

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 PROTESTANT CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Methodist Protestant Church 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 Protestant Church comprises those persons who have been received into the local churches by vote of the congregations, upon profession of faith. Persons received on probation and children enrolled for instruction are not included.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	2, 239	252	1, 987	11.3	88.7
Members	192, 171	55, 652	136, 519	29.0	71.0
Average per church.....	86	221	69		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	75, 408	22, 167	53, 241	29.4	70.6
Female.....	106, 952	32, 248	74, 704	30.2	69.8
Sex not reported.....	9, 811	1, 237	8, 574	12.6	87.4
Males per 100 females.....	70.5	68.7	71.3		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	11, 551	3, 680	7, 871	31.9	68.1
13 years and over.....	150, 373	47, 913	102, 460	31.9	68.1
Age not reported.....	30, 247	4, 059	26, 188	13.4	86.6
Per cent under 13 years ²	7.1	7.1	7.1		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	2, 109	250	1, 859	11.9	88.1
Value—Churches reporting.....	2, 094	246	1, 848	11.7	88.3
Amount reported.....	\$16, 817, 278	\$9, 763, 034	\$7, 054, 244	58.1	41.9
Average per church.....	\$8, 031	\$39, 687	\$3, 817		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	249	104	145	41.8	58.2
Amount reported.....	\$1, 496, 175	\$1, 239, 139	\$257, 036	82.9	17.2
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	1, 339	116	1, 223	8.7	91.3
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	737	167	570	22.7	77.3
Amount reported.....	\$2, 951, 550	\$1, 375, 950	\$1, 575, 600	46.6	53.4
Debt—Churches reporting.....	109	45	64	41.3	58.7
Amount reported.....	\$204, 888	\$161, 350	\$43, 538	78.8	21.2
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	477	99	378	20.8	79.2
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	2, 160	248	1, 912	11.5	88.5
Amount reported.....	\$3, 137, 211	\$1, 536, 361	\$1, 600, 850	49.0	51.0
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$2, 581, 210	\$1, 277, 997	\$1, 303, 213	49.5	50.5
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$547, 120	\$256, 758	\$290, 362	46.9	53.1
Not classified.....	\$8, 881	\$1, 606	\$7, 275	18.1	81.9
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1, 452	\$6, 195	\$837		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	1, 917	243	1, 674	12.7	87.3
Officers and teachers.....	19, 171	4, 785	14, 386	25.0	75.0
Scholars.....	173, 438	57, 224	116, 214	33.0	67.0

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 2,239 active Methodist Protestant churches, with 192,171 members. These figures are exclusive of three federated churches, each consisting of a Methodist Protestant unit combined with a unit of some other denomination. These federated churches, which are more or less closely affiliated with the Methodist Protestant Church, reported a total membership of 326, of whom about one-third were Methodists.

The classification of membership by sex was reported by 2,086 churches and the classification by age was reported by 1,762 churches, including, however, only 1,044 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: METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	2,239	2,473	2,825	2,529
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-234	-352	296	
Per cent.....	-9.5	-12.5	11.7	
Members	192,171	186,908	178,544	141,989
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	5,263	8,364	36,555	
Per cent.....	2.8	4.7	25.7	
Average membership per church.....	86	76	63	56
Church edifices:				
Number.....	2,109	2,266	2,457	1,924
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,094	2,266	2,442	
Amount reported.....	\$16,817,278	\$7,944,467	\$6,053,048	\$3,683,337
Average per church.....	\$8,031	\$3,506	\$2,479	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	249	250	244	
Amount reported.....	\$1,496,175	\$484,679	\$247,524	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	737	679	661	
Amount reported.....	\$2,951,550	\$1,385,160	\$910,645	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	109			
Amount reported.....	\$204,888			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	2,160	2,393		
Amount reported.....	\$3,137,211	\$1,509,243		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$2,581,210	\$1,352,530		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$547,120	\$156,713		
Not classified.....	\$8,881			
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,452	\$631		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	1,917	2,081	2,118	
Officers and teachers.....	19,171	20,778	18,970	
Scholars.....	173,438	177,918	141,086	

¹A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Methodist Protestant Church 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.

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each conference in the Methodist Protestant Church, 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 PROTESTANT CHURCH

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- port- ed	Males per 100 fe- males (¹)
United States.....	2, 239	252	1, 987	192, 171	55, 652	136, 519	75, 408	106, 952	9, 811	70. 5
New England:										
Connecticut.....	3	2	1	90	69	21	29	61		
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	62	8	54	3, 804	906	2, 898	1, 377	2, 335	92	59. 0
New Jersey.....	45	17	28	4, 755	2, 610	2, 145	1, 822	2, 921	12	62. 4
Pennsylvania.....	117	27	90	16, 336	9, 616	6, 720	6, 052	8, 909	1, 375	67. 9
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	192	19	173	23, 326	7, 702	15, 624	9, 181	13, 360	785	68. 7
Indiana.....	108	17	91	8, 838	2, 794	6, 044	3, 586	5, 098	154	70. 3
Illinois.....	77	6	71	4, 645	862	3, 783	1, 740	2, 722	183	63. 9
Michigan.....	108	12	96	4, 945	1, 442	3, 503	1, 924	2, 936	85	65. 5
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	31	2	29	2, 484	443	2, 041	990	1, 494		66. 3
Missouri.....	61	3	58	3, 547	286	3, 261	1, 425	1, 997	125	71. 4
Kansas.....	14	3	11	1, 304	452	852	466	625	213	74. 6
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	44	5	39	4, 466	1, 104	3, 362	1, 715	2, 721	30	63. 0
Maryland.....	172	37	135	22, 014	10, 624	11, 390	9, 199	12, 815		71. 8
District of Columbia.....	5	5		1, 383	1, 383		497	886		56. 1
Virginia.....	58	2	56	5, 004	459	4, 545	1, 965	2, 828	211	69. 5
West Virginia.....	300	9	291	21, 702	4, 464	17, 238	8, 849	12, 164	689	72. 7
North Carolina.....	223	45	178	26, 922	7, 057	19, 865	11, 332	14, 413	1, 177	78. 6
South Carolina.....	23		23	1, 987		1, 987	899	1, 088		82. 6
Georgia.....	51	11	40	3, 115	681	2, 434	775	1, 134	1, 206	68. 3
Florida.....	8		8	374		374	152	222		68. 5
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	28		28	1, 407		1, 407	575	767	65	75. 0
Tennessee.....	32		32	1, 570		1, 570	505	784	281	64. 4
Alabama.....	96	2	94	7, 392	815	6, 577	2, 911	3, 761	720	77. 4
Mississippi.....	90	1	89	4, 668	37	4, 631	1, 821	2, 447	400	74. 4
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	92	1	91	5, 439	21	5, 418	2, 074	2, 932	433	70. 7
Louisiana.....	59	2	57	3, 160	109	3, 051	726	1, 181	1, 253	61. 5
Oklahoma.....	45	2	43	1, 966	267	1, 699	749	1, 217		61. 5
Texas.....	92	11	81	4, 852	773	4, 079	1, 841	2, 689	322	68. 5
Pacific:										
Washington.....	3	3		676	676		231	445		51. 9

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

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The general revolt against ecclesiastical rule which characterized the earlier years of the last century was the occasion for the organization of the Methodist Protestant Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church at that time vested an unlimited legislative, executive, and judicial power in the ministry, to the exclusion of all the lay members. In 1821, after years of desultory discussion, the Wesleyan Repository was established as a medium for the special consideration of what came to be called the "mutual rights" of the ministry and laity. Later

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 Rev. T. H. Lewis, D. D., LL. D., president, General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, 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: METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

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.....	2, 239	2, 473	2, 825	192, 171	186, 908	178, 544	11, 551	150, 373	30, 247	7. 1
Connecticut.....	3	5	4	90	128	161		90		
New York.....	62	75	67	3, 804	4, 376	3, 890	94	3, 410	300	2. 7
New Jersey.....	45	46	50	4, 755	6, 076	5, 248	129	4, 513	113	2. 8
Pennsylvania.....	117	130	122	16, 336	15, 015	12, 317	849	13, 821	1, 666	5. 8
Ohio.....	192	233	246	23, 326	25, 629	23, 494	1, 151	18, 313	3, 862	5. 9
Indiana.....	108	130	128	8, 838	10, 367	10, 408	541	7, 529	768	6. 7
Illinois.....	77	86	104	4, 645	4, 948	5, 512	309	3, 462	874	8. 2
Michigan.....	108	134	154	4, 945	5, 797	5, 077	360	3, 723	862	8. 8
Iowa.....	81	49	57	2, 484	3, 426	2, 994	128	1, 484	872	7. 9
Missouri.....	61	73	97	3, 547	4, 216	4, 712	149	2, 757	641	5. 1
Kansas.....	14	26	41	1, 304	1, 490	2, 050	67	1, 024	213	6. 1
Delaware.....	44	40	39	4, 466	4, 598	3, 463	302	4, 057	107	6. 9
Maryland.....	172	189	181	22, 014	22, 174	16, 373	1, 108	18, 995	1, 911	5. 5
District of Columbia.....	5	6	5	1, 383	1, 486	1, 415	34	1, 349		2. 5
Virginia.....	58	44	61	5, 004	4, 028	4, 480	283	3, 580	1, 141	7. 3
West Virginia.....	300	316	281	21, 702	18, 948	16, 004	1, 437	16, 442	3, 823	8. 0
North Carolina.....	223	187	227	26, 922	18, 033	18, 271	2, 255	21, 567	3, 100	9. 5
South Carolina.....	23	25	33	1, 987	2, 324	1, 840	89	1, 022	876	8. 0
Georgia.....	51	50	77	3, 115	2, 884	4, 970	86	1, 142	1, 887	7. 0
Florida.....	8	3	8	374	141	168	27	347		7. 2
Kentucky.....	28	37	43	1, 407	1, 836	2, 341	85	1, 122	200	7. 0
Tennessee.....	32	30	43	1, 570	1, 759	2, 716	90	1, 059	421	7. 8
Alabama.....	96	100	95	7, 392	7, 088	5, 403	794	5, 852	746	11. 9
Mississippi.....	90	102	93	4, 668	4, 531	4, 517	491	3, 388	789	12. 7
Arkansas.....	92	77	166	5, 439	4, 087	6, 658	155	3, 368	1, 916	4. 4
Louisiana.....	59	84	91	3, 160	3, 010	3, 513	111	1, 679	1, 370	6. 2
Oklahoma.....	45	30	85	1, 966	1, 113	2, 054	153	1, 668	145	8. 4
Texas.....	92	164	227	4, 852	7, 002	8, 495	235	2, 973	1, 644	7. 3
Washington.....	3	2		676	398		39	637		5. 8

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

it was superseded by a paper called "Mutual Rights," which vigorously discussed and earnestly advocated the right of the laity to an equal representation with the ministers in the lawmaking bodies of the church.

Union societies were formed in order to develop sentiment in favor of the movement, and in 1827 a convention was called which formally petitioned the General Conference of 1828 to concede the principle of lay representation in all the conferences of the church. The reply was unfavorable, and the petitioners were charged with being disturbers of the peace of the church. The result was an increase of agitation and of intensity of feeling. The union societies became more active, and their organ, Mutual Rights, more pronounced than ever. Then followed citations for trial before church courts on the charge of "speaking evil of magistrates and ministers," the expelling of some and the withdrawal of many who sympathized with them. A number of local independent societies were organized, and a convention was held in Baltimore in November, 1828, where a provisional organization was formed under the name of The Associated Methodist Churches. Two years later another convention was held at the same place, and the Methodist Protestant Church was formed, enrolling 83 ministers and about

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

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..	2,239	2,109	2,094	\$16,817,278	249	\$1,496,175	737	\$2,951,550	109	\$204,888
Connecticut.....	3	3	3	27,500						
New York.....	62	62	60	517,700	5	17,910	50	176,000	4	17,300
New Jersey.....	45	44	44	976,800	10	71,435	34	246,000	10	20,330
Pennsylvania.....	117	117	117	2,115,533	24	200,009	50	358,600	12	48,553
Ohio.....	192	189	188	2,390,100	20	278,431	72	345,300	8	16,584
Indiana.....	108	108	107	646,450	10	32,100	55	143,700	7	8,469
Illinois.....	77	74	74	475,700	7	104,400	33	73,200	1	140
Michigan.....	108	103	102	867,800	6	25,075	52	164,300	5	10,800
Iowa.....	31	32	31	181,300	1	180	16	40,700	1	900
Missouri.....	61	54	54	122,000	1	200	15	15,150		
Kansas.....	14	13	13	102,700	2	7,600	10	31,500	2	4,350
Delaware.....	44	44	44	500,100	6	44,500	19	90,700	6	18,208
Maryland.....	172	173	172	2,943,900	34	355,987	85	460,200	8	25,300
District of Columbia.....	5	5	5	273,000	3	10,200	5	53,000	1	5,500
Virginia.....	58	49	49	445,930	11	36,950	20	73,600	5	5,750
West Virginia.....	300	284	283	1,460,050	15	65,681	68	283,450	12	11,061
North Carolina.....	223	222	218	1,576,150	27	195,528	57	216,100	9	14,575
South Carolina.....	23	22	22	44,400	3	765	4	16,000	2	1,805
Georgia.....	51	49	49	99,450	13	1,582				
Florida.....	8	6	6	14,700	2	3,750	4	16,300	1	1,500
Kentucky.....	28	27	27	27,350	2	69				
Tennessee.....	32	26	26	38,100	2	350	5	13,950		
Alabama.....	96	90	90	180,025	5	10,685	20	40,250	4	1,153
Mississippi.....	90	82	82	62,800	4	890	10	8,200	1	700
Arkansas.....	92	80	79	124,600	15	9,386	8	10,900	3	585
Louisiana.....	59	51	51	108,340	4	550	12	18,900	4	425
Oklahoma.....	45	24	22	35,100	7	882	5	7,300	1	700
Texas.....	92	73	73	214,700	8	5,080	25	45,250	2	1,200
Washington.....	3	3	3	245,000	2	16,000	3	23,000		

¹ Figures for Connecticut and New York, for Georgia and Florida, and for Kentucky and Tennessee are combined, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

5,000 members. During the succeeding quadrennium the membership increased rapidly, new annual conferences were formed, the territorial limits of the church were considerably extended, and one or two schools were established.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

In doctrine the Methodist Protestant Church stands on the same basis as the Methodist Episcopal Church. In polity, however, there are certain radical differences. The Methodist Protestant Church has no bishops or presiding elders and no life officers of any kind. It makes ministers and laymen equal in number and in power in the legislative bodies of the church, and grants to ministers the right to appeal from the stationing authority of the conference. With these exceptions, the general organization, including the system of quarterly, annual, and general conferences, is similar to that of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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

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.....	2,239	2,160	\$3,137,211	\$2,581,210	\$547,120	\$8,881	1,917	19,171	173,438
Connecticut.....	3	3	6,118	4,807	1,311	-----	3	26	214
New York.....	62	59	126,300	101,310	24,990	-----	54	632	4,312
New Jersey.....	45	43	206,730	174,080	32,650	-----	42	757	6,298
Pennsylvania.....	117	106	411,990	343,822	67,258	910	106	1,337	13,517
Ohio.....	192	190	390,365	321,351	69,014	-----	188	2,440	22,080
Indiana.....	108	105	158,601	130,597	28,004	-----	103	1,197	8,552
Illinois.....	77	74	90,191	77,726	12,465	-----	66	816	5,727
Michigan.....	108	108	143,235	117,540	25,695	-----	104	879	7,462
Iowa.....	31	31	40,088	34,800	5,288	50	31	343	2,414
Missouri.....	61	60	33,908	27,627	3,950	2,331	55	430	2,971
Kansas.....	14	14	32,880	25,075	7,805	-----	13	198	1,963
Delaware.....	44	44	95,966	81,430	14,536	-----	43	553	4,967
Maryland.....	172	171	506,107	409,617	96,490	-----	163	2,353	22,729
District of Columbia.....	5	5	35,189	22,978	12,211	-----	5	109	1,178
Virginia.....	58	53	96,095	81,465	14,630	-----	47	548	4,604
West Virginia.....	300	291	238,742	204,603	34,139	-----	258	2,169	19,585
North Carolina.....	223	219	273,616	212,253	60,655	708	204	1,892	23,487
South Carolina.....	23	22	8,151	6,637	964	550	22	136	1,132
Georgia.....	51	51	16,117	13,417	2,700	-----	40	212	1,735
Florida.....	8	7	8,281	8,032	249	-----	5	31	238
Kentucky.....	28	21	3,742	3,066	676	-----	20	109	905
Tennessee.....	32	23	6,847	5,851	746	250	19	118	1,088
Alabama.....	96	93	40,186	34,878	5,308	-----	65	376	3,250
Mississippi.....	90	88	16,162	12,604	3,550	8	50	275	2,235
Arkansas.....	92	88	40,656	36,625	4,031	-----	63	318	2,977
Louisiana.....	59	58	26,295	22,681	3,398	216	37	189	1,488
Oklahoma.....	45	42	13,697	11,248	1,649	800	41	201	2,031
Texas.....	92	88	52,816	39,183	10,575	3,058	67	441	3,499
Washington.....	3	3	18,140	15,907	2,233	-----	3	86	800

WORK

The denominational boards of the church, which have charge of its activities, are appointed by and are responsible to the General Conference.

The home missionary work is under the care of a board of seven members, with official headquarters at Pittsburgh. It has so far been limited chiefly to denominational extension, but work is now being done among the immigrants and mountaineers. A Woman's Board of Home Missions, with headquarters at Baltimore, Md., is doing good work.

The foreign missionary work, under the direction of the Board of Foreign Missions and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, is carried on in Japan, China, and India. The latest report shows 83 stations, occupied by 26 American missionaries and 150 native helpers; 30 churches and chapels, with 4,710 members and 1,035 probationers; 14 schools, with 2,253 pupils; 76 Sunday schools, with 3,958 Sunday school scholars; 1 hospital and 1 dispensary treating 11,537 patients; and 11 homes and orphanages, including 1 asylum and school for the blind, reporting in all 31 inmates. The amount contributed in the United States for the foreign work during the year was \$108,014. The value of property is estimated at \$565,000 and the amount of endowment is \$30,000.

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

CONFERENCE OR MISSION	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	2,239	192,171	2,094	\$16,817,278	249	\$1,496,175	2,160	\$3,137,211	1,917	173,438
Alabama.....	86	6,934	82	169,475	3	10,000	83	38,541	58	3,078
Alabama Mission.....	6	322	6	9,850	2	685	6	966	6	147
Arkansas.....	80	5,233	75	168,840	14	8,736	77	42,539	51	2,483
Colorado-Texas.....	14	531	7	18,000			13	1,930	5	191
Colorado-Texas Mission.....	14	684	13	31,900	3	3,630	12	4,130	13	337
Eastern.....	82	6,317	81	1,206,600	15	95,295	78	282,279	73	8,404
Florida Mission.....	8	374	6	14,700	2	3,750	7	8,281	5	238
Fort Smith-Oklahoma.....	65	2,662	35	47,450	8	1,532	61	17,978	57	2,775
Georgia.....	34	2,500	32	66,950	9	1,399	34	13,360	26	1,290
Georgia Mission.....	17	615	17	32,500	4	183	17	2,757	14	445
Illinois.....	77	4,645	74	475,700	7	104,400	74	90,191	66	5,727
Indiana.....	110	9,008	109	652,450	10	32,100	107	160,399	105	8,752
Iowa-Missouri.....	44	3,390	44	225,800	1	180	44	51,677	43	3,060
Kansas.....	14	1,304	13	102,700	2	7,600	14	32,880	13	1,963
Kentucky.....	21	1,050	20	19,750	2	69	17	2,988	17	830
Louisiana.....	56	3,038	46	55,550	4	550	55	21,211	34	1,288
Maryland.....	278	34,959	277	4,665,900	57	467,815	277	819,325	266	36,452
Michigan.....	108	4,945	102	867,800	6	25,075	108	143,235	104	7,462
Mississippi.....	79	3,864	70	55,900	4	890	78	15,750	46	2,003
Missouri.....	47	2,582	40	76,500	1	200	46	22,019	43	2,325
North Carolina.....	234	28,142	229	1,001,650	27	195,528	229	278,706	214	24,245
North Mississippi.....	19	1,154	18	10,400			18	2,486	7	385
Ohio.....	188	22,294	184	2,164,100	18	240,931	186	364,016	184	21,105
Onondaga.....	49	2,313	47	226,700	2	2,150	46	53,133	42	2,591
Pittsburgh.....	77	14,329	77	2,161,733	20	221,431	68	374,066	71	10,696
South Carolina.....	9	520	9	12,000	2	265	9	2,009	8	363
South Carolina Mission.....	9	908	8	17,400	1	500	9	3,642	9	354
Tennessee.....	23	1,209	19	18,400			16	1,946	11	337
Texas.....	60	3,328	50	162,000	5	1,450	59	45,926	48	2,921
Virginia.....	31	1,469	21	42,030	3	1,350	21	11,323	20	1,311
Washington Mission.....	3	676	3	245,000	2	16,000	3	18,140	3	800
West Virginia.....	297	20,872	280	1,191,550	15	52,481	288	209,332	255	19,080

The educational work of the church is represented by five institutions, four colleges, and a theological seminary. They are located in Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, and Texas.

There are two homes for the aged and one orphanage, having a combined capacity for 150 inmates. The amount contributed for this work during the year was about \$27,000, and the value of property is estimated at \$313,000.

The young people's work is represented by 994 societies of Christian Endeavor, with 29,512 members.