in polity, though Methodist in every other respect, as are the Wesleyan Methodist and some other Methodist churches in England and America.

STATISTICS

The denominations grouped as Methodists in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed in the following table with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Since 1916 there have been some changes. The African American Methodist Episcopal Church has disbanded. Other bodies have been added—the Reformed Methodist Church, the Independent African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Holiness Methodist Church, the last an organization listed in 1916 as the Lumber River Mission under the Evangelistic Associations. For general convenience of reference the Negro bodies have been grouped together in 1926, as in 1916. There were 15 independent churches reported at the 1890 census, with a membership of 2,569; these were not reported as a group, however, at the two succeeding censuses, probably having been absorbed by various denominations.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE METHODIST BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	60,644	8,070,619	56,493	654,736,975	59,483	152,151,978	54,804	6,567,654
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	26,130	4,080,777	25,290	406,165,659	25,790	89,422,307	24,730	3,796,561
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,239	192,171	2,064	16,817,278	2,160	3,137,211	1,917	173,438
Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America.....	619	21,910	555	1,804,719	585	773,981	561	34,314
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	80	11,990	79	1,676,800	80	326,598	78	15,190
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	18,096	2,487,694	16,443	161,986,430	17,798	41,651,150	15,525	1,802,464
Congregational Methodist Church.....	145	9,691	110	127,775	120	29,529	80	4,807
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,375	36,374	1,140	4,921,760	1,269	1,617,802	1,026	69,549
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	26	1,229	21	23,900	19	1,234	3	126
Holiness Methodist Church.....	7	459	7	18,500	7	2,073	7	531
Reformed Methodist Church.....	14	390	13	26,300	13	9,176	12	356
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,708	545,814	5,829	32,092,549	6,492	7,600,161	5,884	288,247
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,466	456,813	2,370	18,515,723	2,464	4,757,066	2,429	267,141
Colored Methodist Protestant Church.....	3	533	3	36,000	3	6,685	3	98
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	73	10,169	64	478,951	68	222,621	69	4,240
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	43	4,086	40	476,269	43	99,563	42	2,851
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,518	202,713	2,341	9,211,437	2,477	2,428,234	2,351	103,523
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church.....	48	4,538	45	184,075	44	37,601	42	2,882
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church.....	25	2,265	21	74,800	24	17,282	19	673
Independent African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29	1,003	28	98,050	27	11,704	26	663
1916								
Total for the group	65,686	7,166,451	60,982	317,916,402	64,139	70,887,406	59,191	6,473,500
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29,315	3,717,785	28,134	215,104,014	28,791	43,993,681	27,549	3,872,264
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,473	186,908	2,266	7,944,467	2,393	1,509,243	2,081	177,918
Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.....	579	20,778	514	787,731	525	329,294	500	29,850
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	93	9,353	91	829,035	92	147,695	90	14,918
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	19,184	2,114,479	17,133	62,428,433	18,751	17,139,398	16,308	1,688,559
Congregational Methodist Church.....	197	12,503	195	166,932	139	13,806	147	8,034
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,598	35,291	1,205	2,236,325	1,426	772,038	1,150	58,553
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	24	1,256	18	14,450	16	1,372	6	302
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,633	548,355	6,232	14,631,792	6,516	3,413,395	6,084	311,051
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,716	257,169	2,475	7,591,393	2,641	1,700,737	2,535	135,102
Colored Methodist Protestant Church.....	26	1,967	16	52,733	23	12,129	24	870
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	67	3,624	59	182,305	65	40,664	54	1,982
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	58	3,751	53	205,825	53	47,231	49	2,813
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,621	245,749	2,490	5,619,862	2,613	1,736,692	2,541	167,880
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church.....	47	3,977	47	79,325	41	13,156	42	2,505
African American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	28	1,310	27	6,280	28	13,455	6	200
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church.....	27	2,196	27	35,500	26	3,420	25	699

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE METHODIST BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Con.

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1906								
Total for the group	64,255	5,749,838	59,077	229,450,996			55,227	4,472,930
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29,742	2,986,154	27,888	163,357,805			26,809	2,700,742
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (Colored).....	77	4,347	59	170,150			76	3,372
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,608	494,777	6,299	11,303,489			6,056	292,689
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	69	5,592	68	183,697			66	5,266
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,197	184,542	2,104	4,833,207			2,060	107,692
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,825	178,544	2,442	6,053,048			2,118	141,086
Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.....	591	20,043	480	637,117			475	21,463
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	17,683	1,638,480	15,859	37,278,424			13,846	1,040,160
Congregational Methodist Church.....	324	14,729	250	194,275			181	8,785
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	35	1,782	33	27,650			27	1,298
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,365	172,996	2,264	3,017,849			2,207	92,457
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church (Colored).....	45	3,059	41	37,875			35	1,508
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	96	7,558	93	630,700			91	13,177
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,541	32,838	1,140	1,688,745			1,066	41,443
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church (Colored).....	57	4,397	57	36,965			54	1,792

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

The membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is conditional upon an acceptance of the Apostles' Creed as the statement of faith, a promise of obedience to God's will and commandments, and support of the church services and institutions.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	18,096	1,680	16,416	9.3	90.7
Members	2,487,694	886,765	1,600,929	35.6	64.4
Average per church.....	137	528	98		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	962,356	337,655	624,701	35.1	64.9
Female.....	1,270,526	459,793	810,733	36.2	63.8
Sex not reported.....	254,812	89,317	165,495	35.1	64.9
Males per 100 females.....	75.7	73.4	77.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	239,647	89,018	150,629	37.1	62.9
13 years and over.....	1,820,330	657,413	1,162,917	36.1	63.9
Age not reported.....	427,717	140,334	287,383	32.8	67.2
Per cent under 13 years ²	11.6	11.9	11.5		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	16,582	1,686	14,896	10.2	89.8
Value—Churches reporting.....	16,443	1,626	14,817	9.9	90.1
Amount reported.....	\$161,986,430	\$94,481,204	\$67,505,226	58.3	41.7
Average per church.....	\$9,851	\$58,107	\$4,556		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2,158	690	1,468	32.0	68.0
Amount reported.....	\$16,072,816	\$12,500,521	\$3,572,295	77.8	22.2
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	10,542	771	9,771	7.3	92.7
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	5,973	1,317	4,656	22.0	78.0
Amount reported.....	\$24,914,300	\$10,754,950	\$14,159,350	43.2	56.8
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1,025	352	673	34.3	65.7
Amount reported.....	\$1,891,168	\$1,257,130	\$634,038	66.5	33.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	3,724	760	2,964	20.4	79.6
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	17,798	1,671	16,127	9.4	90.6
Amount reported.....	\$41,651,150	\$22,323,410	\$19,327,740	53.6	46.4
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$29,809,625	\$15,464,809	\$14,344,816	51.9	48.1
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$11,168,543	\$6,480,468	\$4,688,075	58.0	42.0
Not classified.....	\$672,982	\$378,133	\$294,849	56.2	43.8
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,340	\$13,359	\$1,198		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	15,525	1,638	13,887	10.6	89.4
Officers and teachers.....	166,752	51,322	115,430	30.8	69.2
Scholars.....	1,802,464	672,732	1,129,732	37.3	62.7

¹ Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

² Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 18,096 active organizations of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, with 2,487,694 members. These figures are exclusive of 16 federated churches, each consisting of a Methodist Episcopal, South, unit combined with a unit of some other denomination. These federated churches, which are more or less closely affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, reported a total membership of 3,248, of whom 1,312, or about two-fifths were Methodists.

The classification of membership by sex was reported by 16,128 churches and the classification by age was reported by 14,676 churches, including 12,263 which reported members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890-1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	18,096	19,184	17,683	15,017
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-1,088	1,501	2,666	-----
Per cent.....	-5.7	8.5	17.8	-----
Members	2,487,694	2,114,479	1,638,480	1,209,976
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	373,215	475,999	428,504	-----
Per cent.....	17.7	29.1	35.4	-----
Average membership per church.....	137	110	93	81
Church edifices:				
Number.....	16,582	17,251	15,933	12,688
Value—Churches reporting.....	16,443	17,133	15,859	-----
Amount reported.....	\$161,986,430	\$62,428,433	\$37,278,424	\$18,775,362
Average per church.....	\$9,851	\$3,644	\$2,351	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2,158	1,914	1,195	-----
Amount reported.....	\$16,072,816	\$3,849,850	\$1,256,093	-----
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	5,973	5,327	4,566	-----
Amount reported.....	\$24,914,300	\$11,777,753	\$7,265,610	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1,025	-----	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$1,891,168	-----	-----	-----
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	17,798	18,751	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$41,651,150	\$17,139,398	-----	-----
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$29,809,625	\$11,995,816	-----	-----
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$11,168,543	\$5,134,562	-----	-----
Not classified.....	\$672,982	\$9,020	-----	-----
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,340	\$914	-----	-----
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	15,525	16,308	13,846	-----
Officers and teachers.....	166,752	152,177	113,328	-----
Scholars.....	1,802,464	1,688,559	1,040,160	-----

¹ A minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current ex-

penses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Tables 5 and 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported the principal items shown (values or expenditures), in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each conference in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females
United States	18, 096	1, 630	16, 416	2, 487, 694	886, 765	1, 600, 929	962, 356	1, 270, 526	254, 812	75. 7
Middle Atlantic:										
Pennsylvania.....	7		7	513		513	225	288		78. 1
East North Central:										
Indiana.....	1	1		395	395		166	229		72. 5
Illinois.....	92	6	86	6, 201	1, 247	4, 954	2, 126	3, 353	722	63. 4
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	2		2	269		269	120	149		80. 5
Missouri.....	953	99	854	126, 334	47, 395	78, 939	48, 066	71, 589	6, 679	67. 1
Nebraska.....	2		2	181		181	75	106		70. 8
Kansas.....	8	3	5	1, 281	839	442	551	730		75. 5
South Atlantic:										
Maryland.....	146	25	121	17, 616	7, 166	10, 450	6, 518	9, 550	1, 548	68. 3
Dist. Columbia.....	7			6, 306	6, 306		2, 364	3, 942		60. 0
Virginia.....	1, 588	120	1, 463	237, 903	75, 919	161, 984	90, 669	117, 546	29, 688	77. 1
West Virginia.....	673	38	635	65, 058	19, 584	45, 474	23, 682	31, 101	10, 275	76. 1
North Carolina.....	1, 664	137	1, 527	249, 916	77, 479	172, 437	100, 882	127, 255	21, 779	79. 3
South Carolina.....	827	88	739	135, 129	40, 008	95, 121	53, 144	65, 278	16, 707	81. 4
Georgia.....	1, 620	144	1, 476	249, 722	90, 214	159, 508	97, 414	126, 882	25, 426	76. 8
Florida.....	565	85	480	74, 242	35, 139	39, 103	28, 320	38, 138	7, 784	74. 3
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	1, 043	84	959	120, 458	35, 320	85, 138	41, 173	57, 584	21, 701	71. 5
Tennessee.....	1, 455	126	1, 329	189, 830	68, 327	121, 503	70, 190	94, 648	24, 992	74. 2
Alabama.....	1, 422	109	1, 313	197, 219	66, 932	130, 287	84, 419	96, 796	16, 004	87. 2
Mississippi.....	1, 150	53	1, 097	134, 573	32, 995	101, 578	51, 864	65, 294	17, 415	79. 4
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	1, 004	76	928	123, 676	41, 815	81, 861	46, 859	66, 524	10, 293	70. 4
Louisiana.....	401	50	351	56, 882	25, 051	31, 831	19, 511	26, 890	10, 481	72. 6
Oklahoma.....	578	62	516	75, 771	34, 369	41, 402	28, 913	40, 995	5, 863	70. 5
Texas.....	2, 569	276	2, 293	380, 453	157, 967	222, 486	151, 063	203, 424	25, 966	74. 3
Mountain:										
Montana.....	14	6	8	893	491	402	316	577		54. 8
Idaho.....	8		8	370		370	138	201	31	68. 7
Colorado.....	30	6	24	2, 787	1, 812	975	952	1, 731	104	55. 0
New Mexico.....	101	9	92	8, 848	3, 586	5, 262	3, 369	4, 849	630	69. 5
Arizona.....	38	14	24	4, 290	2, 690	1, 600	1, 710	2, 580		66. 3
Pacific:										
Washington.....	4	2	2	564	480	84	253	311		81. 4
Oregon.....	23	6	17	2, 493	968	1, 525	997	1, 496		66. 6
California.....	101	48	53	17, 521	12, 271	5, 250	6, 307	10, 490	724	60. 1

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States	18,096	19,184	17,683	2,487,694	2,114,479	1,638,480	239,647	1,820,330	427,717	11.6
Pennsylvania	7	15	14	513	811	806	28	485	-----	5.5
Indiana	1	2	8	395	428	818	20	375	-----	5.1
Illinois	92	104	114	6,201	7,328	7,198	397	4,302	1,502	8.4
Iowa	2	2	7	269	116	562	16	253	-----	5.9
Missouri	953	1,114	1,170	126,334	133,756	112,058	10,146	103,100	13,088	9.0
Nebraska	2	3	3	181	184	181	-----	181	-----	-----
Kansas	8	23	43	1,281	1,795	2,332	100	1,137	44	8.1
Maryland	146	155	152	17,616	15,751	12,642	1,117	14,159	2,340	7.3
Dist. Columbia	7	7	7	6,306	2,666	1,922	489	5,202	525	8.5
Virginia	1,588	1,594	1,501	237,903	202,648	157,354	20,985	174,214	42,704	10.8
West Virginia	673	687	572	65,058	53,020	36,632	5,058	43,906	16,094	10.3
North Carolina	1,664	1,661	1,522	249,916	199,764	151,808	23,303	184,383	42,230	11.2
South Carolina	827	851	799	135,129	105,306	84,266	14,273	96,917	23,939	12.8
Georgia	1,620	1,665	1,544	249,722	219,755	178,307	26,625	182,855	40,242	12.7
Florida	565	590	474	74,242	51,505	32,330	7,105	51,864	15,273	12.0
Kentucky	1,043	1,084	1,038	120,458	114,795	99,355	8,754	82,734	28,970	9.6
Tennessee	1,455	1,518	1,465	189,830	167,270	140,308	16,720	141,696	31,414	10.6
Alabama	1,422	1,506	1,395	197,219	167,938	125,702	20,732	136,982	39,505	13.1
Mississippi	1,150	1,154	1,105	134,573	114,469	94,845	13,889	92,270	28,414	13.1
Arkansas	1,004	1,205	1,075	123,676	110,993	81,699	10,795	96,434	16,447	10.1
Louisiana	401	402	370	56,882	38,940	31,639	5,452	37,984	13,446	12.6
Oklahoma	578	716	673	75,771	60,263	40,473	7,867	52,599	15,305	13.0
Texas	2,569	2,785	2,341	380,453	316,812	225,431	42,327	285,435	52,691	12.9
Montana	14	16	23	893	1,258	1,068	120	773	-----	13.4
Idaho	8	16	12	370	680	503	15	324	31	4.4
Colorado	30	16	15	2,787	1,858	1,465	105	1,834	848	5.4
New Mexico	101	114	48	8,848	7,120	2,882	957	7,061	830	11.9
Arizona	38	22	10	4,290	1,939	682	461	3,776	53	10.9
Washington	4	9	14	564	620	718	23	541	-----	4.1
Oregon	23	30	42	2,493	2,515	2,272	165	2,106	222	7.3
California	101	118	127	17,521	12,176	10,222	1,603	14,358	1,560	10.0

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The early history of Methodism in America was closely identified with slaveholding sections. The southern colonies furnished the majority of the young men who entered the ministry of the church during the Revolutionary War, and out of approximately 15,000 members of the Methodist societies in 1783, only about 2,000 resided in what, in later years, were known as the "free States." All the conferences between 1776 and 1808 were held either in Baltimore or in that region, and 6 out of the 9 bishops elected previous to 1844 had been natives of slaveholding States. Nevertheless, the Methodist preachers of the time were, with practical unanimity, opposed to human bondage.

The "Christmas Conference" of 1784, which organized the scattered congregations into the Methodist Episcopal Church, enacted a specific rule which required all slaveholding members, under penalty of expulsion for noncompliance, to emancipate their slaves; but it stirred up so much strife, and proved to be so impractical-

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Dr. Franklin N. Parker, dean, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	18,096	16,582	16,443	\$161,986,430	2,158	\$16,072,816	5,973	\$24,914,300	1,025	\$1,891,168
Pennsylvania.....	7	7	7	21,757	-----	-----	-----	(1)	-----	-----
Illinois.....	92	89	89	299,350	13	22,960	37	65,500	6	5,350
Missouri.....	953	916	910	8,933,466	104	602,377	363	1,209,165	58	81,409
Kansas.....	8	8	8	103,500	2	576	6	18,500	1	800
Maryland.....	146	143	141	1,870,270	19	316,600	57	329,400	10	19,545
Dist. Columbia.....	7	7	7	1,045,000	3	26,000	6	64,500	5	17,300
Virginia.....	1,588	1,500	1,491	16,359,000	214	2,115,471	441	2,483,875	79	187,938
West Virginia.....	673	553	548	5,118,250	75	457,641	152	863,700	35	88,317
North Carolina.....	1,664	1,603	1,591	18,686,377	248	1,893,888	470	2,834,500	107	288,481
South Carolina.....	827	791	782	6,801,150	91	537,430	256	1,276,650	52	110,874
Georgia.....	1,620	1,571	1,560	11,541,650	136	698,132	467	1,828,500	51	66,407
Florida.....	565	514	503	9,077,451	93	952,775	221	1,712,200	57	142,673
Kentucky.....	1,043	993	990	8,580,312	92	477,638	337	1,382,200	54	106,992
Tennessee.....	1,455	1,362	1,358	11,256,013	137	1,454,652	427	1,570,925	62	88,688
Alabama.....	1,422	1,323	1,301	10,271,891	142	1,039,162	413	1,568,820	70	136,720
Mississippi.....	1,150	1,062	1,055	5,934,143	109	486,091	332	1,190,435	54	65,952
Arkansas.....	1,004	904	892	6,858,945	125	785,500	350	924,700	67	85,336
Louisiana.....	401	347	344	4,358,350	53	316,011	140	610,350	24	81,467
Oklahoma.....	578	452	451	6,005,282	73	674,920	257	739,249	32	49,286
Texas.....	2,569	2,173	2,155	24,355,564	359	2,787,192	1,045	3,560,531	174	223,175
Montana.....	14	13	13	88,334	4	7,750	9	21,700	1	1,000
Idaho.....	8	8	8	23,000	-----	-----	6	9,000	1	200
Colorado.....	30	19	19	239,600	3	15,000	17	44,500	4	8,950
New Mexico.....	101	60	60	628,950	15	33,250	39	88,200	3	2,850
Arizona.....	38	33	33	490,325	13	55,661	26	70,350	5	2,590
Washington.....	4	4	4	48,500	1	2,000	3	9,500	-----	-----
Oregon.....	23	23	23	278,600	7	11,739	15	47,000	2	1,525
California.....	101	99	95	2,664,900	27	302,400	75	373,050	11	27,343
Other States ²	5	5	5	46,500	-----	-----	6	17,300	-----	-----

¹ Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

² The figures for value of parsonages include data for 2 churches in Pennsylvania.

ble of execution, that in less than six months it was suspended. After various and somewhat conflicting measures had been adopted, the General Conference of 1808 provided that thereafter each annual conference should deal with the whole matter according to its own judgment. In 1816 this provision was modified by another statute which remained in force until 1844, to the effect that no slaveholder should be appointed to any official position in the church, if the State in which he lived made it possible for him to liberate his slaves. This compromise proceeded upon the supposition that, while slavery was an evil to be mitigated in every possible way, it was not necessarily a sin.

In 1844 a new issue was raised. Bishop James O. Andrew, of Georgia, a man of high Christian character and "eminent beyond almost any living minister for the interest that he had taken in the welfare of the slaves," became by inheritance and by marriage a nominal slaveholder. Under the laws of Georgia it was not possible for him or his wife to free their slaves. He was therefore exempt, as scores of other southern ministers were, from the operation of the law of 1816. In the General Conference of 1844, held in New York, a preamble and resolution were

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting expenditures]

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	18,096	17,798	\$41,651,150	\$29,809,625	\$11,168,543	\$672,982	15,525	166,752	1,802,464
Pennsylvania.....	7	7	14,291	3,044	11,247	-----	7	61	398
Illinois.....	92	86	84,347	65,233	17,006	2,018	79	690	5,136
Missouri.....	953	928	1,964,386	1,509,206	451,172	3,008	808	9,450	92,969
Kansas.....	8	8	17,407	12,893	4,514	-----	8	135	1,076
Maryland.....	146	145	445,532	349,252	85,405	10,875	137	1,733	16,291
Dist. Columbia.....	7	7	195,364	133,323	62,041	-----	7	394	3,960
Virginia.....	1,588	1,575	3,753,503	2,432,903	1,258,266	62,334	1,470	17,286	187,943
West Virginia.....	673	655	1,104,391	829,592	273,216	1,583	569	5,877	63,876
North Carolina.....	1,664	1,648	4,067,709	2,801,242	1,005,629	260,838	1,537	16,350	205,996
South Carolina.....	827	826	1,740,826	1,154,704	574,735	11,387	760	8,567	99,600
Georgia.....	1,620	1,597	3,326,895	2,334,892	907,501	85,002	1,402	14,198	150,494
Florida.....	565	555	2,166,359	1,412,556	735,198	18,605	480	5,742	61,014
Kentucky.....	1,043	1,018	1,677,785	1,253,665	403,074	21,046	836	7,460	80,399
Tennessee.....	1,455	1,440	2,653,176	1,928,279	709,429	15,468	1,281	12,656	140,690
Alabama.....	1,422	1,404	3,333,694	2,451,718	869,348	12,628	1,158	11,103	119,863
Mississippi.....	1,150	1,139	2,048,681	1,458,323	589,328	1,030	880	7,595	76,488
Arkansas.....	1,004	985	1,937,934	1,419,284	451,754	66,896	849	9,218	90,934
Louisiana.....	401	390	1,176,998	798,286	354,676	24,036	347	3,568	38,340
Oklahoma.....	578	542	1,486,247	1,191,977	274,224	20,046	463	5,502	57,556
Texas.....	2,569	2,534	7,592,006	5,550,887	1,992,393	48,726	2,178	25,845	276,161
Montana.....	14	14	16,675	12,140	2,535	2,000	14	110	949
Idaho.....	8	8	5,589	4,298	1,291	-----	8	54	441
Colorado.....	30	30	52,985	45,019	7,966	-----	19	230	2,533
New Mexico.....	101	90	171,163	143,570	27,558	35	68	714	6,448
Arizona.....	38	37	115,607	101,468	14,139	-----	34	427	4,632
Washington.....	4	4	8,705	7,529	1,176	-----	4	64	714
Oregon.....	23	23	50,959	35,465	11,073	4,421	23	228	2,455
California.....	101	98	431,579	362,287	69,292	-----	94	1,423	14,469
Other States.....	5	5	10,357	7,090	3,267	-----	5	72	639

adopted calling attention to the embarrassment which would result from this connection with slavery in the bishop's exercise of his office as an itinerant general superintendent, and declaring it "the sense of this General Conference that he desist from the exercise of his office so long as this impediment remains." The southern delegates resented this action, which virtually deposed him from the episcopacy, and entered a protest against it. They said that if Bishop Andrew had violated any law of the church they did not object to his being put upon trial for the offense; but they did object to his deposition by mere majority vote, and without any specific allegation based upon the law of the church being brought against him. Such action they regarded as a flagrant violation of the constitution of the church, according to which, as they interpreted it, the episcopacy was not a mere office subject to the control of an omnipotent General Conference, but a coordinate and independent branch of the church government. The result was that after long debate, conducted for the most part in an admirably Christian spirit, a provisional plan of separation was adopted, to become effective whenever the southern conferences should deem it necessary. A convention of representatives from the southern conferences was held at Louisville, Ky., and on May 17, 1845, by an almost unanimous vote, the plan of separation was approved, and the annual conferences in the slaveholding States were erected into a distinct eccle-

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

CONFERENCE	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total	18,096	2,487,694	16,443	\$161,986,430	2,158	\$16,072,816	17,798	\$41,651,150	15,525	1,802,464
Alabama.....	726	85,548	662	3,918,680	65	247,985	717	1,088,072	574	48,819
Arizona.....	31	3,929	26	458,000	13	55,661	30	109,856	28	4,212
Baltimore.....	672	88,286	633	7,351,027	87	762,820	668	1,587,028	619	75,312
California Oriental Mission.....	10	494	6	24,400			9	7,179	9	515
Central Texas.....	527	90,107	480	5,737,730	76	692,105	522	1,603,355	473	62,444
Denver.....	33	3,146	22	266,600	3	15,000	32	58,374	22	3,079
East Oklahoma.....	290	36,920	202	2,727,540	32	278,005	265	668,131	214	28,364
Florida.....	463	63,206	416	8,674,356	88	950,125	456	2,047,866	398	54,136
Holston.....	866	94,145	741	6,318,900	84	756,961	859	1,517,864	772	89,397
Illinois.....	92	6,201	89	299,350	13	22,960	86	84,347	79	5,136
Indian Mission.....	77	2,704	72	85,442	2	330	74	13,490	64	1,752
Kentucky.....	303	34,575	289	2,895,100	25	138,900	286	563,428	244	24,655
Little Rock.....	444	59,101	417	3,511,650	58	513,903	434	996,083	361	39,665
Louisiana.....	401	56,882	344	4,358,350	53	316,011	390	1,176,998	347	38,340
Louisville.....	553	62,911	531	4,361,712	33	305,748	547	824,410	421	39,070
Memphis.....	586	84,934	568	4,827,713	83	766,991	582	1,108,502	527	58,595
Mississippi.....	551	68,339	499	2,765,050	50	238,077	546	1,017,712	419	37,407
Missouri.....	380	48,509	370	2,969,116	23	100,986	378	600,580	326	34,088
New Mexico.....	120	12,638	72	864,150	21	47,000	111	275,650	84	9,266
North Alabama.....	799	122,817	727	6,757,806	82	793,827	787	2,365,365	667	77,982
North Arkansas.....	560	64,575	475	3,347,295	67	271,597	551	941,851	488	51,269
North Carolina.....	756	113,578	738	7,669,061	106	660,339	747	1,619,777	705	86,081
North Georgia.....	830	139,606	807	6,544,943	81	364,183	818	1,774,189	763	89,753
North Mississippi.....	598	66,134	555	3,167,593	59	248,014	592	1,029,619	460	39,026
North Texas.....	469	86,063	424	6,011,842	78	969,684	462	1,912,269	425	62,547
Northwest.....	49	4,320	48	438,434	12	21,489	49	82,028	49	4,559
Northwest Texas.....	423	57,543	292	3,346,150	56	333,960	415	1,115,129	345	43,211
Pacific.....	89	16,816	87	2,545,500	27	302,400	87	412,092	83	13,679
St. Louis.....	301	39,141	275	3,345,500	47	281,952	280	758,009	240	29,923
South Carolina.....	405	62,037	395	2,670,700	30	145,851	404	809,801	368	43,317
South Georgia.....	772	108,976	738	4,924,207	51	333,799	761	1,528,787	625	59,503
Southwest Missouri.....	284	40,415	277	2,743,850	36	220,015	282	630,161	254	30,349
Tennessee.....	646	81,371	598	3,855,400	33	180,219	638	948,881	560	54,261
Texas.....	684	88,392	586	5,044,925	74	324,575	680	1,542,242	553	63,161
Texas Mexican Mission.....	60	3,202	40	159,767	3	290	54	26,330	51	3,055
Upper South Carolina.....	422	73,092	387	4,130,450	61	391,579	422	931,025	392	56,283
Virginia.....	833	153,206	819	10,924,900	150	1,682,507	826	2,600,678	777	112,204
West Oklahoma.....	211	36,147	177	3,192,300	39	396,585	203	804,626	185	27,440
West Texas.....	373	50,546	308	3,797,850	66	452,828	369	1,281,499	302	37,996
Western Mexican Mission.....	20	1,014	19	147,625			18	19,365	18	1,078
Western North Carolina.....	910	136,647	854	11,008,116	142	1,233,549	903	2,447,110	834	120,123
Western Virginia.....	477	39,481	378	3,797,350	49	254,006	458	721,392	400	41,412

siastical connection, separate from the jurisdiction of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the name chosen for the new body being the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Its first General Conference was held at Petersburg, Va., in 1846.

Although the General Conference of 1844 had adopted the provisional plan of separation, many northern leaders in the church, including some of those who had voted for it, regretted the action taken, and declared the plan unconstitutional and void. Furthermore, the part of the plan relating to the division of

the property of the Book Concern, while receiving a majority of votes in the annual conferences, failed to obtain the requisite three-fourths required by the constitution of the church; and in the General Conference of 1848, held at Pittsburgh, Pa., the entire plan was repudiated and declared null and void. A fraternal delegate from the South was denied reception, the conference stating that it did "not consider it proper, at present, to enter into fraternal relations with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South." Suits were finally decided by the Supreme Court of the United States declaring the plan valid and binding in all its parts.

The Southern Church began with two bishops, Joshua Soule and James O. Andrew, and 16 annual conferences. In 1846 there were 1,519 traveling preachers, 2,833 local preachers, 327,284 white members, 124,961 Negro members, and 2,972 Indian members, or a total of 459,569. The growth was rapid, and when the Civil War began the membership had increased to 757,205, including 207,776 Negroes.

The Civil War of 1860-1865 wrought havoc. Hundreds of church buildings were burned or dismantled, college buildings were abandoned, and the endowments were swept away. During the war, the annual conferences met irregularly or in fragments; the General Conference of 1862 was not held; and the whole order of the itinerancy was interrupted. Many of the most liberal supporters of the church and its institutions were reduced to abject want; the publishing house was seized for a United States printing office, and the church press was silent. The missionaries in China were cut off from their home board and would have suffered much but for the fact that the treasurer of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church indorsed the drafts for their support. By 1866 the membership had been reduced to 511,161, showing a loss of 246,044. Three-fourths of the Negro members had joined either the African Methodist churches, or the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose representatives were to be found everywhere throughout the South. The remainder formed, in 1870, an independent organization, the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, cooperating in that organization.

In spite of these facts the work of reconstruction was begun at once. At the General Conference of 1866 changes were made in regard to lay representation in annual and general conferences, the probationary system, class meetings, and the itinerancy. In 1874 the first fraternal delegation from the Methodist Episcopal Church was received. Since the Civil War contributions to foreign missions have greatly advanced, and home mission work for Indians, Mexicans, and others has developed. Vanderbilt University was opened for the reception of students in 1875, and four years later reported 519 students. In 1884, the centennial year of Episcopal Methodism, a special contribution of \$1,382,771 was made, mostly for local objects. By 1882 the membership had increased to 860,687, and at the General Conference in 1890 it was reported as 1,177,150.

The church has entered heartily into the various movements for church unity and fellowship, is a constituent member of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, is represented on the Committee on a World Conference on Questions of Faith and Order, and is closely identified with interdenominational movements, as the Y. M. C. A., American Bible Society, etc. It has participated with the Methodist Episcopal Church in the consideration of plans for the union of the two churches. As yet, however, there has been no action that has resulted in the union of these bodies.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

In doctrine the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is in agreement with other branches of Methodism throughout the world, putting special emphasis upon the universality of the atonement, the witness of the Spirit, and the possibility of holiness in heart and life.

In polity it is in close accord with the Methodist Episcopal Church and emphasizes the episcopate. The bishops hold office for life, unless removed by due process of law for personal or official misconduct, and have a limited veto on constitutional questions over the acts of the General Conference. There is equal clerical and lay representation in the General Conference and effective lay representation in the annual conferences. Attendance on class meeting ceased to be a condition of membership in 1866. The fixed probation of six months is not required of candidates for membership, nor are they required to subscribe to the 25 Articles of Religion, as in the northern branch of the church. The itinerancy is still maintained, the pastoral term being limited to four consecutive years, but is so modified that a bishop may reappoint a minister for a longer term when a majority of the presiding elders vote for the extension of the pastoral term. In other respects there is little difference from the polity of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

WORK

The general denominational work of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is under the care of the General Board of Missions, which includes the home and foreign missionary work of the women, a Board of Church Extension, a Sunday School Board, an Epworth League Board, a General Board of Education, a Board of Lay Activities, a General Board of Temperance and Social Service, a General Hospital Board, and a General Board of Finance, supplemented by special boards in the several annual conferences. The Board of Finance is charged with the work of providing funds for retired ministers, their widows, and orphans.

The home mission work is conducted by the Home Department of the General Board of Missions, by the annual conference boards, the Board of Church Extension, and women's boards of city missions in various cities, the last-named being auxiliary to the women's department of the general board. The general board gives particular attention to the work among immigrants, mountain people, miners, Negroes, and Indians, as well as to work in congested quarters of the cities. The various city mission boards deal chiefly with the last-named problem by means of social settlements and the like. The annual conference boards of missions are concerned chiefly in supplementing pastoral support in poor territory, where without their help preachers could not be maintained. During 1926 these various home mission agencies employed 284 missionaries, gave missionary support in whole or in part to about 2,380 mission workers and pastors, and aided 1,870 churches. The Board of Church Extension assisted in the building of 591 churches during the year, and has a loan fund of \$2,741,854 which is used for this purpose. The church contributed to all of these home mission causes in 1926 the sum of \$1,364,000.

The foreign missionary work of the church is carried on by the General Board of Missions, and the fields occupied are China, Japan, Korea, Brazil, Mexico, Cuba, Africa, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Siberia. The report for 1926 shows 442 stations, occupied by 476 missionaries, and 701 native preachers and other helpers; 761 churches, with 64,005 members; 323 schools, with 27,774 pupils; and 11 hospitals and dispensaries, treating 44,181 patients. There were 1,259 Sunday schools, which enrolled 57,170 scholars. The contributions of the church to foreign missions in 1926 were \$1,564,879, an increase of more than \$150,000 over the total for the previous year. The board has property in mission lands valued at approximately \$10,000,000.

The educational institutions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the United States, include 28 senior colleges, 23 junior colleges, 21 academies, and 3 universities, with 1,856 teachers and 33,060 students. The total value of these institutions was \$40,740,756, with an endowment of \$21,547,282. The annual contribution of the churches to the current account of the institutions was \$529,676.

The church has under its care 13 hospitals, with property valued at \$6,250,000; and 19 orphanages, valued at \$4,935,000 and caring for 2,708 orphans. It reports, also, endowment for these institutions amounting to \$2,105,000, and about \$2,625,000 contributed for their establishment and maintenance.

The young people of the church are organized in 8,683 Epworth Leagues, with a membership of 265,087; and there are 2,014,788 enrolled in the Sunday schools. In 1926 the Church Publishing House, in Nashville, Tenn., with branches at Dallas, Tex., Richmond, Va., and San Francisco, Calif., had assets of \$2,859,932, and reported sales amounting to \$2,550,016. The publishing house in Nashville publishes 19 periodicals, including Sunday-school literature, having an aggregate circulation of 1,800,000 copies. In addition there are 16 periodicals supported by the annual conferences, which have a circulation of about 175,000.

The Board of Lay Activities promotes the organization of Wesley Brotherhoods among the men and fosters church-wide programs of Christian stewardship. The various district boards also render valuable service in providing lay speakers and furnishing religious services for places otherwise neglected.

The General Board of Temperance and Social Service especially concerns itself with law enforcement in the case of the liquor traffic and with the development of better interracial relations and the substitution of law for lynching and mob rule.