

## REFORMED BODIES

### GENERAL STATEMENT

The churches, aside from the Lutheran, that were the direct outcome of the Protestant Reformation, trace their ecclesiastical origin to republican Switzerland, and those leaders in the cause of representative government, Zwingli, Calvin, and Melancthon. Of these the Swiss, Dutch, and many German churches came to be known as Reformed; the Scotch and English as Presbyterian; and the French as Huguenot; while those in Bohemia and Hungary preserved their national names.

In the early colonization of America, Dutch and Germans, as well as Scotch and English, were prominent, and as a result there are 4 Reformed Churches—2 tracing their origin to Holland, 1 to the German Palatinate, and 1 to Hungary. The first church in New Amsterdam was organized by the Dutch in 1628, and for a considerable time the Hollanders were practically limited to the province of New Netherland. Somewhat later a German colony, driven from the Palatinate by the ruthless persecution of Louis XIV, settled in upper New York and Pennsylvania, and as it grew spread westward. Another Dutch immigration, which established its headquarters in Michigan, identified itself with the New York branch, but afterwards a minor part formed its own ecclesiastical organization. The New York branch, known at first as the "Reformed Protestant Dutch Church," later adopted the title "Reformed Church in America"; similarly, the German Reformed Church became, in 1867, the Reformed Church in the United States. The third body is known as the Christian Reformed Church; while a fourth is styled the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America. This denomination was organized in 1924 by certain congregations which refused to accept the "Tiffin Agreement," under whose terms the majority of the churches constituting the former Hungarian Reformed Church in America were formally transferred to the jurisdiction of the Reformed Church in the United States. There are also a number of churches called Netherlands Dutch Church or True Reformed Dutch Church, and some of the Hungarian churches, which have no general ecclesiastical organization and are included under the head of "Independent churches."

In its earlier history each body clung to its ancestral language, a practice which not infrequently checked a natural growth, although it had the advantage of giving to the newcomers a congenial church life, to which is largely due the fact that these communities have grown up loyal to the best interests both of their mother church and of their new country. As conditions changed, the use of English was accepted, and the older churches blended with the general interests of the community.

In their doctrine, polity, and general public life, the Reformed churches remain conservative. New ideas, simply because novel, have not had ready acceptance; yet new forms of organization, such as the various societies for young people and similar enterprises, have found a cordial welcome. In interdenominational relations they have always been friendly, are members of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and early inaugurated foreign mission work. They have stood for high standards in education and scholarship and have furnished many men prominent in public life.

In doctrine they are generally Calvinistic. Their Heidelberg Catechism emphasizes the general comfort of redemption in Christ, while the Westminster Catechism teaches the same and emphasizes the sovereignty of God. The polity is synod-presbyterian, differing from that of the Presbyterian churches only in the names of church offices and some other details. They have a consistory instead of a session, a classis instead of a presbytery, and a general synod instead of a general assembly.

The denominations grouped under the name "Reformed Bodies," in 1926, 1916, and 1906, are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Since 1916 the Hungarian Reformed Church in America has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Reformed Church in the United States, with the exception of a few churches which did not approve the merger and organized in 1924 as the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America.

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

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches		VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
	Number of churches	Number of members	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
<b>1926</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,682</b>	<b>617,551</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>\$88,457,147</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>\$14,810,436</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>465,725</b>
Reformed Church in America.....	717	153,739	690	38,436,822	714	5,524,673	689	124,308
Reformed Church in the United States.....	1,709	361,286	1,680	44,662,875	1,692	7,488,446	1,614	315,343
Christian Reformed Church.....	245	98,534	238	5,061,850	242	1,700,760	178	25,281
Free Magyar Reformed Church in America.....	11	3,992	10	295,600	11	96,557	8	793
<b>1916</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,745</b>	<b>537,822</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>41,137,627</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>6,842,542</b>	<b>2,575</b>	<b>454,099</b>
Reformed Church in America.....	715	144,929	690	18,928,383	705	2,746,065	697	123,092
Reformed Church in the United States.....	1,758	344,374	1,663	20,116,336	1,714	3,247,773	1,658	304,250
Christian Reformed Church.....	226	38,668	209	1,658,308	221	715,193	188	24,445
Hungarian Reformed Church in America.....	46	9,851	38	434,600	44	133,511	32	2,312
<b>1906</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>2,583</b>	<b>449,514</b>	<b>2,477</b>	<b>30,648,247</b>			<b>2,345</b>	<b>361,548</b>
Reformed Church in America.....	657	124,938	639	15,553,250			639	120,705
Reformed Church in the United States.....	1,736	292,654	1,667	14,067,897			1,569	222,324
Christian Reformed Church.....	174	26,669	160	903,600			133	18,340
Hungarian Reformed Church in America.....	16	5,253	11	123,500			4	179

# REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Reformed Church in the United States 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 Reformed Church in the United States comprises all persons who have been confirmed and enrolled in the official congregational records as "communicant members." Baptism is administered to infants, but confirmation does not usually take place before the thirteenth or fourteenth year.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	1,709	543	1,166	31.8	68.2
<b>Members</b> .....	361,286	200,857	160,429	55.6	44.4
Average per church.....	211	370	138		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	159,206	86,066	73,140	54.1	45.9
Female.....	195,036	110,986	84,050	56.9	43.1
Sex not reported.....	7,044	3,805	3,239	54.0	46.0
Males per 100 females.....	81.6	77.5	87.0		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	1,995	1,145	850	57.4	42.6
13 years and over.....	339,344	191,118	148,226	56.3	43.7
Age not reported.....	19,947	8,594	11,353	43.1	56.9
Per cent under 13 years <sup>2</sup> .....	0.6	0.6	0.6		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	1,807	607	1,200	33.6	66.4
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,680	537	1,143	32.0	68.0
Amount reported.....	\$4,662,875	\$30,471,025	\$14,191,850	68.2	31.8
Average per church.....	\$26,585	\$56,743	\$12,416		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	325	218	107	67.1	32.9
Amount reported.....	\$4,415,557	\$3,619,337	\$796,220	82.0	18.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	1,200	286	914	23.8	76.2
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	885	427	458	48.2	51.8
Amount reported.....	\$5,894,055	\$3,838,405	\$2,055,650	65.1	34.9
Debt—Churches reporting.....	158	109	49	69.0	31.0
Amount reported.....	\$573,512	\$470,395	\$103,117	82.0	18.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	640	282	358	44.1	55.9
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	1,692	539	1,153	31.9	68.1
Amount reported.....	\$7,488,446	\$4,907,889	\$2,580,557	65.5	34.5
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$5,670,525	\$3,708,390	\$1,962,135	65.4	34.6
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,817,921	\$1,199,499	\$618,422	66.0	34.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$4,426	\$9,106	\$2,238		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	1,614	537	1,077	33.3	66.7
Officers and teachers.....	29,339	13,947	15,392	47.5	52.5
Scholars.....	315,343	169,293	146,050	53.7	46.3

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given herewith for the year 1926 represent 1,709 active organizations of the Reformed Church in the United States, with 361,286 members. These figures are exclusive of 7 federated churches, each consisting of a Reformed unit combined more or less closely with a unit of some other denomination. These federated churches reported a total membership of 1,389, of whom about one-third were members of the Reformed Church in the United States.

The classification of membership by sex was reported by 1,660 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 1,598 churches, including, however, only 236 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.

Though the churches of the Eastern and Western Classes of the Hungarian Reformed Church in America were by formal agreement transferred to the jurisdiction of this denomination, not all of them were actually absorbed; the figures, therefore, as shown for 1916, do not include the data for the Hungarian Reformed churches and are not strictly comparable with the report for 1926.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	1,709	1,758	1,736	1,510
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....	—49	22	226	—
Per cent.....	—2.8	1.3	15.0	—
<b>Members</b> .....	361,286	344,374	292,654	204,018
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	16,912	51,720	88,636	—
Per cent.....	4.9	17.7	43.4	—
Average membership per church.....	211	196	169	136
<b>Church edifices:</b>				
Number.....	1,807	1,719	1,740	1,304
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,680	1,663	1,667	—
Amount reported.....	\$44,662,875	\$20,116,336	\$14,067,897	\$7,975,583
Average per church.....	\$26,585	\$12,096	\$8,439	—
Debt—Churches reporting.....	325	369	349	—
Amount reported.....	\$4,415,557	\$2,007,041	\$1,360,552	—
<b>Parsonages:</b>				
Value—Churches reporting.....	885	786	724	—
Amount reported.....	\$5,894,055	\$2,598,115	\$1,827,569	—
Debt—Churches reporting.....	158	—	—	—
Amount reported.....	\$573,512	—	—	—
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	1,692	1,714	—	—
Amount reported.....	\$7,488,446	\$3,247,773	—	—
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$5,670,525	\$2,375,262	—	—
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,817,921	\$796,719	—	—
Not classified.....	—	\$75,792	—	—
Average expenditure per church.....	\$4,426	\$1,895	—	—
<b>Sunday schools:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	1,614	1,658	1,569	—
Officers and teachers.....	29,339	29,389	25,191	—
Scholars.....	315,343	304,250	222,324	—

<sup>1</sup> A minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Reformed Church in the United States, 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

selected States 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 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 classis in the Reformed Church in the United States, arranged by synods, 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: REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females ( <sup>1</sup> )
<b>United States</b> .....	1,709	543	1,166	361,286	200,857	160,429	159,206	195,036	7,044	81.6
<b>New England:</b>										
Massachusetts.....	2	2	-----	276	276	-----	120	156	-----	76.9
Connecticut.....	6	5	1	1,664	1,484	180	838	826	-----	101.5
<b>Middle Atlantic:</b>										
New York.....	25	21	4	7,105	6,613	492	3,005	3,893	207	77.2
New Jersey.....	7	4	3	1,556	1,405	151	677	879	-----	77.0
Pennsylvania.....	897	261	636	215,751	115,744	100,007	95,883	117,000	2,868	82.0
<b>East North Central:</b>										
Ohio.....	261	103	158	60,000	38,046	21,954	26,032	33,382	1,186	78.0
Indiana.....	52	24	28	10,199	7,131	3,068	4,115	5,132	952	80.2
Illinois.....	20	12	8	2,459	1,774	685	1,101	1,313	45	83.9
Michigan.....	17	11	6	2,775	2,488	287	1,014	1,251	510	81.1
Wisconsin.....	79	17	62	13,142	4,716	8,426	6,365	6,777	-----	93.9
<b>West North Central:</b>										
Minnesota.....	6	1	5	860	220	640	423	437	-----	96.8
Iowa.....	38	5	33	4,661	485	4,176	2,121	2,416	124	87.8
Missouri.....	9	3	6	1,271	641	630	571	675	25	84.6
North Dakota.....	27	-----	27	1,085	-----	1,085	506	550	29	92.0
South Dakota.....	37	-----	37	2,517	-----	2,517	1,106	1,157	254	95.6
Nebraska.....	16	4	12	2,141	948	1,193	1,013	1,128	-----	89.8
Kansas.....	10	4	6	1,230	472	758	548	682	-----	80.4
<b>South Atlantic:</b>										
Maryland.....	74	23	51	15,310	9,115	6,195	6,328	8,607	375	73.5
District of Columbia.....	2	2	-----	819	819	-----	332	487	-----	68.2
Virginia.....	26	4	22	2,669	627	2,042	1,129	1,353	187	83.4
West Virginia.....	9	4	5	1,052	802	250	312	458	282	68.1
North Carolina.....	56	17	39	8,002	3,547	4,455	3,828	4,174	-----	91.7
<b>East South Central:</b>										
Kentucky.....	10	5	5	2,022	1,763	259	857	1,165	-----	73.6
Tennessee.....	3	1	2	393	175	218	177	216	-----	81.9
<b>West South Central:</b>										
Arkansas.....	2	-----	2	94	-----	94	46	48	-----	-----
<b>Mountain:</b>										
Idaho.....	1	-----	1	48	-----	48	25	23	-----	-----
Colorado.....	2	2	-----	236	236	-----	103	133	-----	77.4
<b>Pacific:</b>										
Washington.....	1	-----	1	49	-----	49	23	26	-----	-----
Oregon.....	8	4	4	795	369	426	365	430	-----	84.9
California.....	6	4	2	505	361	144	243	262	-----	92.7

<sup>1</sup> Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

**TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES**

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

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 <sup>1</sup>
United States.....	1,709	1,758	1,736	361,286	344,374	292,654	1,995	339,344	19,947	0.6
Connecticut.....	6	4	3	1,664	1,600	1,012	—	1,484	180	—
New York.....	25	22	18	7,105	7,218	5,700	6	7,061	38	0.1
New Jersey.....	7	3	6	1,556	813	1,094	—	1,514	42	—
Pennsylvania.....	897	908	891	215,751	209,256	177,270	892	204,675	10,184	0.4
Ohio.....	261	281	310	60,600	56,101	50,732	520	54,855	5,225	0.9
Indiana.....	52	62	58	10,199	10,642	8,289	21	8,726	1,452	0.2
Illinois.....	20	30	31	2,459	2,143	2,652	10	2,306	143	0.4
Michigan.....	17	17	18	2,775	1,890	1,666	10	2,217	548	0.4
Wisconsin.....	79	73	64	13,142	10,427	8,386	88	13,054	—	0.7
Minnesota.....	6	6	7	860	805	788	—	860	—	—
Iowa.....	38	43	44	4,661	5,004	3,692	—	4,318	343	—
Missouri.....	9	8	10	1,271	1,204	1,284	13	1,170	88	1.1
North Dakota.....	27	28	21	1,085	1,170	817	—	1,002	83	—
South Dakota.....	37	39	28	2,517	2,100	1,365	—	2,517	—	—
Nebraska.....	16	17	18	2,141	2,503	1,616	—	2,010	131	—
Kansas.....	10	12	12	1,230	1,130	967	8	1,222	—	0.7
Maryland.....	74	79	78	15,310	15,801	13,442	125	14,684	501	0.8
Virginia.....	26	27	25	2,669	2,440	2,288	41	2,343	285	1.7
West Virginia.....	9	6	9	1,052	1,015	886	—	770	282	—
North Carolina.....	56	53	55	8,002	6,109	4,718	239	7,383	380	3.1
Kentucky.....	10	11	12	2,022	1,931	2,101	20	2,002	—	1.0
Tennessee.....	3	3	3	393	374	234	—	393	—	—
Idaho.....	1	3	—	48	83	—	—	48	—	—
Oregon.....	8	8	7	795	755	512	—	753	42	—
California.....	6	5	1	505	448	118	2	503	—	0.4
Other States.....	9	10	7	1,474	1,412	1,025	—	1,474	—	—

<sup>1</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

## HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION<sup>1</sup>

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Reformed Church in the United States—for many years known as the "German Reformed Church"—traces its origin chiefly to the German, Swiss, and French people who settled in America early in the eighteenth century. Among its founders it includes Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, of Switzerland, while the fact that so many of its early members came from the German Palatinate gives it close relation to Philip Melancthon. The Heidelberg Catechism, compiled under Frederick III, Elector of the Palatinate, in 1563, by Zacharias Ursinus, a pupil of Melancthon, and Caspar Olevianus, a pupil of Calvin, is still the Reformed Church's standard in teaching the Scriptures.

<sup>1</sup> This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. J. Rauch Stein, D. D., stated clerk, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

[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	1,709	1,807	1,680	\$44,662,875	325	\$4,415,557	885	\$5,894,055	158	\$573,512
Connecticut.....	6	7	5	201,000	4	26,300	5	51,000	1	500
New York.....	25	27	25	1,275,600	17	231,360	18	234,650	8	74,000
New Jersey.....	7	8	7	278,000	2	32,500	5	39,500		
Pennsylvania.....	897	941	889	27,157,800	167	2,397,046	388	2,935,550	79	292,125
Ohio.....	261	286	260	7,399,750	43	915,790	155	953,500	21	64,025
Indiana.....	52	52	51	1,283,800	11	163,225	38	226,000	8	31,500
Illinois.....	20	24	20	378,000	5	12,700	16	101,000	2	7,000
Michigan.....	17	17	16	337,000	6	73,700	14	89,200	6	22,324
Wisconsin.....	79	86	74	1,026,525	20	145,400	56	255,055	10	27,815
Minnesota.....	6	9	6	48,000	2	4,300	6	26,000		
Iowa.....	38	41	37	312,600	3	13,400	27	98,700	1	2,473
Missouri.....	9	8	8	177,500	1	700	7	15,500	1	1,750
North Dakota.....	27	25	25	46,600	1	180	12	30,400	2	2,500
South Dakota.....	37	35	35	88,600	4	3,800	12	57,500	2	3,200
Nebraska.....	16	17	15	145,100	1	2,500	12	43,000	3	9,000
Kansas.....	10	11	10	69,000			8	29,500		
Maryland.....	74	81	74	2,312,500	13	184,406	40	335,300	6	17,900
Virginia.....	26	27	26	272,900	3	31,000	11	65,300		
West Virginia.....	9	9	7	107,300	2	2,100	5	34,600	1	7,400
North Carolina.....	56	59	56	952,800	13	128,600	28	166,500	6	9,800
Kentucky.....	10	11	10	188,000	3	16,550	6	30,800		
Tennessee.....	3	3	3	20,000			3	9,500		
Oregon.....	8	9	8	96,000			7	32,000	1	200
California.....	6	7	6	136,000	1	10,000		(1)		
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	10	7	7	352,500	3	20,000	6	34,000		

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

<sup>2</sup> The figures for value of parsonages include data for 1 church in California.

The emigration from these communities during the seventeenth century was small, and there was no continuity between the early, isolated pioneers and the churches in the succeeding century.

Pastorius, with a little company of Mystics, came to Pennsylvania in 1683, at the invitation of William Penn, and founded Germantown; but it was not until 1709 that these immigrants became at all numerous. About that time more than 30,000 from the Palatinate, who had found their way to England, encamped near London, clamoring for transportation. Some thousands of them were placed on unoccupied lands in Ireland and elsewhere, while large numbers were brought to America where they established settlements in the South, in New York, and in Pennsylvania. These pioneers were almost invariably thoroughly religious in character and made provision for churches and parochial schools, although they were not well supplied with either preachers or qualified teachers. In some cases they had been attended by their pastors, and in this way John Frederick Hager accompanied one of the parties, arriving in New York in 1709. Samuel Guldin, the first German Reformed minister in this country, preached at Germantown in 1718, and John Philip Boehm held the first recorded communion service, at Falckner Swamp, October 15, 1725. Among others who proved energetic and useful workers were George Michael Weiss, and

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

[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.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	1,709	1,692	\$7,488,446	\$5,670,525	\$1,817,921	1,614	29,339	315,343
Connecticut.....	6	5	22,512	20,202	2,250	6	76	687
New York.....	25	25	153,147	130,980	22,167	25	454	4,649
New Jersey.....	7	7	33,224	27,126	6,098	6	81	974
Pennsylvania.....	897	890	4,251,239	3,166,638	1,084,601	847	18,102	193,394
Ohio.....	261	255	1,470,457	1,106,400	364,057	251	4,797	53,993
Indiana.....	52	52	252,809	196,706	56,103	50	861	9,657
Illinois.....	20	20	60,512	50,034	9,878	18	192	2,153
Michigan.....	17	17	64,771	55,783	8,988	15	229	3,025
Wisconsin.....	79	79	241,001	196,750	44,251	76	694	6,938
Minnesota.....	6	5	10,415	9,373	1,042	6	33	280
Iowa.....	38	38	111,542	91,038	20,504	34	382	3,413
Missouri.....	9	8	33,620	26,588	7,032	8	147	1,345
North Dakota.....	27	26	16,517	12,032	4,485	23	57	645
South Dakota.....	37	37	38,449	31,599	6,850	36	128	1,244
Nebraska.....	16	16	30,760	23,159	7,601	13	156	1,326
Kansas.....	10	10	27,694	19,796	7,898	10	124	1,345
Maryland.....	74	74	267,207	202,400	64,807	69	1,247	12,325
Virginia.....	26	26	87,119	74,281	12,838	23	273	2,525
West Virginia.....	9	9	22,717	15,699	7,018	9	102	1,000
North Carolina.....	56	56	141,591	93,166	48,425	55	742	10,028
Kentucky.....	10	10	38,725	25,958	12,767	8	155	1,688
Tennessee.....	3	3	6,761	4,586	2,175	3	29	304
Oregon.....	8	8	23,187	17,896	5,291	8	88	567
California.....	6	6	19,560	17,886	1,674	6	78	642
Other States.....	10	10	62,910	53,789	9,121	9	112	1,196

John B. Rieger. The general condition of the churches, however, was deplorable; the number of divisions was very great, and there were large companies of Mystics. No regular method of securing ordination in this country existed, although Boehm was ordained by the Dutch Reformed ministers of New York, with the assent of the Classis of Amsterdam. Meanwhile the ecclesiastical authorities of the Palatinate, appreciating their own inability to do much for the American churches, made application to the Classis of Amsterdam, and that classis commissioned Michael Schlatter as a missionary evangelist. He arrived in August, 1746, and soon after had a conference with the pastors who were already in the churches. As a consequence, a coetus, or synod, was organized the next year. Some opposition arose to connection with the Holland Church, which, in its turn, was somewhat discouraged by the reports from America, and also by the death in 1749 of Boehm, whose influence had been great.

In 1751 Schlatter made a visit to Europe and so interested the people of Holland in the churches of Pennsylvania, that he returned the next year with six ministers and a sum estimated at \$60,000. This general assistance, however, was so conditioned upon subordination to the Classis of Amsterdam as to occasion a great deal of friction, manifested especially in the development of two distinct parties in the coetus itself, differing in their views of polity, and resembling in a general way the "Old Side" and "New Side" in the Presbyterian Church; the former emphasizing doctrinal regularity, the latter being more in accord with the evangelistic and pietistic developments of the time. Among the most prominent leaders in the latter company was Philip William Otterbein, later

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS, 1926: REFORMED CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES

SYNOD AND CLASSIS	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
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1,709</b>	<b>361,286</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>\$44,662,875</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>\$4,415,557</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>\$7,488,446</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>315,343</b>
<b>Eastern Synod:</b>										
1. East Pennsylvania.....	64	17,648	64	2,226,300	20	195,650	64	329,118	62	15,973
2. Lebanon.....	48	12,042	48	1,614,000	9	63,517	48	205,784	47	11,147
3. Philadelphia.....	37	11,994	37	2,315,000	16	399,570	36	362,415	36	11,079
4. Lancaster.....	53	12,997	51	1,630,300	11	124,836	53	316,706	44	11,630
5. East Susquehanna.....	56	9,862	55	843,800	8	93,625	56	124,629	54	9,828
6. West Susquehanna.....	63	7,148	63	685,100	4	44,000	62	108,534	59	8,708
7. Tohickon.....	40	10,186	40	1,142,500	7	73,325	40	224,899	39	9,690
8. Goshenhoppen.....	30	8,999	30	1,177,500	4	63,000	30	120,797	30	7,952
9. Lehigh.....	67	25,369	67	3,327,100	22	465,250	67	516,091	66	20,388
10. Schuylkill.....	35	8,604	35	977,000	2	54,650	35	184,142	33	7,952
11. Wyoming.....	41	8,500	41	969,000	7	62,260	41	135,533	36	6,821
12. Reading.....	29	15,374	29	2,295,500	12	251,510	29	285,625	26	12,028
13. Eastern Hungarian.....	9	1,585	7	261,000	5	62,500	7	25,825	8	665
<b>Ohio Synod:</b>										
1. Central Ohio.....	43	6,821	43	589,200	—	—	42	114,943	39	5,781
2. East Ohio.....	60	14,190	59	1,522,600	10	197,700	57	382,952	57	12,358
3. North Ohio.....	25	4,871	25	504,500	2	56,000	24	97,500	23	4,477
4. Northeast Ohio.....	46	14,483	46	1,917,350	9	268,000	45	419,182	46	13,587
5. Northwest Ohio.....	24	5,229	23	924,000	11	151,300	24	119,901	22	4,595
6. Southwest Ohio.....	37	9,558	37	1,361,100	11	217,775	37	222,534	37	8,749
7. West Ohio.....	32	5,658	32	586,500	3	74,000	32	106,319	31	5,843
<b>Synod of the Northwest:</b>										
1. Sheboygan.....	42	6,805	42	528,400	9	80,500	42	131,677	39	2,931
2. Milwaukee.....	30	5,478	26	448,731	9	42,200	30	91,533	30	3,677
3. Minnesota.....	19	2,793	18	190,894	5	27,900	18	46,543	19	1,180
4. Nebraska.....	14	1,873	13	98,100	1	2,000	14	23,015	11	967
5. Ursinus.....	14	2,187	14	99,800	1	5,000	14	63,857	13	1,065
6. South Dakota.....	21	1,474	20	51,200	2	800	21	26,537	21	751
7. Portland-Oregon.....	15	1,325	14	212,500	—	—	15	36,662	15	1,243
8. Eureka.....	27	1,578	26	53,400	2	3,000	27	18,750	25	758
9. North Dakota.....	16	550	14	30,600	1	180	15	9,679	13	380
<b>Pittsburgh Synod:</b>										
1. Westmoreland.....	38	9,103	38	835,500	3	24,000	38	169,900	37	7,573
2. Clarion.....	30	3,514	29	370,700	3	21,300	29	55,783	27	3,501
3. St. Paul.....	19	4,107	19	425,300	4	31,830	19	91,074	18	3,659
4. Somerset.....	39	5,184	38	629,200	4	20,950	39	83,741	36	4,185
5. Allegheny.....	25	6,119	25	978,300	6	85,425	25	144,158	25	5,388
6. Central Hungarian.....	12	2,134	10	220,800	6	33,400	12	52,990	12	896
7. Western Hungarian.....	21	4,122	20	487,000	7	29,865	21	108,702	20	2,861
<b>Potomac Synod:</b>										
1. Zion.....	37	8,499	37	1,495,500	4	89,853	36	212,809	31	10,457
2. Maryland.....	52	9,062	52	1,095,500	1	5,000	52	142,567	47	8,419
3. Mercersburg.....	20	4,169	20	806,000	3	65,700	20	118,641	20	4,015
4. Virginia.....	29	3,109	29	323,400	2	25,000	29	94,504	26	3,145
5. North Carolina.....	56	8,002	56	952,800	13	128,600	56	141,591	55	10,028
6. Gettysburg.....	33	3,155	32	624,300	1	225	33	115,224	33	7,375
7. Carlisle.....	21	2,266	21	361,700	1	44,000	21	46,860	21	2,534
8. Juniata.....	48	7,405	48	697,600	4	13,000	46	132,118	46	6,757
9. Baltimore-Washing- ton.....	18	6,056	18	1,219,500	12	174,406	18	129,532	17	3,812
<b>German Synod of the East:</b>										
1. New York.....	14	3,865	14	866,000	10	118,530	14	91,061	14	2,454
2. West New York.....	14	5,162	14	652,600	8	98,800	14	100,112	14	2,985
3. German Philadel- phia.....	16	5,061	16	688,100	5	49,400	16	93,054	16	3,604
4. Heidelberg.....	6	2,344	6	336,000	4	51,500	6	40,623	5	1,485
<b>Mid-West Synod:</b>										
1. Fort Wayne.....	25	4,873	25	663,500	5	27,400	25	102,506	25	4,862
2. Chicago.....	18	2,200	17	396,500	4	49,100	18	63,901	16	1,982
3. Iowa.....	16	1,289	15	116,300	1	7,500	16	27,965	14	1,612
4. Kansas.....	10	1,391	9	224,000	2	25,000	10	65,571	10	1,665
5. Wichita.....	2	190	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	212
6. Lincoln.....	6	544	8	185,500	1	2,500	8	116,777	5	583
7. Indianapolis.....	19	4,202	19	474,300	5	95,625	19	134,338	19	3,664
8. Missouri.....	11	1,254	9	114,500	1	700	10	28,763	9	1,064
9. Kentucky.....	17	2,704	17	219,800	2	16,900	17	47,399	18	2,348

<sup>1</sup> Amount for Wichita Classis combined with figures for Lincoln Classis, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

identified with the organization of the United Brethren in Christ. A number of independent ministers declined to identify themselves with the coetus, among whom one of the most prominent was John J. Zubly, pastor of a church in Charleston, S. C., and for a time a member of the Continental Congress.

The latter part of the eighteenth century was not a period of great growth, although the general status of the individual churches was good. With the general development of the feeling of independence and the association with other denominations—particularly the Lutherans under the lead of Muhlenberg—the German Reformed congregations became dissatisfied with the conditions of their connection with the Amsterdam Classis. That connection had proved as heavy a burden for them as for the Dutch churches of New York and New Jersey, and it was finally decided to act independently of the Classis.

The first synod of the German Reformed Church met at Lancaster, Pa., April 27, 1793, and reported 178 congregations and 15,000 communicants. Of the congregations, at least 55 had no ministers. The churches were scattered through New York, northern New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, with several congregations west of the Alleghenies. The most important congregations were Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Germantown in Pennsylvania, and Frederick in Maryland. Many churches in sections of Pennsylvania, about which no certain information was available, were reported as vacant. It was difficult for them to secure any ministers, either from their own synod or from the Dutch Reformed Church, especially ministers who could use the German language.

With the development of the Protestant Episcopal Church some congregations joined that body and others joined in the organization of the United Brethren. Various movements sprang up for union with other bodies, such as the Dutch Reformed Church, and especially the Lutheran, at the time of the organization of the first Lutheran Ministerium. This latter union was especially encouraged by the union in 1817 of the Lutheran and Reformed churches of Prussia. It did not, however, materialize and after a few years was no longer spoken of.

Then followed the revival period, in which two opposing influences were developed—the liberal and the conservative. The conservative party was anxious to preserve the faith, and the liberal party laid greater stress on fellowship. Another complication arose from the fact that the younger element preferred to use the English language in church services, while the older element preferred the German. As the difficulty of securing trained leaders became more apparent, a theological seminary was founded. During the discussions that followed, a number of churches withdrew and formed, in 1822, the "Synod of the Free German Reformed Congregations of Pennsylvania," later known as the "German Reformed Synod of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States." These churches returned in 1837, and eventually the discussion resulted in the establishment of a theological seminary at Mercersburg, Pa.

Meanwhile the church had been developing westward, but the difficulties of intercommunication made the mutual relations uncertain, and the western classes soon developed into the Western Synod, which, while holding generally fraternal relations with the Eastern Synod, was not identified with it. As graduates of Mercersburg found their way into the distant sections, the two synods came into more intimate relations, and in 1844 a convention was called in which the Dutch Reformed Church and the two German Reformed synods were represented. Although the convention was purely advisory, it prepared the way for later union. The western congregations meanwhile had met the same difficulty as those in the East in securing ministers and had established their own educational institutions, one of which, Heidelberg College, at Tiffin, Ohio, was founded in 1850.

During this period the church developed its general activities. The earliest German church papers were the result of private enterprise, but in 1840 the synod founded a printing establishment at Chambersburg, Pa., which was removed to Philadelphia after the destruction of Chambersburg during the Civil War.

As early as 1755 Michael Schlatter proposed the establishment of a Widows' Fund. In 1773 the Coetus at Lancaster decided to establish such a fund, and a charter was granted by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania March 26, 1810. In 1826 a Board of Domestic Missions was organized, and in 1838 a Board of Foreign Missions, working in relation with the American Board. In all departments of Christian activity there appeared indications of renewed life. The three hundredth anniversary of the formation and adoption of the Heidelberg Catechism was celebrated by the Reformed Church in 1863 by the union of the two synods in a General Synod. With the organization of the General Synod began the rapid extension of the work of home missions; the German work in the West rapidly assumed unexpected proportions, and the English-speaking portion increased also; as a result, separate district synods and specific classes were organized—the latest being the addition of two Hungarian classes, Eastern and Western. These had formerly been a part of the denomination known as the "Hungarian Reformed Church in America," which until the World War had general supervision and financial aid from the General Convention of the Reformed Church of Hungary. After a series of conferences, beginning in 1920 and culminating in 1924 in the "Tiffin Agreement," the mother church, through its official delegates, formally transferred the Hungarian Reformed churches in America to the jurisdiction of the Reformed Church in the United States. A few of the churches, however, would not accept the terms of the agreement and organized a new denomination under the name, "Free Magyar Reformed Church in America"; others became independent.

Through these experiences the church has developed strength, and at the same time has entered into the most cordial relations with other bodies. It is a member of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, of the Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the world holding the Presbyterian System, and of the Western Section of the Alliance. It has given cordial welcome to consideration of closer union, both with the Reformed Church in America and with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

#### DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

Both in doctrine and polity the Reformed Church in the United States is in hearty accord with the other Reformed and Presbyterian churches. The Heidelberg Catechism is in universal use in the churches, and the system of church courts corresponds to that of the Reformed Church in America, except that they do not speak of the "particular synod," but of the "synod."

#### WORK

The missionary work is under the supervision of boards appointed by, and reporting to, the General Synod. The Board of Home Missions reported in 1926 a total of 265 workers in the cities of the United States, reaching English, Germans, American Indians, Hungarians, Japanese, Italians, Jews, Czechs, and Bohemians. They cared for 277 churches, with a communicant membership of 37,800, and a Sunday-school enrollment of 34,048, and the amount received for this work in its varied departments was \$481,698.

The Foreign Mission Board of the General Synod, which carries on work in Japan, China, and Mesopotamia, in 1926 reported 10 stations with 114 American missionaries and 291 native helpers; 61 organized churches, with 5,335 members; 11 schools, with 2,061 scholars; and 3 hospitals and dispensaries, treating 23,920 patients. It also cooperates in the maintenance of the Sendai Christian Orphanage with 70 orphans, and also with the Union Theological Seminary at Changsha, Province of Hunan, China. The churches in Japan are united with those of other Reformed and Presbyterian missions in the Church of Christ in Japan and the Church of Christ in China, retaining no formal ecclesiastical connection with the church in the United States. The total value of property in the foreign field is estimated at \$1,969,748, with invested funds amounting to \$16,950. The amount contributed during the year for the support of the work was \$516,148.

The Reformed Church has 12 educational institutions of high grade, including 3 theological seminaries and 3 academies, with 3,429 students, property valued at \$7,357,300, and endowments of \$2,689,929. There are 5 orphanages, with 565 orphans, supported by the church. The value of property used for philanthropic purposes is estimated at \$1,015,000, and the amount contributed during the year for their support was about \$85,000. The number of young people's societies reported was 800, with a membership of 43,848.

During the period from 1920 to 1925 the Reformed Church in the United States organized and carried to its conclusion a "Forward Movement" for placing the work of the five boards and the educational interests of the church upon a cash financial basis. As a result of the "Forward Movement," gifts amounting to \$5,080,277 were received and distributed for the special needs of the various boards and educational institutions of the denomination.