UNITED BRETHREN BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

The denominations grouped under the name United Brethren, in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. These three bodies had a common origin, in the formation about 1800 of the denomination called the United Brethren in Christ; the small group known as the United Christian Church and reported in 1926 for the first time, separated in 1864; and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution) separated in 1889. The general history for these three bodies, as well as the general statement of doctrine and organization, is presented in connection with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, the largest body.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR UNITED BRETHREN BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

	ber of			OF CHURCH		NDITURES NG YEAR		NDAY IOOLS
DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number	Number of mem- bers	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches	Num- ber of scholars
1926							-	
Total for the group	3, 375	395, 885	3, 224	\$29, 578, 679	3, 288	\$7, 321, 073	3, 068	400, 749
Church of the United Brethren in Christ	2, 988	377, 436	2, 877	28, 520, 619	2, 918	6, 976, 440	2, 739	376, 982
in Christ (Old Constitution) United Christian Church	372 15	17, 872 577	338 9	1, 022, 660 35, 400	359 11	341, 687 2, 946	344 5	23, 214 553
1916								
Total for the group	3, 889	367, 934	3, 598	14, 494, 975	3, 775	3, 501, 103	3, 618	426, 951
Church of the United Brethren in Christ	3, 481	348, 828	3, 220	13, 787, 579	3, 373	3, 315, 23 8	3, 251	402, 535
in Christ (Old Constitution)	408	19, 106	378	707, 396	402	185, 865	367	24, 113
1906								
Total for the group	4, 268	296, 050	3, 839	9, 073, 791			3, 777	301, 320
Church of the United Brethren in Christ	3, 699	274, 649	3, 356	8, 401, 539			3, 325	278, 764
in Christ (Old Constitution)	569	21, 401	483	672, 252		 	452	22, 556
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CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST (OLD CONSTITUTION)

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution) 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 Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution) is composed of persons who are enrolled in the local churches upon public confession of the Christian faith or by transfer from other Protestant denominations.

TABLE 1 .- SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST (OLD CONSTITUTION)

Ž.	MIF 1	1 n1 -	1.374		In urban	In rural	PER CE	
	IT	EM (I)	100	Total	territory 1	territory 1	Urban	
Chure	ches (local organ	nizations)	1242	372	38	334	10.2	80.5
	bers.		372.01	17, 872	2, 955	14, 917	PAR JU16 5	aderT.
	A verage per cl	hurch		48	78	45		SADDAYS!
14	Male Female	ed		6, 933 10, 600 339	1, 150 1, 805	5, 783 8, 795 339	16. 6 17. 0	83. (
M	Males per lembership by a	100 females	675.70	65. 4	63.7	65. 8	ter invent	
	Under 13 year 13 years and o Age not report Per cent u	ver	200	856 15, 334 1, 682 5. 3	394 2, 267 294 14. 8	1, 388	46. 0 14. 8 17. 5	85. 2
Churc	ch edifices:	151	240.45	41.400	process of		ot classific	1
N	alue—Churches Amount repor Average per cl	reporting		339 338 \$1,022,660 \$3,026	36 36 \$233, 400 \$6, 483	303 302 \$789, 260 \$2, 613	10. 6 10. 7 22. 8	89. 4 89. 3 77. 2
D	ebt—Churches r Amount repor Churches reporchurch edific	eporting		\$26, 335	\$16,035	\$10,300	60, 9	offe 39, 1
	church edific	00		235	18	of an ionsir (7.7	92.3
V	nages: alue—Churches Amount repor	reporting	nii Iira	\$284, 300	\$80, 150	\$204, 150	16.7 28.2	83. 3 71. 8
D	Amount repor	orting "no d	ebt" on	\$20, 475	\$13, 100	\$7,375	64.0	36.0
France	ditues during	-indianis	dinsand	mein iagos	y and the	in territor	inine.	ethuran
A	ditures during hurches reportin mount reported. Current expen Benevolences, Not classified. verage expenditu	ses and impro	vements.	\$341, 687 \$259, 428	36 \$79, 208 \$66, 769 \$11, 739 \$700	\$192,659 \$61,472 \$8,348	25. 7	
A	verage expenditu	re per church	parately	\$952	\$2, 200	\$813		
Sunda	hurches reporting flicers and teacher cholars	g ode soul	encvoler oz ig -1	344 3,725 23, 214	almaina 387 aleisa 494 4,242 alosi 10 as	qmi b 306 210 3, 231 18, 972	18. 3	81.7

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. That Per cent not shown where base is less then 100.

Based on membership with age classification reported. doing held plaining and of the remainder of the country. The state of the country. The state of the country. The state of the country of the country of the country. The state of the country of the country of the country of the country. The state of the country of the country.

The data given for 1926 represent 372 active organizations of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution) churches, with 17,872 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 363 churches and the classification by age was reported by 327 churches, including, however, only 149 which reported any 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: Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution)

morp solvenial designation and allocate an	E DIEW ROOM	रामत जेत विव	MORTHURA SE	I mod to the
we by transfer fram other l'extrant			0 1906 olu	
Churches (local organizations) Increase 1 over preceding census:	372	408	569	795
Number Per cent	-36 -8.8	70 161 0.50 11 -28.3	-226 -28, 4	THEFT
Members	17, 872	19, 106	21, 401	22, 807
Number Per cent	-6.5	-2, 295 -10. 7	-1,406 -6,2	
Average membership per church	48	47	38	20
Church edifices: Number Value—Churches reporting Amount reported Average per church Debt—Churches reporting Amount reported	27	380 378 \$707, 396 \$1, 871 36 \$11, 253	490 483 \$672, 252 \$1, 392 43 \$9, 924	\$644, 940
Parsonages: Value—Churches reporting Amount reported Debt—Churches reporting Amount reported	\$284, 300 26 \$20, 475	\$138, 000	102 \$84,650	77.5
Expenditures during year: Churches reporting	359 \$341, 687 \$259, 428 \$73, 211 \$9, 048 \$952	\$185,865 \$134,282 \$51,583 \$462	Page of Grie	100
Sunday schools: Churches reporting Officers and teachers Scholars	3, 725	367 3,740 24,113	452 4, 176 22, 556	ent.

I A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution), 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 the 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 expenses 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 of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution), 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: Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution)

100 1000 (200) 100		MBER		NUMBE	R OF MI	EMBERS	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX				
GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	101.11 201.01		.08	Sea 17,872		ena 17		fates: 1			
SILE FILE GE	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	0000000	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females (1)	
United States	372	38	334	17,872	2, 955	14, 917	6, 933	10,600	339	65, 4	
Middle Atlantic: Pennsylvania East North Central:	35	3	32	2, 906	830	2, 076	1, 138	1,768		64.4	
Ohio Indiana Illinois Michigan	92 57 16 82	9 3 8	83 54 16 74	4, 542 2, 675 945 3, 498	603 138 742	3, 939 2, 537 945 2, 756	1, 840 1, 079 340 1, 291	2, 592 1, 582 540 2, 207	110 14 65	71. 0 68. 2 63. 0 58. 5	
Wisconsin West North Central: Iowa Missouri South Dakota	6 10 1	2	3 6 8 1	75 270 279 93	24	270 255 93	91 111 36	137 168 57	42	66. 4 66. 1	
Nebraska Kansas South Atlantie:		4	3 17	123 833	201	123 632	57 314	519	800	60. 5	
Maryland Virginia West Virginia	3 12 5	1	12 5	242 398 46	83	159 398 46	78 179 18	164 219 28	aodu	47.6 81.7	
West South Central: Oklahoma Mountain:	1	P 11780	1 is son	21	notani	21		i3 darad ma	т по Б		
Idaho Pacific:	4	1	3	177	51	126	69	108		63. 9	
Washington Oregon California	5 9 7	3 3	6 4	178 329 242	56 98 129	122 231 113	66 80 106	112 1136	108	58. 9 56. 7 77. 9	

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION 1

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

With the growth of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, as in other denominations, two parties developed—one which held closely to the original constitution, another which sought to change it to meet what they considered the necessity of changed conditions. At the General Conference of 1841, when final steps were taken toward adopting the full constitution, four points were emphasized, which later became objects of special discussion; the slavery question, secret societies, changes in the confession of faith, and changes in the constitution. The slavery question disappeared after the Civil War, but the others came to the front, and the last two became specially prominent. In 1885 the General Conference set aside the constitutional provisions for change by pronouncing them impracticable, and arranged for another constitution, under the name of amending the constitution. The minority recorded a protest, but the majority proceeded to appoint a commission, which drafted an amended consti-

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 W. C. South, executive secretary, Board of Administration, United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution), and approved by him in its present form.

Table 4.—Number and Membership of Churches, 1906 to 1926, and Membership by Age, 1926, by States: Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution)

s brand wil Bruch		MBER			ER OF ME	MBERS	MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926				
STATE	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Un- der 13 years	13 years and over	avBo.	Per cent under 13 1	
United States	372	408	569	17,872	19, 106	21, 401	856	15, 334	1, 682	5.3	
New York Pennsylvania	35	29	3 37	2, 906	2, 225	23 2, 177	326	2,316	264	12.3	
OhioIndiana	92 57	106	161 98 26	4, 542 2, 675	4, 863 3, 665 941	6, 147 4, 641 996	159 94 34	3,990 1,956	393 625	3.8	
Illinois Michigan Wisconsin	16 82 3	19 98 3	116 9	3, 498 75	4, 058 94	3, 937 144	119	846 3, 333 75	65 46	3.9	
Iowa Missouri	6 10	6	9	270 279	197	154 295	10 17	218 262	.42	6.1	
South Dakota Nebraska Kansas	1 3 21	2 4 18	1 4 28	93 123 833	76 157 689	82 41 839	1 46	92 123 770	17	5.6	
Maryland	3 12	3 8	1 6	242 398	191 433	96 235	7	235	North North	2.9	
West Virginia Oklahoma	5	1	6	46 21	42	155		46 21			
Idaho	4 5	12 19	7 19	177 178	291 519	197 497	11 6	166 166	6	6.2	
OregonCalifornia	9	11 4	22 6	329 242	419 246	596 149	25	104 217	224	10.3	

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.

tution, and presented it for adoption by the society in such a manner as, in the opinion of the minority, insured indorsement by the indifferent and youthful members. Although less than one-half of the whole society voted, the General Conference of 1889 accepted the results and pronounced the revised constitution in force. The minority chose to remain upon the unamended constitution, holding that the constitution of 1841 was still in force, and that they were the true United Brethren Church, and, as such, entitled to the church property. In some cases decisions were given by the courts, in others by vote of the congregations, while occasionally property awarded to one body was purchased by the other. Those days of legal contentions and occasional bitter personalities have passed, and a spirit of Christian courtesy now prevails.

DOCTRINE

In doctrine the church holds to the Trinity, the Deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, and an atonement unlimited as to the possibility of its application. Upon repentance, faith appropriates the benefits of the atonement to the salvation of the soul, and in this salvation the soul is spiritually baptized into Christ, and becomes a new creature—i. e., is born again—the doctrine upon which the early life of the church was based. A scripturally directed life is held to be a necessity to the maintenance of the regenerate state, and the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be observed by all of God's spiritual children, by each in the manner which he deems scripturally correct. On moral questions the church holds to the strict interpretation of the early laws on temperance, connection with secret combinations, and participation in aggressive warfare.

Table 5.—Value of Church Property, and Church Debt, by States, 1926: Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution)

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value	ue of edifices
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STATE	ber of	church	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
	Total num	Total number churches	Number of chedifices	Churches	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches	Amount	Churches
United States	372	339	338	\$1, 022, 660	27	\$26, 335	132	\$284,300	26	\$20,475
PennsylvaniaOhio	35 92 57 16 82 3	30 89 49 16 80 3	30 89 49 16 80 3	144, 735 247, 900 166, 725 47, 800 230, 900 3, 100	2 4 1 10	1, 300 4, 300 500	10 25 15 10 36	32, 600 60, 350 26, 950 23, 300 74, 450 (i)	3 6 3 8	1, 350 6, 140 1, 728 8, 254 (¹)
Iowa Missouri Nebraska Kansas	6 10 3 21	5 6 3 19	5 6 3 19	12, 800 10, 000 7, 000 40, 450	1	400	13	(1) (1) (1) 23, 650	3	1,350
Virginia West Virginia	12 5	9 5	9 5	19, 800 3, 000				(1)		Maggian
Idaho	4 5 9 7	3 5 6 7	3 4 6 7	6, 500 7, 850 17, 500 40, 600	2 1 2 3	1, 000 1, 000 1, 150 2, 510	4 6	(1) (1) 6,000 14,800	mints	ni / 15///
Other States 2	5	4	4	16, 000	1	800	13	22, 200	3	1,653

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

² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 9 churches in Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Virginia, Idaho, and Washington.

ORGANIZATION

In policy the church is Methodistic, having quarterly, annual, and general conferences on the same general basis as that of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The pastorate is made up of one or more local societies, and the quarterly conference, its governing body, consists of the presiding elder, pastor, and local officials, and has only administrative powers. The membership of the annual conference includes the licensed and ordained preachers and the lay delegates elected by each pastorate. The General Conference, which is made up of ministerial delegates elected, pro rata, by the annual conferences, convenes every four years and is vested with legislative and judicial power, being restricted only by the constitution. As a judicial body, it is composed of the bishops of the past quadrennium and of the elders among its members who have stood in the ordained relation at least three years.

Candidates for the ministry, with certain educational attainments prescribed by the General Conference, and recommended by the local church, may be licensed annually by the quarterly conference, and after a year's trial may be received into the annual conference, where, upon completing a prescribed course of study, they become eligible to ordination as elders, the only ordination practiced by the church. No distinction is made as to sex. Official distinctions in the ministry are elective, and for a limited term only. Pastors are appointed by the annual conference for a term of one year, and are eligible for reappointment to the same station for unlimited successive terms. Presiding elders are elected by the annual conference for a term of one year, and are eligible to unlimited reelection. Bishops are elected by the General Conference for the term of four years, and are eligible to reelection.

Table 6.—Church Expenditures and Sunday Schools, by States, 1926: Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution)

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

3070 4	Jo :		EXPEND	DITURES DUI		3	st	INDAY SC	HOOLS
STATE	Total number churches	Churches	Total amount	For current expenses and im- prove- ments	For benev- olences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	372	359	\$341,687	\$259, 428	\$73, 211	\$9, 048	344	3, 725	in 1 23, 214
PennsylvaniaOhio Indiana Illinois Michigan Wisconsin	35 92 57 16 82 3	35 90 56 15 80 3	34, 858 73, 710 50, 558 20, 300 84, 640 867	24, 362 53, 112 41, 073 13, 956 62, 848 720	10, 496 18, 408 7, 571 6, 344 16, 848 147	2, 190 1, 914 4, 944	34 88 53 15 75 75	402 933 575 218 838 46	3, 925 5, 885 2, 851 1, 200 4, 852 124
Iowa Missouri Nebraska Kansas	6 10 3 21	6 9 3 21	4, 965 3, 759 2, 860 19, 380	2, 775 3, 019 1, 764 15, 584	2, 190 740 1, 096 3, 796		6 10 3 21	66 66 26 215	328 326 159 1, 243
Maryland Virginia West Virginia	3 12 5	3 12 5	3, 531 1, 726 201	2, 771 1, 416 186	760 310 15		2 8 5	35 64 31	275 453 223
Idaho Washington Oregon California	4 5 9 7	3 4 5 7	1, 381 2, 517 4, 200 27, 707	1, 036 2, 248 2, 837 26, 026	345 269 1, 363 1, 681		3 4 5 7	30 36 45 76	157 188 256 558
Other States	2	2	4, 527	3, 695	832		2	23	211

Table 7.—Number and Membership of Churches, Value of Edifices, Debt, Expenditures, and Sunday Schools, by Conferences, 1926: Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution)

			NC	PANESVER	MIG	C. C. 7	845	R THEFT	20 PM	
nical, and general Episcopal Church,	nber of	1 24		VALUE OF THE CHURCH EDIFICES AS A		DEBT ON CHURCH		NDITURES URING YEAR	SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
and conference summal conference degates elected by	Total number churches	Number of mem	Churches	the presi truomAn presiden	Churches	daispoo Amount abro 1	Churches	erning b truomA license	Churches	Num- ber of scholars
Total	372	17,872	338	\$1,022,660	27	\$26, 335	359	\$341,687	344	23, 214
Anglaize California Detroit Mission Erie Mission Idaho	31 7 1 3 4	1, 977 242 115 60 162	19 310 7 980 11 8193	85, 425 40, 600 6, 500 7, 500 7, 000	31	2, 510 3, 000 1, 500	31 7 1 3 3	24, 802 27, 707 2, 250 454 1, 018	31 7 1 3 3	2, 223 558 35 70 125
Iowa Kansas Michigan Missouri Nebraska	9 15 33 9	345 605 1,319 272 216	8 15 15 33 5	15, 900 32, 700 94, 000 8, 000 1 19, 000	5 5 1101	400 5, 875	9 15 32 9 4	5, 832 15, 152 35, 321 3, 759 6, 387	9 15 30 9 4	452 944 1,731 300 325
Neosho	8 22 73 9 35 19	256 711 3, 090 327 3, 088 1, 042	20 72 5 6 29 10 18	10, 750 46, 000 265, 600 15, 500 150, 235 54, 300	3 5 1 3	3, 500 5, 300 900 2, 100 500	7 21 72 72 35 18	5, 228 16, 196 73, 217 3, 565 37, 935 22, 265	8 21 66 5 33 18	370 1,142 4,574 256 4,130 1,366
Sandusky Scioto. Utah Mission Virginia Walla Walla White River	22 21 1 17 4 25	794 1, 260 51 444 144 1, 352	21 19 1 14 3 19	36, 300 41, 700 1, 500 22, 800 7, 850 63, 500	1	500 250	22 20 1 17 3 24	19, 360 12, 366 590 1, 927 2, 925 23, 431	22 19 1 13 3 23	1, 223 1, 205 62 676 158 1, 289

WORK

The missionary week of the church is conducted by a general board named the "Domestic, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society," of which each annual conference is a branch, and by the Woman's Missionary Association, auxiliary to the society.

In the home mission department of the society's work 29 conferences and churches were aided. The amount contributed for this work was \$12,588.

The principal foreign mission work of the society is in the Imperreh district in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and in Canton, China. A recent report shows 6 stations in Africa and 1 in China. In Africa there are 6 American missionaries with 19 native workers; 6 organized churches; 6 schools, with 200 pupils; 3 dispensaries, treating 4,456 patients, with 5,700 prescriptions; 32 towns regularly served by itinerants; property valued at \$32,800; and a total income for the foreign work of \$13,426. In China there is 1 station, with 6 native preachers and teachers; 1 school, with 112 pupils; and a total income for this field of \$2,711.

Owing to the slow transition from the use of German to that of the English language, there was delay in founding an institution for advanced education until 1845, when the General Conference projected a plan for the establishment of a college. After the division of 1889, however, only 1 college, located at Hartsville, Ind., remained in the Old Constitution body, and this was destroyed by fire in 1897. The report for 1926 shows but 1 college now, located at Huntington, Ind., and a Chinese school in Portland, Oreg. These schools, together with the I in Canton, China, report about 350 students and property valued at \$128,360. The contributions for general educational purposes during the year amounted to \$33,912.

The number of Christian Endeavor societies is 229, with a membership of 5,137. These societies support a medical missionary in Africa. The church owns a printing plant at Huntington, Ind., valued at \$100,000, from which a denominational organ, a missionary monthly, and Sunday school periodicals are issued