

UNITED BRETHREN BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

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

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

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.....	3, 375	395, 885	3, 224	\$29, 578, 679	3, 288	\$7, 321, 073	3, 068	408, 749
Church of the United Brethren in Christ.....	2, 988	377, 436	2, 877	28, 520, 619	2, 918	6, 976, 440	2, 739	376, 982
Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution).....	372	17, 872	338	1, 022, 660	359	341, 687	344	23, 214
United Christian Church.....	15	577	9	35, 400	11	2, 946	5	583
1916								
Total for the group.....	3, 889	367, 934	3, 598	14, 494, 975	3, 775	3, 501, 103	3, 618	425, 951
Church of the United Brethren in Christ.....	3, 481	348, 828	3, 220	13, 787, 579	3, 373	3, 315, 238	3, 251	402, 538
Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution).....	408	19, 106	378	707, 396	402	185, 865	367	24, 112
1906								
Total for the group.....	4, 268	296, 050	3, 839	9, 073, 791	-----	-----	3, 777	391, 329
Church of the United Brethren in Christ.....	3, 699	274, 649	3, 356	8, 401, 539	-----	-----	3, 325	278, 764
Church of the United Brethren in Christ (Old Constitution).....	569	21, 401	483	672, 252	-----	-----	452	22, 566

CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

STATISTICS

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

The membership of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ is composed of those persons received into the local churches on confession of faith or by letter from other evangelical churches.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	2,988	496	2,492	16.6	83.4
Members	377,436	155,860	221,576	41.3	58.7
Average per church.....	126	314	89		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	151,496	62,631	88,865	41.3	58.7
Female.....	212,761	89,750	123,011	42.2	57.8
Sex not reported.....	13,179	3,479	9,700	26.4	73.6
Males per 100 females.....	71.2	69.8	72.2		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	31,963	15,359	16,604	48.1	51.9
13 years and over.....	314,428	135,472	178,956	43.1	56.9
Age not reported.....	31,045	5,029	26,016	16.2	83.8
Per cent under 13 years ²	9.2	10.2	8.5		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	2,902	500	2,402	17.2	82.8
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,877	490	2,387	17.0	83.0
Amount reported.....	\$28,520,619	\$16,430,245	\$12,090,374	57.6	42.4
Average per church.....	\$9,913	\$33,531	\$5,065		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	469	250	219	53.3	46.7
Amount reported.....	\$4,128,238	\$3,304,191	\$824,047	80.0	20.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifices.....	1,669	184	1,485	11.0	89.0
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,319	392	927	29.7	70.3
Amount reported.....	\$4,764,191	\$2,355,925	\$2,408,266	49.5	50.5
Debt—Churches reporting.....	216	105	111	48.6	51.4
Amount reported.....	\$440,227	\$302,097	\$138,130	68.6	31.4
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	797	220	577	27.6	72.4
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	2,918	495	2,423	17.0	83.0
Amount reported.....	\$6,976,440	\$3,835,059	\$3,141,381	55.0	45.0
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$5,720,499	\$3,164,555	\$2,555,944	55.3	44.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,228,676	\$668,022	\$560,654	54.4	45.6
Not classified.....	\$27,265	\$2,482	\$24,783	9.1	90.9
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,391	\$7,748	\$1,296		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	2,739	487	2,252	17.8	82.2
Officers and teachers.....	38,278	12,434	25,844	32.5	67.5
Scholars.....	376,962	160,080	216,902	42.5	57.5

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 2,988 active organizations of the United Brethren in Christ, with 377,436 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 2,813 churches and the classification by age was reported by 2,558 churches, including 1,944 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: CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	2,988	3,481	3,699	3,731
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-493	-218	-32	
Per cent.....	-14.2	-5.9	-0.9	
Members	377,436	348,828	274,649	202,474
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	28,608	74,179	72,175	
Per cent.....	8.2	27.0	35.6	
Average membership per church.....	126	100	74	54
Church edifices:				
Number.....	2,902	3,244	3,410	2,837
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,877	3,220	3,356	
Amount reported.....	\$28,520,619	\$13,787,579	\$8,401,539	\$4,292,643
Average per church.....	\$9,913	\$4,282	\$2,503	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	469	456	417	
Amount reported.....	\$4,128,238	\$1,489,929	\$489,035	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,319	1,130	1,004	
Amount reported.....	\$4,764,191	\$2,296,847	\$1,423,282	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	216			
Amount reported.....	\$440,227			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	2,918	3,373		
Amount reported.....	\$6,976,440	\$3,315,238		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$5,720,499	\$2,264,059		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,228,676	\$822,771		
Not classified.....	\$27,265	\$228,408		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,391	\$983		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	2,739	3,251	3,325	
Officers and teachers.....	38,278	41,223	37,993	
Scholars.....	376,982	402,838	278,764	

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, 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 conference in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females ⁽¹⁾
United States.....	2,988	496	2,492	377,436	155,860	221,576	151,496	212,761	13,179	71.2
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	42	8	34	2,879	930	1,949	1,188	1,691	-----	70.3
Pennsylvania.....	533	98	435	81,729	40,307	41,422	32,936	46,793	2,000	70.4
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	564	117	447	86,945	42,124	44,821	34,462	49,272	3,211	69.9
Indiana.....	459	71	388	65,807	23,868	41,939	26,898	37,916	993	70.9
Illinois.....	214	32	182	24,402	7,621	16,781	9,550	13,924	928	68.6
Michigan.....	42	6	36	3,426	1,359	2,067	1,330	1,976	120	67.3
Wisconsin.....	31	4	27	3,249	1,171	2,078	1,315	1,934	-----	68.0
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	18	2	16	1,618	365	1,253	662	956	-----	69.2
Iowa.....	107	18	89	9,914	3,853	6,061	3,943	5,685	286	69.4
Missouri.....	46	4	42	3,322	872	2,450	988	1,476	858	66.9
North Dakota.....	4	-----	4	141	-----	141	59	68	14	-----
South Dakota.....	3	1	2	172	59	113	63	109	-----	57.8
Nebraska.....	76	9	67	7,664	2,030	5,634	3,104	4,454	106	69.7
Kansas.....	162	25	137	17,818	6,496	11,322	7,527	9,867	424	76.3
South Atlantic:										
Maryland.....	58	14	44	9,795	5,614	4,181	4,305	5,478	12	78.6
Dist. Columbia.....	1	1	-----	865	865	-----	415	450	-----	92.2
Virginia.....	75	4	71	9,731	1,919	7,812	3,913	5,177	641	75.6
West Virginia.....	355	23	332	30,537	7,738	22,799	11,721	15,495	3,321	75.6
Florida.....	6	2	4	584	334	250	270	314	-----	86.0
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	16	2	14	1,296	396	900	525	699	72	75.1
Tennessee.....	26	10	16	2,668	1,469	1,199	1,157	1,511	-----	76.6
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	5	-----	5	106	-----	106	28	61	17	-----
Louisiana.....	2	1	1	276	158	118	116	160	-----	72.5
Oklahoma.....	43	9	34	3,610	1,656	1,954	1,499	2,101	10	71.3
Mountain:										
Montana.....	11	2	9	652	257	395	306	346	-----	88.4
Idaho.....	4	-----	4	86	-----	86	35	51	-----	-----
Colorado.....	18	5	13	2,446	1,236	1,210	934	1,512	-----	61.8
New Mexico.....	6	-----	6	301	-----	301	129	172	-----	75.0
Pacific:										
Washington.....	16	8	8	940	607	333	367	573	-----	64.0
Oregon.....	22	6	16	1,467	620	847	591	876	-----	67.5
California.....	23	14	9	2,990	1,936	1,054	1,160	1,664	166	69.7

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

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Among the serious conditions facing the churches of America in the early part of the eighteenth century were the lack of church buildings, church organization, and especially the dearth of able spiritual ministers.

In general, moral conditions were deplorable. In 1746 the Rev. Michael Schlatter, a Swiss by birth, was sent as a missionary to the German Reformed churches in Pennsylvania, although under the general direction of the Synod of Holland. In 1751 he returned to Europe to present an appeal for further aid

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Dr. S. S. Hough, executive secretary of the Board of Administration, of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and approved by him in its present form.

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

[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.....	2,968	3,481	3,699	377,436	348,828	274,649	31,963	314,428	31,045	9.2
New York.....	42	42	34	2,879	2,694	1,484	143	2,709	27	5.0
Pennsylvania.....	533	590	585	81,729	73,989	53,397	5,206	70,995	5,528	6.8
Ohio.....	564	632	696	86,945	75,852	65,191	7,893	75,329	3,723	9.5
Indiana.....	459	528	556	65,807	59,955	48,059	6,827	54,204	4,776	11.2
Illinois.....	214	237	284	24,402	23,003	18,705	2,075	18,817	3,510	9.9
Michigan.....	42	71	66	3,426	3,861	3,446	288	2,892	246	9.1
Wisconsin.....	31	46	45	3,249	2,997	2,036	255	2,994	-----	7.8
Minnesota.....	18	23	28	1,618	1,530	1,282	99	1,464	55	6.3
Iowa.....	107	156	186	9,914	12,672	11,082	960	8,051	908	10.7
Missouri.....	46	60	83	3,322	4,286	3,321	196	1,963	1,168	9.1
North Dakota.....	4	4	-----	141	101	-----	10	117	14	7.9
South Dakota.....	3	7	6	172	184	175	4	168	-----	2.3
Nebraska.....	76	85	125	7,664	7,234	6,045	704	6,456	504	9.8
Kansas.....	162	253	293	17,818	19,924	15,159	1,940	14,989	889	11.5
Maryland.....	58	59	63	9,795	8,237	6,445	570	9,156	69	5.9
Virginia.....	75	87	91	9,731	8,270	6,786	563	7,088	2,080	7.4
West Virginia.....	355	362	320	30,537	29,426	19,993	2,062	21,283	7,192	8.8
Georgia.....	-----	3	6	-----	168	521	-----	-----	-----	-----
Florida.....	6	8	1	584	317	41	74	469	41	13.6
Kentucky.....	16	27	16	1,296	1,256	993	86	1,160	50	6.9
Tennessee.....	26	29	59	2,668	916	2,575	275	2,398	-----	10.3
Arkansas.....	5	-----	-----	106	-----	-----	1	88	17	-----
Louisiana.....	2	4	11	276	329	361	71	205	-----	25.7
Oklahoma.....	43	76	67	3,610	3,978	2,819	729	2,852	29	20.4
Montana.....	11	9	-----	652	246	-----	124	528	-----	19.0
Idaho.....	4	3	4	86	125	113	1	85	-----	-----
Colorado.....	18	17	12	2,446	1,240	720	208	2,232	6	8.5
New Mexico.....	6	11	-----	301	255	-----	25	243	83	9.3
Washington.....	16	23	11	940	1,059	582	87	853	-----	9.3
Oregon.....	22	33	31	1,467	1,945	1,533	119	1,394	24	8.2
California.....	23	24	18	2,990	2,349	1,195	248	2,576	166	8.8
Other States.....	1	2	2	865	440	290	120	745	-----	13.9

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

and additional missionaries. Six young men responded to his presentation of the need in the new colonies. Among them was Philip William Otterbein, who was born in the duchy of Nassau, Germany, in 1726, and who had already had some experience in pastoral work. The company arrived in New York in July, 1752, and Otterbein soon found a field of labor with the congregation at Lancaster, Pa., at that time the second in importance among the German Reformed churches of the colonies.

Early in his pastorate at Lancaster, Otterbein passed through a deep personal religious experience which led him to insist upon the necessity of a deeper inward spirituality on the part of his people. This was not always acceptable at that period, barren as it was in spiritual life.

About this time Otterbein came into personal relations with Martin Boehm, a preacher of the Mennonite communion, who had passed through a similar religious experience. They conducted evangelistic work among the scattered German settlements of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. This was regarded as being irregular by their fellow ministers and resulted in Otterbein's accepting a

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

[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.....	2,988	2,902	2,877	\$28,520,619	469	\$4,128,238	1,319	\$4,764,191	216	\$440,227
New York.....	42	40	40	329,384	12	57,277	23	83,250	8	16,605
Pennsylvania.....	533	522	517	7,926,309	103	1,363,563	248	1,202,781	31	87,566
Ohio.....	564	566	559	7,019,784	87	899,204	249	1,045,500	46	119,281
Indiana.....	459	454	449	4,109,270	71	680,175	199	598,750	38	49,114
Illinois.....	214	211	211	1,850,200	29	255,095	96	302,800	10	10,600
Michigan.....	42	42	42	388,750	8	73,050	26	56,300	5	7,095
Wisconsin.....	31	31	31	210,300	8	28,088	14	45,950	1	3,500
Minnesota.....	18	18	18	143,500	4	22,600	13	38,400	2	14,000
Iowa.....	107	107	106	726,102	13	52,675	61	188,860	5	5,300
Missouri.....	46	40	40	209,640	5	25,450	16	33,850	2	3,500
North Dakota.....	4	3	3	7,500	1	1,500	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
South Dakota.....	3	3	3	16,000	1	800	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Nebraska.....	76	70	70	463,100	6	43,180	47	126,600	6	7,225
Kansas.....	162	159	155	1,083,900	29	95,857	93	256,750	18	29,320
Maryland.....	58	55	54	735,100	8	97,250	27	133,800	6	10,280
Virginia.....	75	72	72	485,105	5	59,648	20	75,700	3	6,952
West Virginia.....	355	334	332	1,414,275	40	148,741	78	274,950	16	33,099
Florida.....	6	6	6	92,500	4	11,400	3	17,000	1	2,300
Kentucky.....	16	16	16	52,200	2	8,124	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Tennessee.....	26	26	26	174,800	7	46,011	7	18,900	1	2,400
Oklahoma.....	43	35	35	230,050	9	67,034	25	46,900	3	1,125
Montana.....	11	10	10	94,000	5	17,650	5	16,300	2	8,100
Idaho.....	4	4	4	4,800	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Colorado.....	18	14	14	142,200	2	30,000	11	30,600	3	2,200
New Mexico.....	6	5	5	36,500	(1)	(1)	4	10,300	1	250
Washington.....	16	16	16	105,800	3	12,820	9	15,400	2	3,891
Oregon.....	22	18	18	101,650	2	17,300	13	23,950	(1)	(1)
California.....	23	21	21	276,200	4	12,746	22	94,300	3	5,964
Other States ¹	8	4	4	91,700	1	1,000	10	26,300	3	10,560

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 6 churches in North Dakota, South Dakota, Kentucky, and Idaho.

call in 1774 to an independent congregation in Baltimore. For the next 15 years Otterbein and Boehm conducted their evangelistic labors among the German-speaking communities, holding two days' "great meetings." Other ministers of like spirit associated themselves with these men. Under their preaching converts multiplied rapidly, but church organizations were not yet formed, many of the converts uniting with English-speaking churches.

A meeting was held by these evangelistic preachers in 1789. During the next 10 years similar councils convened at irregular times. These ministers did not then intend to form a separate denomination, but in obeying the call of God to win souls and stand for a spiritual church membership they were inevitably drawn closer and closer together until the year 1800, when a conference was held in Frederick County, Md., and a distinct ecclesiastical body was formed under the name "United Brethren in Christ." Thirteen ministers were in attendance at this important conference. Otterbein and Boehm were elected as bishops, and they were continuously reelected to the bishopric until the death of Boehm in 1812 and of Otterbein in 1813. Thus it will be seen that this new organiza-

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

[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.....	2,988	2,918	\$6,976,440	\$5,720,499	\$1,228,676	\$27,265	2,739	38,278	376,982
New York.....	42	42	80,214	68,132	12,082	-----	37	430	3,026
Pennsylvania.....	533	526	1,950,510	1,530,764	395,283	24,463	490	8,732	97,517
Ohio.....	564	555	1,649,773	1,367,642	280,175	1,956	528	8,346	88,454
Indiana.....	459	452	1,010,358	875,737	134,011	610	425	5,635	54,944
Illinois.....	214	206	373,298	319,446	53,852	-----	200	2,748	22,496
Michigan.....	42	39	88,846	76,013	12,833	-----	40	496	4,067
Wisconsin.....	31	31	57,432	39,954	17,478	-----	26	287	2,226
Minnesota.....	18	18	30,063	23,721	6,342	-----	15	180	1,537
Iowa.....	107	103	188,572	165,893	22,679	-----	99	1,130	8,745
Missouri.....	46	44	37,018	30,221	6,561	236	35	364	2,610
North Dakota.....	4	3	3,179	2,232	947	-----	3	28	139
South Dakota.....	3	3	9,304	9,204	100	-----	3	25	250
Nebraska.....	76	75	147,206	117,998	29,208	-----	73	940	7,696
Kansas.....	162	157	307,996	246,089	61,907	-----	148	2,159	17,870
Maryland.....	58	57	186,423	143,824	42,599	-----	56	923	10,979
Virginia.....	75	74	120,767	100,789	19,978	-----	62	685	7,056
West Virginia.....	355	340	295,142	243,035	52,107	-----	315	2,931	26,834
Florida.....	6	6	20,282	17,462	2,820	-----	6	93	863
Kentucky.....	16	13	10,339	8,821	1,518	-----	13	111	1,064
Tennessee.....	26	26	32,180	27,723	4,457	-----	22	229	2,566
Arkansas.....	5	4	602	520	82	-----	4	26	150
Oklahoma.....	43	43	98,577	86,238	12,339	-----	42	442	3,590
Montana.....	11	10	36,816	34,718	2,098	-----	10	118	1,011
Idaho.....	4	4	1,655	1,205	450	-----	3	12	89
Colorado.....	18	18	41,848	35,503	6,345	-----	18	263	2,477
New Mexico.....	6	6	8,507	6,798	1,709	-----	5	56	435
Washington.....	16	16	36,264	30,242	6,022	-----	16	160	1,179
Oregon.....	22	21	34,838	26,187	8,651	-----	19	213	1,714
California.....	23	23	92,931	68,888	24,043	-----	23	456	4,311
Other States.....	3	3	25,500	15,500	10,000	-----	3	62	1,087

tion was in no sense a schism from any other body, but was the natural development on the part of German-speaking congregations desiring a deeper spiritual life and strong emphasis on evangelism.

Bishop Asbury, of the Methodist Church, and Bishop Otterbein, of the United Brethren Church, came into close relationship, but the two bodies they represented remain distinct, and no specific effort to unite the forces was ever made.

The fact that those who joined in forming the United Brethren Church represented different forms of church life necessitated concessions on the part of all. The reformed churches practiced infant baptism, and the Mennonites regarded believers' baptism by immersion as the only correct form. The result was that each generously conceded to the other freedom to follow personal convictions as to the form of baptism and the age of persons baptized.

During the first decade of the nineteenth century preaching places were established west of the Allegheny Mountains, in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois.

The first General Conference was held in 1815 near Mount Pleasant, Pa., when a form of discipline was adopted. Up until this time all the churches had used the German language in their services; but the use of English was increasing, and the conference held in 1817 ordered the confession of faith and book of discipline to be printed in both German and English.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

CONFERENCE	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total	2,988	377,436	2,877	\$28,520,619	469	\$4,128,238	2,918	\$6,976,440	2,739	376,982
Allegheny.....	208	29,403	204	2,738,145	38	496,232	205	608,104	184	31,072
Arkansas.....	5	106	22	1,276,400	4	12,746	4	602	4	150
California.....	23	2,990					23	92,931	23	4,311
Colorado.....	17	2,385	14	142,200	2	30,000	17	40,975	17	2,363
East Ohio.....	109	17,556	107	1,651,900	20	345,860	106	418,074	103	19,943
East Penn.....	151	28,166	146	3,066,634	36	548,191	150	755,108	146	38,317
Erie.....	111	7,461	102	719,444	23	130,077	109	178,052	97	7,505
Florida.....	6	584	6	92,500	4	11,400	6	20,282	6	863
Illinois.....	211	24,054	208	1,781,200	27	225,595	203	362,845	197	22,035
Indiana.....	149	14,865	147	594,800	19	112,016	145	150,537	134	10,833
Iowa.....	107	9,914	106	726,102	13	52,675	108	188,572	99	8,745
Kansas.....	162	17,818	155	1,083,900	29	95,857	157	307,996	148	17,870
Miami.....	107	24,766	105	2,002,100	26	277,133	107	440,750	102	21,464
Michigan.....	42	3,426	42	388,750	8	73,050	39	88,846	40	4,067
Minnesota.....	18	1,618	18	143,500	4	22,600	18	30,063	15	1,537
Missouri.....	48	3,598	42	226,140	6	26,450	46	42,518	37	2,765
Montana.....	15	793	13	101,500	6	19,150	13	39,995	13	1,150
Nebraska.....	80	7,897	73	479,100	7	43,980	79	157,383	77	8,060
New Mexico.....	6	301	5	36,500			6	8,507	5	435
Ohio German.....	16	1,900	16	269,500	6	39,500	16	70,351	15	2,370
Oklahoma.....	43	3,610	35	230,050	9	67,034	43	98,577	42	3,590
Oregon.....	42	2,493	38	212,250	5	30,120	41	72,757	38	2,982
Pennsylvania.....	154	29,245	154	2,505,370	25	343,090	153	686,607	147	34,487
St. Joseph.....	157	23,235	155	1,842,375	20	263,644	154	458,967	143	20,701
Sandusky.....	173	23,806	172	1,614,384	19	104,351	172	411,347	169	25,829
Southeast Ohio.....	166	19,720	166	1,583,700	18	161,860	161	328,818	146	19,817
Tennessee.....	36	3,134	36	190,600	7	46,011	34	33,034	30	3,024
Virginia.....	154	18,226	142	824,230	10	108,287	147	197,988	131	14,493
West Virginia.....	286	23,035	268	1,111,350	36	100,602	276	227,197	256	20,470
White River.....	155	28,082	149	1,675,695	34	312,639	154	401,225	149	23,508
Wisconsin.....	31	3,249	31	210,300	8	28,088	31	57,432	26	2,226

¹ Amount for Arkansas conference combined with figures for California conference, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ early took a positive position on questions of moral reform. It placed in its discipline in 1821 a declaration in condemnation of slavery; and in 1841 definite action was taken against the drinking of ardent spirits and the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks.

The General Conference of 1889 revised the confession of faith and the constitution of the church. A few of the delegates believed that this revision was unconstitutional. They withdrew and formed a small communion of their own.

The past two decades have been characterized by intensive development of colleges, a theological seminary, homes and orphanages, and missionary agencies.

Much emphasis has been placed on religious education, the promotion of Christian stewardship, and systematic giving through the benevolence budget.

The church is a member of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and is cooperating with other Protestant bodies in State, national, and international relationships.

DOCTRINE

In doctrine the church is Arminian. Its confession of faith, consisting of 13 brief articles, sets forth the generally accepted view of the Trinity, the authority of the Scriptures, justification and regeneration, the Christian Sabbath, and the future state. Concerning the sacraments, it holds that baptism and the Lord's Supper should be observed by all Christians, but the mode of baptism and the

manner of celebrating the Lord's Supper are left to the judgment of the individual. The question of the baptism of children is left to the choice of parents. Emphasis is laid upon a life of prayer and devotion to Christ and His cause.

ORGANIZATION

Local churches are divided into classes, with class leaders, or they are formed into groups arranged geographically or otherwise, with leaders and stewards. Pastoral charges consist of one or more local churches which hold monthly official meetings, and quarterly conferences. Annual conferences are composed of ministers and lay delegates in equal numbers. The General Conference is composed of ministers and lay delegates in equal numbers, elected by the members of the churches in their respective conferences.

The General Conference meets in May once in every four years. It has full authority, under certain constitutional restrictions, to legislate for the whole church and to hear and decide appeals.

There is but one order of the ministry, that of elder. Since 1899 it has been lawful to license and ordain women. Bishops and executive heads of departments of the church at large are elected by the General Conference for four years, and are eligible for reelection. Bishops work to promote the general interests of the church, preside at annual conferences, and in conjunction with conference superintendents they fix the appointment of preachers for the ensuing year. Since 1893 pastors may be assigned annually to the same charge for any number of years.

WORK

Emphasis is placed upon personal work and individual members are made to feel their responsibility for the success of the church work.

The missionary work of the denomination is promoted through three agencies, namely, conference missions, the Home Mission and Church Erection Society, and the Foreign Missionary Society. These three agencies employ 475 persons as missionaries, while the annual contributions for their support aggregate \$610,000.

The church, through the Foreign Missionary Society, is promoting missionary work in West Africa, Porto Rico, Japan, China, and the Philippine Islands.

The Woman's Missionary Association of the church is an agency for raising funds which are expended through the Foreign Missionary Society and the Home Mission and Church Erection Society. Representatives from the Woman's Missionary Association are members of these societies in the administration of missions. The church has a large printing establishment and office building in Dayton, Ohio.

The educational institutions of the church in the United States include seven colleges—Otterbein at Westerville, Ohio; Lebanon Valley at Annville, Pa.; Indiana Central at Indianapolis, Ind.; Kansas City University at Kansas City, Kans.; York College at York, Nebr.; Philomath College at Philomath, Oreg.; and Shenandoah at Dayton, Va. The church supports but one seminary for the training of ministers, namely, Bonebrake Theological Seminary, at Dayton, Ohio. The church maintains three homes for orphans and aged people, namely, Quincy Orphanage and Home at Quincy, Pa., Otterbein Home, near Lebanon, Ohio, and the Baker Home at Puente, Calif. These are large institutions supported by voluntary gifts and farming lands.

This denomination shows an increase since 1916 in every particular. Contributions for all purposes increased from \$3,422,603 in 1916 to \$6,831,475 in 1926; value of schools, homes, and printing establishment, from \$3,786,932 to \$7,498,640; and endowment and loan funds, from \$799,029 to \$2,796,674.