

PRESBYTERIAN BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

History.—As the Lutheran churches represent those features of the Reformation emphasized by Luther, so the Presbyterian and Reformed churches represent those emphasized by Calvin. The doctrinal and ecclesiastical system developed at Geneva, modified somewhat in Holland and in France and transferred to Scotland, became solidified there largely under the influence of John Knox in 1530 and found a practical and thoroughly logical presentation in the Westminster Assembly, London, England, 1645–1649. This was not a distinctively Presbyterian body. Called by act of Parliament to consider the state of the entire country in matters of religion, it represented in its membership all English-speaking Christians, although the Anglicans took no active part in its deliberations. It had no ecclesiastical authority, yet its deliverances on doctrine have furnished the basis both for Presbyterian and many non-Presbyterian bodies; and the form of ecclesiastical government it recommended has gone far beyond the country where it was formulated and has had a marked influence not only on church life, but in civil and national development. In England it fostered the development of the Independents who afterwards became the Congregationalists. In Scotland, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it resulted in the development of several Presbyterian bodies, each insisting upon some specific administrative phase; and one of its strongholds was the north of Ireland, where so many Scotch found a more congenial home for the time being, until they should cross the Atlantic.

The distinctively Presbyterian churches of the United States trace their origin chiefly to Great Britain. Whatever of English and Welsh Presbyterianism there was in the Colonies, together with the few French Protestant, or Huguenot, churches, combined at an early date with the Scotch and Scotch-Irish elements to form the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, from which the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in the United States afterwards separated. The Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church, representing the Calvinistic Methodists of Wales, was united in 1920 with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.¹

Five Presbyterian denominations are directly connected with the Secession and Relief movements of the church in Scotland in the eighteenth century: The United Presbyterian Church of North America; the Associate Synod of North America, known also as the Associate Presbyterian Church; the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, formerly the Associate Reformed Synod of the South; the Synod and the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

In close harmony with these distinctively Presbyterian churches are the Reformed churches, traceable to the influence of immigration from the Continent of Europe: The Reformed Church in America (Dutch) and the Christian Reformed Church, both of which originated in Holland; the Reformed Church in the United States (German), whose beginnings were in Switzerland and Germany; and the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America, representing the State Reformed Church of Hungary. All of these, Presbyterian and Reformed, substantially agree in government, and all maintain similar principles of the Calvinistic system, whether expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the

¹ See Methodist bodies, p. 914.

Canons of the Synod of Dort, or the Heidelberg Catechism. The Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the world holding the Presbyterian system, whose special purpose is to secure cooperation by the different denominations in general church work, has grown out of this concord, as has also the Council of the Reformed Churches in the United States holding the Presbyterian system, organized for the same general purpose.

Doctrine and organization.—Presbyterianism as a doctrinal system has as its fundamental principles the undivided sovereignty of God in His universe, the sovereignty of Christ in salvation, the sovereignty of the Scriptures in faith and conduct, and the sovereignty of the individual conscience in the interpretation of the Word of God. As a polity, it recognizes Christ as the only head of the church and the source of all power, and the people of Christ as entitled under their Lord to participation in the government and action of the church. As polity and as doctrine, it maintains the right of private judgment in matters of religion, the membership in the Church Universal of all who profess the true religion, the validity of church organization, and the power of each association of organizations to prescribe its own terms of communion. It further holds that ministers are peers one of another, and that church authority is positively vested, not in individuals, such as bishops or presbyters, but in representative courts, including the session, the presbytery, and the synod; and in the case of some bodies, especially the larger ones, the general assembly. This principle of coordinate representative authority, by which the individual member of the church has his own share in the conduct of that church, while at the same time he recognizes not merely the headship of Christ but the fellowship in Christ, has given to the system a peculiar hold wherever there has been representative government and has exerted a strong influence modifying both individualistic and hierarchical tendencies. Its advocates call attention to the resemblance between its polity and the political constitution of the United States, in which country it has had its strongest influence, its courts corresponding closely to the local, State, and national organizations.

Statistics.—The denominations grouped as the Presbyterian bodies in 1926, in 1916, and in 1906 are listed in the summary table, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods.

Certain changes are to be noted. The union between the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, under discussion in 1906, was consummated, but a considerable number of the Cumberland Presbyterian churches refused to adopt the plan and continued the old organization. This explains the decrease in the statistics of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which is shown for both 1916 and 1926. The body reported in 1906 as the Associate Reformed Synod of the South changed its name in 1913 to Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The single organization reported in 1906 by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States and Canada later joined the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod; the single organization reported in 1906 by the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Covenanted) was listed in 1916 with the Independent churches. In 1920, the five synods of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church were absorbed into the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN 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	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group.....	14,848	2,625,284	13,852	\$443,572,158	14,259	\$87,535,390	13,222	2,001,928
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	8,947	1,894,030	8,437	338,152,743	8,656	63,230,663	8,237	1,407,298
Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	1,097	67,938	986	3,321,287	961	759,021	765	48,052
Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	178	10,868	162	353,825	167	80,304	152	5,223
United Presbyterian Church of North America.....	901	171,571	879	29,714,845	890	6,642,820	871	148,668
Presbyterian Church in the United States.....	3,469	451,043	3,148	67,798,658	3,330	15,612,028	2,969	367,795
Associate Synod of North America (Associate Presbyterian Church).....	11	329	10	28,800	11	8,841	6	150
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.....	143	20,410	139	2,428,100	142	809,883	137	15,998
Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.....	89	7,166	79	1,427,100	89	851,179	83	7,495
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod.....	13	1,929	12	346,800	13	40,651	12	1,259
1916								
Total for the group.....	15,840	2,255,626	14,328	192,989,599	14,661	40,058,907	13,978	1,947,421
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	9,639	1,611,251	8,677	150,239,123	9,059	80,166,158	8,848	1,381,653
Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	1,313	72,052	1,150	1,935,072	1,009	830,905	903	53,431
Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	136	13,077	130	230,426	127	39,497	133	7,471
Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church.....	134	14,566	126	1,012,000	120	173,977	127	10,789
United Presbyterian Church of North America.....	991	160,726	952	13,543,213	974	3,094,945	970	156,072
Presbyterian Church in the United States.....	3,365	357,760	3,041	28,924,915	3,101	5,809,909	2,744	313,165
Associate Synod of North America (Associate Presbyterian Church).....	12	490	12	26,400	12	8,114	5	137
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.....	133	15,124	128	667,650	133	178,138	128	13,411
Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.....	103	8,185	98	1,131,600	103	225,263	100	9,498
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod.....	14	2,386	14	279,200	14	32,001	14	1,765

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Continued

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1906								
Total for the group	15, 471	1, 830, 555	14, 160	150, 189, 446			13, 048	1, 511, 175
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	7, 927	1, 179, 566	7, 405	114, 882, 781			7, 393	1, 045, 056
Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	2, 846	195, 770	2, 451	5, 803, 960			1, 817	120, 311
Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	196	18, 066	192	203, 778			192	6, 952
Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church.....	147	13, 280	145	761, 350			136	11, 347
United Presbyterian Church of North America.....	964	130, 342	943	10, 760, 208			948	115, 963
Presbyterian Church in the United States.....	3, 086	266, 345	2, 734	15, 488, 489			2, 301	189, 767
Associate Synod of North America (Associate Presbyterian Church).....	22	786	19	28, 825			9	289
Associate Reformed Synod of the South.....	141	13, 201	134	436, 550			126	9, 732
Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.....	113	9, 122	110	1, 258, 105			103	9, 613
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod.....	27	3, 620	26	365, 400			22	2, 013
Reformed Presbyterian Church (Covenanted).....	1	17						
Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States and Canada.....	1	440	1	200, 000			1	132

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Cumberland Presbyterian 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 Cumberland Presbyterian Church is composed of adult communicants who have united with the local churches upon confession of faith and repentance, and the expressed desire to live a Christian life. Baptized children are also included.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	1,097	120	977	10.9	89.1
Members	67,938	13,696	54,242	20.2	79.8
Average per church.....	62	114	56		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	27,760	5,305	22,455	19.1	80.9
Female.....	38,330	7,820	30,510	20.4	79.6
Sex not reported.....	1,848	571	1,277	30.9	69.1
Males per 100 females.....	72.4	67.8	73.6		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	3,345	1,066	2,259	32.5	67.5
13 years and over.....	57,770	11,543	46,227	20.0	80.0
Age not reported.....	6,823	1,067	5,756	15.6	84.4
Per cent under 13 years ³	5.5	8.6	4.7		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	999	125	874	12.5	87.5
Value—Churches reporting.....	986	116	870	11.8	88.2
Amount reported.....	\$3,321,287	\$1,390,390	\$1,930,897	41.9	58.1
Average per church.....	\$3,368	\$11,986	\$2,219		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	72	30	42		
Amount reported.....	\$117,096	\$90,968	\$26,128	77.7	22.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifices.....	731	75	656	10.3	89.7
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	132	33	99	25.0	75.0
Amount reported.....	\$334,935	\$139,150	\$195,785	41.5	58.5
Debt—Churches reporting.....	24	8	16		
Amount reported.....	\$30,217	\$19,700	\$10,517	65.2	34.8
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	95	20	75		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	961	115	846	12.0	88.0
Amount reported.....	\$759,021	\$314,698	\$444,323	41.5	58.5
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$646,459	\$270,498	\$375,961	41.8	58.2
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$106,145	\$43,533	\$62,612	41.0	59.0
Not classified.....	\$6,417	\$667	\$5,750	10.4	89.6
Average expenditure per church.....	\$790	\$2,787	\$525		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	765	99	666	12.9	87.1
Officers and teachers.....	6,233	1,295	4,938	20.8	79.2
Scholars.....	48,052	11,528	36,524	24.0	76.0

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 Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 1,097 active Cumberland Presbyterian churches, with 67,938 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 1,070 churches and the classification by age was reported by 955 churches, including 443 which reported members under 13 years of age.

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

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	1,097	1,313	2,846	2,791
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-216	-1,533	55	
Per cent.....	-16.5	-53.9	2.0	
Members	67,938	72,052	195,770	164,940
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-4,114	-123,718	30,830	
Per cent.....	-5.7	-63.2	18.7	
Average membership per church.....	62	55	69	59
Church edifices:				
Number.....	999	1,163	2,474	2,024
Value—Churches reporting.....	986	1,150	2,451	
Amount reported.....	\$3,321,287	\$1,935,072	\$5,803,960	\$3,515,510
Average per church.....	\$3,368	\$1,683	\$2,368	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	72	81	157	
Amount reported.....	\$117,096	\$69,455	\$208,876	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	132	103	436	
Amount reported.....	\$334,935	\$149,500	\$658,400	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	24			
Amount reported.....	\$30,217			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	961	1,009		
Amount reported.....	\$759,021	\$330,905		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$646,459	\$236,176		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$106,145	\$42,548		
Not classified.....	\$6,417	\$52,181		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$790	\$328		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	765	903	1,817	
Officers and teachers.....	6,233	6,618	15,596	
Scholars.....	48,052	53,431	120,311	

¹ A minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Cumberland Presbyterian 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 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 synod in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, by presbyteries, 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: CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN 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- ported	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States.....	1,097	120	977	67,938	13,696	54,242	27,760	38,330	1,848	72.4
East North Central:										
Indiana.....	12	1	11	914	230	684	333	581	-----	57.3
Illinois.....	60	6	54	3,568	607	2,961	1,428	2,140	-----	66.7
West North Central:										
Iowa.....	2	-----	2	140	-----	140	66	74	-----	-----
Missouri.....	108	11	97	5,452	1,013	4,439	2,202	3,085	165	71.4
South Atlantic:										
Georgia.....	4	-----	4	318	-----	318	164	154	-----	106.5
Florida.....	4	2	2	260	171	89	106	154	-----	68.8
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	151	12	139	11,677	1,851	9,826	4,810	6,867	-----	70.0
Tennessee.....	378	43	335	27,791	6,544	21,247	11,381	15,517	893	73.3
Alabama.....	73	8	65	4,012	762	3,250	1,644	2,149	219	76.5
Mississippi.....	29	3	26	1,671	306	1,365	682	863	126	79.0
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	105	7	98	4,106	340	3,766	1,734	2,372	-----	73.1
Louisiana.....	13	-----	13	801	-----	801	259	367	175	70.6
Oklahoma.....	45	3	42	1,505	229	1,276	638	867	-----	73.6
Texas.....	108	20	88	5,383	1,324	4,059	2,175	2,938	270	74.0
Pacific:										
California.....	5	4	1	340	319	21	138	202	-----	68.3

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

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The opening years of the nineteenth century witnessed a remarkable religious awakening in various parts of the United States. Revivals were numerous and in certain sections were accompanied by strange "bodily exercises." The leader of the revival in the "Cumberland country" in Kentucky and Tennessee was the Rev. James McGready, a Presbyterian minister, and a member of the Synod of Kentucky. He and other ministers conducting the services felt constrained to call the attention of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to the peculiar manifestations. The assembly, in reply, recognizing that, although the movement had been accompanied by "extraordinary effects on the body," it had accomplished great good, admonished those in charge of the work of the danger of excesses, and expressed the opinion that these effects may be in a considerable degree produced by natural causes. As the revival work progressed, these physical manifestations became so marked as to create an unfavorable reaction, and some Presbyterian ministers set themselves against the entire movement. Others favored it, on the ground that various communities in which it was carried on were indeed transformed. The division in sentiment resulted

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. D. W. Fooks, stated clerk, General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian 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: CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[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 ¹
United States.....	1,097	1,313	2,846	67,938	72,052	195,770	3,345	57,770	6,823	5.5
Pennsylvania.....			60			8,912				
Ohio.....		1	23		22	2,458				
Indiana.....	12	14	57	914	1,146	6,376	37	877		4.0
Illinois.....	60	69	193	3,568	3,814	17,208	88	2,759	721	3.1
Iowa.....	2	3	19	140	108	1,190	10	90	40	10.0
Missouri.....	108	176	379	5,452	7,094	28,637	191	4,816	445	3.8
Nebraska.....			6			307				
Kansas.....			34			1,937				
Georgia.....	4	6	10	318	246	599		241	77	
Florida.....	4	2	4	260	124	126	14	246		5.4
Kentucky.....	151	157	205	11,677	11,827	16,916	558	10,232	887	5.2
Tennessee.....	378	398	536	27,791	27,631	42,464	1,494	24,076	2,221	5.8
Alabama.....	73	78	162	4,012	3,578	8,588	175	3,092	745	5.4
Mississippi.....	29	42	119	1,671	2,275	5,991	42	1,380	249	3.0
Arkansas.....	105	142	260	4,106	5,400	11,990	169	3,324	613	4.8
Louisiana.....	13	17	27	801	585	1,152	25	563	213	4.3
Oklahoma.....	45	53	150	1,505	1,642	4,351	157	1,123	225	12.3
Texas.....	108	145	540	5,383	6,244	31,598	371	4,625	387	7.4
Colorado.....			4			718				
New Mexico.....		3			43					
Washington.....			9			615				
Oregon.....			10			540				
California.....	5	7	36	340	273	2,908	14	326		4.1
Other States.....			3			189				

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

finally in two distinct parties, revival and antirevival, the one inclined to regard the bodily exercises as a sign of divine approval, the other unable to see any good in the work because of the extravagances.

At the first meeting of the Synod of Kentucky in 1802 the southwestern portion of the Presbytery of Transylvania, including the Cumberland country, was constituted the Presbytery of Cumberland. As the revival, which had started in the Transylvania Presbytery, spread to the various small settlements in this section, the demand for ministers became greater than the supply, and the revival party, which controlled the new presbytery, believed that the emergency, as well as precedent, justified them in introducing into the ministry men who had not had the usual academic and theological training. A few such were inducted into the ministry, and others were set apart as "exhorters." In addition to this, those thus inducted into the ministry were permitted, if they so desired, to adopt the Westminster Confession "as far as they deemed it agreeable to the Word of God," the reservation having special reference to "the idea of fatality, which," as they later expressed it, "seems to be taught under the mysterious doctrine of predestination."

The antirevival party objected both to the admission into the ministry of men who were not up to the usual literary and theological standard and to the permission of this reservation in regard to doctrine; they took the whole matter to the Synod of Kentucky, which in 1805 appointed a commission to confer with the members of the Cumberland Presbytery and adjudicate on their presbyterial

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[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.....	1,097	999	986	\$3,321,287	72	\$117,096	132	\$334,935	24	\$30,217
Indiana.....	12	9	9	90,325	1	6,350	(1)			
Illinois.....	60	59	59	170,500	1	3,000	7	14,200	1	1,200
Missouri.....	108	99	97	284,525	9	23,081	7	12,000	1	1,200
Georgia.....	4	4	4	4,900			(1)			
Florida.....	4	3	3	99,000			(1)			
Kentucky.....	151	143	142	389,725	3	1,857	8	28,700	2	255
Tennessee.....	378	353	348	1,477,003	32	39,778	59	162,000	8	11,800
Alabama.....	73	65	65	177,950	8	17,842	6	16,500	1	2,400
Mississippi.....	29	24	24	33,770			(1)			(1)
Arkansas.....	105	86	86	94,300	1	400	6	9,350	2	900
Louisiana.....	13	12	12	15,150						
Oklahoma.....	45	34	34	45,574	6	3,888	9	10,485	2	1,850
Texas.....	108	102	97	341,065	9	13,900	21	54,700	5	6,810
California.....	5	4	4	90,000	2	7,000	(1)			
Other States ²	2	2	2	7,500			9	27,000	2	3,802

¹ 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 7 churches in Indiana, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and California.

proceedings. The commission met in December, 1805, assumed full synodical power, against the protest of the revival party, and reached the conclusion, in reference to the men who had been inducted into the ministry by the Presbytery of Cumberland, that the majority of them were "not only illiterate, but erroneous in sentiment"; and solemnly prohibited them "from exhorting, preaching, and administering ordinances in consequence of any authority which they have obtained from the Cumberland Presbytery, until they submit to our jurisdiction, and undergo the requisite examination."

The Rev. James McGready, the Rev. Samuel McAdow, and three others were also cited to appear at the next meeting of the synod. The synod in 1806 sanctioned the proceedings of the commission, dissolved the Presbytery of Cumberland, attached its members to the Presbytery of Transylvania, and directed that body to deal with "the recusant members." In May, 1809, the General Assembly confirmed the action of the synod.

Meanwhile the revival party formed a council for the special care of the weak churches and preaching centers, over 30 in number, which were in sympathy with them. On receipt of news of the assembly's action, at a meeting of this council in October, 1809, the formation of an independent presbytery was strongly urged. This, however, was impracticable, as the elders, who made up the great majority of the council, could not participate in such an organization, and of the ministers only two favored the action, whereas at least three were necessary to the constitution of a new presbytery. The Rev. James McGready, the leader of the revival, and generally looked upon as the father of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, never favored it and never identified himself with the independent body. Others also had withdrawn from the council, and it was finally decided to adjourn to March 20, 1810, after which meeting every member would be free to

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR					SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	1,097	961	\$759,021	\$646,459	\$106,145	\$6,417	765	6,233	48,052
Indiana.....	12	11	13,136	12,031	1,105	—	9	109	744
Illinois.....	60	54	39,191	33,059	5,877	255	52	468	2,853
Iowa.....	2	93	172,851	162,812	19,689	350	66	528	3,484
Missouri.....	108								
Georgia.....	4	3	1,489	1,329	160	—	1	10	150
Florida.....	4	4	14,605	13,321	1,284	—	3	29	275
Kentucky.....	151	135	83,302	69,906	13,160	236	105	804	7,036
Tennessee.....	378	328	287,647	237,417	48,494	1,736	285	2,480	19,531
Alabama.....	73	63	46,934	43,026	3,903	5	55	478	3,689
Mississippi.....	29	26	10,731	8,053	1,918	760	16	94	875
Arkansas.....	105	92	20,018	16,668	3,100	250	58	398	3,096
Louisiana.....	13	12	5,710	2,612	1,098	2,000	6	36	300
Oklahoma.....	45	40	18,019	14,386	3,593	40	34	213	1,450
Texas.....	108	95	128,694	116,381	11,528	785	72	549	4,154
California.....	5	5	16,694	15,458	1,236	—	3	37	415

¹ Figures for Iowa and Missouri are combined, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

act as he pleased, unless in the meantime a way should be found to constitute an independent presbytery. This was accomplished, and on February 4, 1810, an independent presbytery was constituted by the Rev. Finis Ewing, the Rev. Samuel King, and the Rev. Samuel McAdow, at the home of the latter in Dickson County, Tenn. The name of the dissolved presbytery, Cumberland, was adopted, a licentiate, Mr. McLean, was ordained, and a compact allowing reservation in creed subscription was entered into.

At the adjourned meeting of the council nearly all the churches in the Cumberland country adhered to the new presbytery, but they were weak, and at most could not have represented more than a few hundred members. While the new movement was launched as an independent presbytery, the wish and hope of those connected with it was not that it should become a separate denomination, but that it might be reunited with the Synod of Kentucky. The organization, however, grew rapidly, and in the course of a few years it became apparent that a new denomination had entered upon its career. At first it was referred to as "the members of the Cumberland Presbytery." As the denominational idea became more apparent, it was called the "Cumberland Presbyterian," the next step being to call it the "Cumberland Presbyterian Church."

In October, 1813, the Presbytery of Cumberland, or General Presbytery, was divided into three presbyteries, and a general synod was constituted. This continued to be the supreme judicatory until 1828, when there was a reorganization. In place of the general synod, four synods were constituted and a general assembly, which met in 1829. At this time there were 18 presbyteries, representing the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri, and Alabama. By 1853 the church had 20 synods, 79 presbyteries, and 1,250 churches with a membership estimated at 100,000. The first fairly accurate statistics were gathered in 1875, and showed 2,158 churches, 1,232 ministers, 98,242 communicants, and congregational property valued at \$2,069,000.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES, 1926: CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY	Total number 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	1,097	67,938	986	\$3,321,287	72	\$117,096	961	\$759,021	765	48,052
Alabama Synod:										
Birmingham.....	12	838	12	78,300	3	13,040	12	12,496	10	770
Florida.....	4	260	3	99,000			4	14,605	3	275
McGready.....	15	660	14	19,500	1	300	13	3,913	11	778
Robert Donald.....	19	974	14	39,400	1	4,000	16	19,966	15	535
Springville.....	14	784	12	13,500	1	160	10	3,289	9	569
Talladega.....	10	532	10	22,000	1	292	9	5,968	7	612
Arkansas Synod:										
Bartholomew.....	11	479	10	8,200			7	1,071	3	87
Ewing.....	21	937	17	23,400	1	400	19	6,478	16	951
Fort Smith.....	7	229	7	11,100			7	1,692	3	122
Little Rock Burrow.....	12	360	10	14,650			10	3,297	6	343
Mound Prairie.....	19	663	18	17,350			18	2,557	11	607
Porter.....	21	936	10	7,900			17	1,688	10	489
White River.....	13	472	13	11,200			12	3,048	7	427
East Tennessee Synod:										
Chattanooga.....	27	2,501	24	139,800	1	1,400	21	23,819	17	1,533
East Tennessee.....	20	1,382	20	61,200			20	8,699	16	1,068
Knoxville.....	22	1,582	21	85,100	4	7,409	22	28,162	18	1,529
Illinois Synod:										
Ewing-McLinn.....	23	1,300	22	54,700	1	3,000	20	9,260	21	977
Foster.....	12	691	12	30,000			11	12,530	11	667
Illinois.....	11	702	11	17,000			9	3,890	7	370
Indiana.....	12	914	9	90,325	1	6,350	11	13,136	9	744
Lincoln-Decatur.....	14	875	14	68,800			14	13,511	13	839
Indianola Synod:										
Cherokee.....	6	304	3	11,000	3	2,600	6	5,609	4	401
Chickasaw.....	11	562	8	14,400	1	600	9	7,753	6	386
Choctaw.....	20	352	17	7,474	1	44	18	2,051	18	359
Greer.....	7	275	6	12,700	1	644	7	2,606	6	304
Kentucky Synod:										
Cumberland.....	31	2,281	29	48,875	1	77	27	10,191	13	742
Litchfield.....	28	1,662	26	40,400			27	7,257	18	845
Logan.....	19	1,166	13	46,000	1	50	14	9,566	10	726
Mayfield.....	26	2,569	26	52,650			23	20,444	20	1,860
Owensboro.....	15	1,103	15	75,300	1	1,730	14	15,011	14	970
Princeton.....	32	2,888	32	114,500			30	19,072	29	1,813
Mississippi Synod:										
Mississippi.....	12	657	9	7,765			11	2,032	6	236
New Hope.....	16	1,005	15	128,755	1	150	15	18,726	11	664
Yazoo.....	1	45								
Missouri Synod:										
Lexington.....	17	1,147	15	68,175	4	6,381	16	19,388	12	741
McGee.....	18	834	15	38,800			15	6,819	7	320
New Lebanon.....	11	723	10	37,300	1	850	9	8,566	9	689
Ozark.....	23	914	20	28,350	1	500	21	5,681	17	752
Platt.....	14	597	14	39,700			11	3,762	6	286
Springfield.....	19	1,135	17	72,900	2	15,150	15	26,216	11	625
West Plains.....	5	65	5	2,600			3	438	2	31
West Prairie.....	5	219	4	4,700	1	200	5	2,168	4	210
Tennessee Synod:										
Clarksville.....	33	2,079	30	156,900	2	1,800	27	16,890	25	1,467
Cookeville.....	23	1,260	21	31,150	2	1,450	19	5,051	15	892
Elk.....	42	3,088	40	114,850	2	800	36	22,277	35	2,059
Lebanon.....	37	2,904	37	220,750	5	12,600	34	60,215	31	2,600
McMinnville.....	18	848	11	26,950	1	56	16	4,095	13	634
Richland.....	38	2,072	34	83,055	1	125	31	14,505	29	1,422
Texas Synod:										
Amarillo.....	9	402	7	27,150	3	3,300	7	18,703	5	260
Austin.....	14	636	11	57,100	1	1,200	11	8,542	9	556
Brownwood.....	10	220	8	15,000			7	3,830	6	212
Corsicana.....	9	677	9	41,000			6	7,331	6	477
Dallas-Denton.....	13	763	11	42,115			12	9,333	11	708

¹ Figures for Yazoo and New Hope Presbyteries are combined, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY SYNODS AND PRESBYTERIES, 1926: CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Continued

SYNOD AND PRESBYTERY	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
Texas Synod—Continued.										
Gregory.....	13	450	13	30,800	1	200	13	5,736	7	286
Louisiana.....	12	741	11	13,150			11	5,061	5	247
Marshall.....	14	840	14	28,700			14	6,209	11	679
Pacific.....	5	340	4	90,000	2	7,000	5	16,694	3	415
Texas-Greenville.....	14	732	14	14,200	1	300	13	3,394	10	489
Weatherford.....	13	723	11	87,000	3	8,900	13	66,265	8	540
West Tennessee Synod:										
Hopewell.....	35	3,078	34	131,150	5	4,085	35	22,373	26	1,955
Madison.....	32	1,971	30	93,673			21	18,237	16	1,130
Memphis.....	16	1,532	15	117,900	3	6,480	16	25,038	15	1,098
Obion.....	42	4,008	39	233,925	6	3,573	36	42,811	33	2,474

The fact that the strength of the church was in the border States made it inevitable that the slavery question should become prominent. During the discussions preceding the Civil War, the assembly took the position that the church of God is a spiritual body whose jurisdiction extends only to matters of faith and morals and has no power to legislate upon subjects upon which Christ and His apostles did not legislate. During the war commissioners from the southern presbyteries did not meet with the General Assembly, and that body in 1864 adopted strong resolutions against disunion. After the war the southern members again attended, and, being in the majority, rescinded these resolutions. For a time it seemed as if division was inevitable; it was, however, averted, and the church remained one. Then came the question of the Negro churches, resulting in a mutual agreement for the establishment of the Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church, as affording to the Negroes the opportunities they needed most for church development.²

There have been various propositions for union with other churches—the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Methodist Protestant Church. The chief cause of failure, in the last instance, seems to have been the divergence between the two bodies in regard to the doctrine of the “perseverance of believers,” the Cumberland Assembly being unwilling to accept the full Arminian position taken by the Methodist Protestant Church.

When the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America had completed its revision of the Confession of Faith and had taken essentially the position called for by the Cumberland Church in its early history, the question arose again of the union of the two bodies, and in 1903 both General Assemblies appointed committees on fraternity and union. These held a joint meeting and formulated a basis of union which was approved by the General Assemblies in 1904 and was ratified by the presbyteries of each body in the succeeding year, when the General Assemblies took action for the organic union of the two churches. Meanwhile considerable opposition had arisen in the Cumberland Church, and a protest had been filed against the constitutionality of the assembly’s action. The civil court, to which the matter was referred, held that action to be legal; and when it became evident that it would be carried through, another movement was started by the

² See Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church, pp. 1153, 1154.

opposition in the Cumberland Church, "to enjoin the General Assembly * * * from taking the final steps to merge, or unite, or consolidate the Cumberland Presbyterian Church with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America." The court refused the injunction, and the General Assembly, by a vote of 162 to 105, approved the report and "adjourned sine die as a separate assembly, to meet in and as a part of the One Hundred and Nineteenth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America." The opposition then filed a protest, and determined to "continue and perpetuate the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church as same was constituted and organized on May 17, 1906," and declared itself "to be the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the repository of its established faith, the owners of its property, and the protectors of its trust." It held that all offices had been vacated, appointed men to fill the vacancies in the boards, rescinded "the action and announcements" of the General Assembly, and adjourned to meet in Dickson County, Tenn., the birthplace of the denomination. Suits were brought in a number of courts with regard to church property, with varying results.

DOCTRINE

In doctrine the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is essentially Calvinistic of the more moderate type; that is, it has uniformly protested against the doctrine of reprobation, but recognizes fully the sovereignty of God and the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints. The Westminster Confession continued to be the creed of the church until 1814, when a revision was made which was designed to be a popular statement of doctrine emphasizing human responsibility, and this was again revised along much the same lines in 1883.

From various causes many have joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church who were inclined to Arminian statements of doctrine. The result has been that a party has developed within the church which claims that Cumberland Presbyterianism is really the *via media* between Calvinism and Arminianism. While this has not found expression in definite statements of creed, it has modified very materially the position of many churches and even presbyteries, and a considerable part of the opposition to the union with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America appears to have been occasioned by the presence of this element, which looked upon the revision of the Westminster Confession by that church as less thorough and complete than was claimed for it by its advocates.

So far as church membership is concerned, no subscription to the confession is required. Those who are ordained to the ministry, eldership, and diaconate, however, are required to subscribe to the Confession of Faith.

ORGANIZATION

In polity the Cumberland Presbyterian Church has always been thoroughly presbyterian,³ its government being exercised by the various courts—session, presbytery, synod, and general assembly. The principle of delegated authority is supreme, and the conditions of church membership include a pledge to abide by and support the rules and regulations of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. A movement toward emphasizing the share of the local church in the general polity of the denomination was started but never carried through. In worship the church is nonliturgical, the sermon being made the chief feature.

³ See Presbyterian bodies, p. 1113.

WORK

The organized agency through which the missionary activities, both home and foreign, are carried on, is the Board of Missions and Church Erection.

The home fields occupied in missionary work are mainly in the South, the Southwest, and the far West. For a number of years attention was specially directed to establishing churches in cities. These have generally become self-supporting in a period of from 5 to 10 years, and many of the strongest churches in the denomination were established by this means. Up to 1926 about \$1,482,000 had been expended by the denomination at large in the interest of home missionary work, not including amounts raised in mission stations for their own work, or amounts raised by presbyteries for purely presbyterial purposes. Accurate records of all these amounts, it is stated, would show an aggregate of about \$2,000,000. The report for 1926 shows 65 persons employed in home missionary work, about 78 churches aided, and contributions to the amount of about \$20,400.

The foreign missionary work included, in early days, work among the American Indians in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), and later missionaries were sent to Africa and Turkey. During the Civil War these were recalled, but after the war was over interest in foreign missions revived, and contributions were made through the American Board, until missions were planted in Japan, China, and Mexico.

The report for 1926 shows 8 stations occupied in China and among Chinese on the coast; 4 American missionaries and 22 native helpers; 9 organized churches, with about 2,000 members; and 8 schools, with 1,400 pupils. The value of mission property in the foreign field is estimated at about \$200,000, and the contributions for the year amounted to about \$72,000.

The educational interests of the denomination are represented by Bethel College of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and a theological seminary at McKenzie, Tenn. These in 1926 had an attendance of 372 students. The amount contributed toward their support was about \$28,000; they had property valued at about \$265,000 and endowment amounting to about \$382,000.

Previous to 1881 the care of disabled ministers and their families devolved upon the various presbyteries, but in this year a board of ministerial relief was established, and there is at Bowling Green, Ky., an orphans' home and home for aged ministers and their widows, and also for missionaries. This in 1926 had 62 inmates and \$16,048 was contributed for their support. The value of the property is estimated at \$25,000.

The Christian Endeavor movement has, from the first, had official recognition, and most of the larger churches have organized local societies. The number of these reported in 1926 was 400, with about 3,500 members. A denominational society was also organized in 1922, which now includes about 72 local societies with about 900 members.

The attitude of the church toward such organizations as the American Sunday School Union, the American Tract Society, the American Bible Society, the Young Men's Christian Association, temperance societies, and kindred organizations has been one of sympathetic cooperation.

There is a printing and publishing plant at Nashville, Tenn., valued at about \$96,000.