

## 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 America<sup>1</sup> 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 body<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> See Methodist Episcopal Church, p. 926.

<sup>2</sup> 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
<b>1926</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	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
<b>1916</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	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								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	<b>64,255</b>	<b>5,749,838</b>	<b>59,077</b>	<b>229,450,996</b>			<b>55,227</b>	<b>4,472,930</b>
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

# WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America 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 Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America consists of those persons who have been publicly received by a majority vote of the local church, after having declared their experience of salvation, belief in the doctrines of the church, and willingness to submit to its form of government as outlined in its Book of Discipline.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches</b> (local organizations).....	619	139	480	22.5	77.5
<b>Members</b> .....	21,910	6,953	14,952	31.8	68.2
Average per church.....	35	50	31		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	8,117	2,491	5,626	30.7	69.3
Female.....	13,300	4,383	8,917	33.0	67.0
Sex not reported.....	493	84	409	17.0	83.0
Males per 100 females.....	61.0	56.8	63.1		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	1,096	404	692	36.9	63.1
13 years and over.....	19,115	6,140	12,975	32.1	67.9
Age not reported.....	1,699	414	1,285	24.4	75.6
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	5.4	6.2	5.1		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	572	131	441	22.9	77.1
Value—Churches reporting.....	555	125	430	22.5	77.5
Amount reported.....	\$1,804,719	\$881,800	\$922,919	48.9	51.1
Average per church.....	\$3,252	\$7,054	\$2,146		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	108	57	51	52.8	47.2
Amount reported.....	\$201,660	\$169,409	\$32,251	84.0	16.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	316	56	260	17.7	82.3
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	262	72	190	27.5	72.5
Amount reported.....	\$538,394	\$228,234	\$310,160	42.4	57.6
Debt—Churches reporting.....	58	34	24		
Amount reported.....	\$62,592	\$51,262	\$11,330	81.9	18.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	144	32	112	22.2	77.8
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	585	136	449	23.2	76.8
Amount reported.....	\$773,981	\$325,498	\$448,483	42.1	57.9
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$578,681	\$252,345	\$326,336	43.6	56.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$193,725	\$73,153	\$120,572	37.8	62.2
Not classified.....	\$1,575		\$1,575		100.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,323	\$2,393	\$999		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	561	134	427	23.9	76.1
Officers and teachers.....	4,739	1,475	3,264	31.1	68.9
Scholars.....	34,314	12,304	22,010	35.9	64.1

<sup>1</sup> Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

<sup>2</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

<sup>3</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 619 active Wesleyan Methodist churches with 21,910 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 601 churches and the classification by age was reported by 562 churches, including, however, only 208 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: WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	619	579	591	565
Increase <sup>1</sup> over preceding census:				
Number.....	40	-12	26	-----
Per cent.....	6.9	-2.0	4.6	-----
<b>Members</b> .....	21,910	20,778	20,043	16,492
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	1,132	735	3,551	-----
Per cent.....	5.4	3.7	21.5	-----
Average membership per church.....	35	36	34	29
<b>Church edifices:</b>				
Number.....	572	529	489	342
Value—Churches reporting.....	555	514	490	-----
Amount reported.....	\$1,804,719	\$787,731	\$637,117	\$393,250
Average per church.....	\$3,252	\$1,533	\$1,327	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	108	84	49	-----
Amount reported.....	\$201,660	\$37,060	\$18,914	-----
<b>Parsonages:</b>				
Value—Churches reporting.....	262	217	176	-----
Amount reported.....	\$538,394	\$248,650	\$150,175	-----
Debt—Churches reporting.....	58	-----	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$62,592	-----	-----	-----
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	585	525	-----	-----
Amount reported.....	\$773,981	\$329,294	-----	-----
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$578,681	\$230,666	-----	-----
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$193,725	\$94,237	-----	-----
Not classified.....	\$1,575	\$4,391	-----	-----
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,323	\$627	-----	-----
<b>Sunday schools:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	561	560	475	-----
Officers and teachers.....	4,739	3,912	3,442	-----
Scholars.....	34,314	29,850	21,463	-----

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

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Wesleyan Methodist Connection by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for each State the number and the membership of the churches for the three censuses from 1906 to 1926, together with the membership for 1926 classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Table 6 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported expenditures, in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from this table can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.



**Ecclesiastical divisions.**—Table 7 presents, for each conference in the Wesleyan Methodist Connection, 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: WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA**

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females ( <sup>1</sup> )
United States.....	619	139	480	21,910	6,958	14,952	8,117	13,300	493	61.0
New England:										
Vermont.....	2		2	60		60	20	40		
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	81	16	65	2,360	644	1,716	864	1,404	92	61.5
New Jersey.....	3	2	1	111	95	16	40	71		
Pennsylvania.....	45	7	38	1,266	328	938	450	794	22	56.7
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	39	14	25	1,783	875	908	622	1,121	40	55.5
Indiana.....	93	29	64	4,320	1,663	2,657	1,585	2,486	249	63.8
Illinois.....	6	1	5	232	40	192	96	136		70.6
Michigan.....	63	12	51	2,180	666	1,514	797	1,383		57.6
Wisconsin.....	18	2	16	484	82	402	211	273		77.3
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	3		3	106		106	40	66		
Iowa.....	17	2	15	535	82	453	219	316		69.3
North Dakota.....	3		3	73		73	6	8	59	
South Dakota.....	12	2	10	526	191	335	229	297		77.1
Kansas.....	25	3	22	978	165	813	367	580	31	63.3
South Atlantic:										
Virginia.....	4	1	3	230	135	95	71	159		44.7
West Virginia.....	9	2	7	204	100	104	78	126		61.9
North Carolina.....	64	13	51	2,285	591	1,694	844	1,441		58.6
South Carolina.....	48	9	39	1,797	313	1,484	637	1,160		54.9
Georgia.....	31	6	25	788	189	599	305	483		63.1
Florida.....	5	1	4	92	12	80	48	44		
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	3	2	1	147	117	30	52	95		
Tennessee.....	9	4	5	340	175	165	135	205		65.9
Alabama.....	16	5	11	565	267	298	222	343		64.7
West South Central:										
Oklahoma.....	9	2	7	233	115	118	90	143		62.9
Mountain:										
Montana.....	3		3	72		72	33	39		
Pacific:										
Oregon.....	4	2	2	73	63	10	27	46		
California.....	4	2	2	70	50	20	29	41		

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

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

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The various divisions of Methodism have separated from the parent body on questions of ethics, polity, and nationality, and not for doctrinal reasons; and the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America shares with the other Methodist bodies the inheritance of its history and literature from the period of John Wesley's conversion to the date of its own organization as a separate denomination in 1843.

<sup>1</sup> This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. E. D. Carpenter, secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America, 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: WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA

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

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
United States	619	579	591	21,910	20,778	20,043	1,096	19,115	1,699	5.4
Vermont	2	3	3	60	96	146		60		
New York	81	73	93	2,360	2,365	3,097	57	2,149	154	2.6
New Jersey	3			111			4	107		3.6
Pennsylvania	45	46	47	1,266	1,386	1,239	12	1,235	19	1.0
Ohio	39	40	51	1,783	1,803	2,443	69	1,463	251	4.5
Indiana	93	96	88	4,320	4,511	3,459	270	3,538	512	7.1
Illinois	6	7	5	232	248	308	16	216		6.9
Michigan	63	72	92	2,180	2,411	2,354	73	2,017	90	3.5
Wisconsin	18	10	14	484	256	288	15	449	20	3.2
Minnesota	3	2	2	106	54	80	6	100		5.7
Iowa	17	19	25	535	556	712	14	448	73	3.0
North Dakota	3			73				14	59	
South Dakota	12	7	5	526	294	176	24	442	60	5.2
Nebraska			5			67				
Kansas	25	28	36	978	1,004	1,077	33	743	202	4.3
Virginia	4	1		230	73		31	199		13.5
West Virginia	9	8	11	204	216	238	2	202		1.0
North Carolina	64	48	24	2,285	1,477	886	157	2,072	56	7.0
South Carolina	48	35	32	1,797	1,613	1,603	116	1,625	56	6.7
Georgia	31	39	37	788	1,005	1,096	68	701	19	8.8
Florida	5	8	8	92	91	195	25	55	12	
Kentucky	3			147			10	137		6.8
Tennessee	9	11	6	340	354	422	37	303		10.9
Alabama	16	11		565	642		38	451	76	7.8
Oklahoma	9	15	7	233	323	157	4	221	8	1.8
Montana	3			72			3	47	22	
Oregon	4			73			8	55	10	
California	4			70			4	66		

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

As the question of the enslaving of the colored race in America began to compel attention not only in political life, but in church life, there arose within the Methodist Episcopal Church many earnest opposers of slavery. Their activities were opposed by some of the ecclesiastical authorities of the church, resulting in the expulsion of a number of persons and the withdrawal of others. The stand taken by these persons was that the Bible and early Methodist authorities united in declaring slavery to be wrong, and the church should not condemn liberty of testimony and free discussion. These persons joined forces, and in 1841 a conference was formed in Michigan which took the name of Wesleyan Methodist. The next year a paper was issued in Massachusetts called "The True Wesleyan," with the Rev. Orange Scott as editor. In November, 1842, the Rev. J. Horton and the Rev. L. R. Sunderland became identified with this movement and in December were joined by the Rev. Luther Lee and the Rev. L. C. Matlock. The result was the formation, on May 31, 1843, in Utica, N. Y., of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America. About 6,000 members united in this organization. At the first these churches were all located in the northeastern States, but missionary and evangelistic activities have since built up churches throughout the United States and in eastern Canada.



TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches		VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
	Number of churches	Number of church edifices	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
<b>United States.</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>\$1,804,719</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>\$201,660</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>\$538,394</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$62,592</b>
New York.....	81	77	76	263,250	9	37,455	49	103,950	7	5,522
Pennsylvania.....	45	43	42	130,927	5	25,815	19	40,675	4	4,400
Ohio.....	39	38	37	132,575	7	7,344	17	46,884	4	3,575
Indiana.....	93	90	89	266,425	22	15,220	41	77,485	12	10,950
Illinois.....	6	6	6	17,600	2	1,165	4	10,100	—	—
Michigan.....	63	58	56	165,100	7	11,164	38	77,650	4	6,455
Wisconsin.....	18	15	14	26,950	3	6,747	7	12,375	3	2,574
Iowa.....	17	16	16	30,500	1	500	13	21,000	1	492
South Dakota.....	12	10	10	46,400	3	1,810	6	13,200	—	—
Kansas.....	25	22	20	46,200	3	6,825	17	27,625	1	1,000
Virginia.....	4	4	4	29,750	2	2,350	—	(1)	—	(1)
West Virginia.....	9	6	6	27,500	1	3,600	—	(1)	—	(1)
North Carolina.....	64	58	56	201,300	14	22,740	16	39,800	7	9,000
South Carolina.....	48	45	42	132,042	10	6,701	9	17,100	6	4,961
Georgia.....	31	29	29	26,000	1	10	4	7,800	—	—
Florida.....	5	5	5	4,600	1	200	—	(1)	—	(1)
Kentucky.....	3	3	3	10,000	3	1,460	—	—	—	—
Tennessee.....	9	11	9	30,300	2	4,950	—	(1)	—	(1)
Alabama.....	16	15	14	96,950	5	7,022	6	5,700	1	40
Oklahoma.....	9	7	7	20,300	2	750	5	6,900	2	1,500
California.....	4	4	4	17,000	3	3,615	—	—	—	—
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	18	10	10	83,050	2	34,217	11	30,150	6	12,123

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

<sup>2</sup> The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 5 churches in Virginia, West Virginia, Florida, and Tennessee.

With the passing of slavery in the Civil War, one of the issues that called the church into existence ceased to exist. Numerical losses were sustained in this period, but the conviction prevailed that other important issues of a spiritual and reform character should continue to be maintained, chief of which were the advocacy of the experience of entire sanctification and the prohibition of the liquor traffic.

**DOCTRINE**

In doctrine the church is in accord with historic Methodism. It holds that man is not only justified by faith in Christ, but also sanctified by faith. Special emphasis is placed upon this experience and it is defined in the Discipline in the following manner:

*Article of Religion XIV. ENTIRE SANCTIFICATION*

Entire sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the child of God is cleansed from all inbred sin through faith in Jesus Christ. It is subsequent to regeneration, and is wrought when the believer presents himself a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable unto God, and is thus enabled through grace to love God with all the heart and to walk in His holy commandments blameless.

Entire sanctification as a separate Article of Religion, distinct from that of regeneration, appeared in the Book of Discipline in 1849.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA

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.....	619	585	\$773,981	\$578,681	\$193,725	\$1,575	561	4,739	34,314
Vermont.....	2	2	2,801	2,281	520		2	18	82
New York.....	81	78	104,300	78,547	25,753		76	602	3,922
New Jersey.....	3	3	9,054	8,161	893		3	31	164
Pennsylvania.....	45	42	56,976	43,289	13,687		41	381	2,723
Ohio.....	39	37	49,078	36,542	12,536		34	337	2,242
Indiana.....	93	90	131,062	97,684	32,803	575	90	887	6,135
Illinois.....	6	4	7,540	4,291	3,249		4	44	233
Michigan.....	63	63	85,418	63,029	21,389	1,000	60	587	3,352
Wisconsin.....	18	15	17,270	13,015	4,255		16	131	746
Minnesota.....	3	3	4,125	2,559	1,566		3	29	198
Iowa.....	17	17	15,682	11,393	4,289		14	112	570
North Dakota.....	3	3	3,622	2,673	949		2	20	138
South Dakota.....	12	11	22,021	14,113	7,908		12	107	793
Kansas.....	25	24	31,337	20,765	10,572		25	237	1,646
Virginia.....	4	4	12,057	9,725	2,332		4	41	546
West Virginia.....	9	8	4,764	4,361	403		9	57	297
North Carolina.....	64	58	86,249	67,618	18,631		52	357	3,932
South Carolina.....	48	47	54,988	41,727	13,261		42	281	2,942
Georgia.....	31	26	15,415	5,660	9,755		25	140	914
Florida.....	5	5	2,084	1,512	572		3	26	108
Kentucky.....	3	3	5,082	4,621	461		3	31	210
Tennessee.....	9	9	10,367	9,230	1,137		9	51	455
Alabama.....	16	14	18,245	16,388	1,857		14	98	1,004
Oklahoma.....	9	8	8,103	6,770	1,333		8	74	609
Montana.....	3	3	2,609	1,907	702		3	20	90
Oregon.....	4	4	6,398	4,498	1,900		3	13	80
California.....	4	4	7,334	6,322	1,012		4	27	185

The great cardinal doctrines of Christianity as interpreted in the general standards of Methodism are received by this church. Briefly stated, the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America believes: (1) In one God revealed in the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; (2) in the divine inspiration of the authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, and that they contain all things necessary to salvation; (3) that man is born with a fallen nature, and is therefore inclined to sin and that continually; (4) that the atonement through Christ is for the whole human race, and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin; (5) that believers are sanctified wholly subsequent to conversion through faith in Christ; (6) in the bodily resurrection of Christ, and His return, in the resurrection of the dead, and in the final judgment.

#### ORGANIZATION

Though it is not an episcopal body, this church conforms in its general features to the polity of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with a quarterly conference, annual conferences, and a general conference as the essential units of organization. Lay representation is provided for in all these bodies. The General Conference, which meets every four years, is the lawmaking body of the connection, limited by a constitution. The limitations are as follows:

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: WESLEYAN METHODIST CONNECTION (OR CHURCH) OF AMERICA

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
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>21,910</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>\$1,804,719</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>\$201,660</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>\$773,981</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>34,314</b>
Alabama.....	15	527	14	96,950	5	7,022	13	18,098	13	964
Allegheny.....	47	1,423	46	173,202	8	35,765	43	71,950	41	2,980
California.....	4	70	4	17,000	3	3,615	4	7,334	4	185
Champlain.....	30	760	30	70,500	1	550	30	30,378	29	996
Dakota.....	18	671	13	50,850	4	2,060	17	28,252	17	1,021
Georgia.....	28	627	26	20,900	2	210	23	14,050	20	757
Illinois.....	6	232	6	17,600	2	1,165	4	7,540	4	233
Indiana.....	84	4,086	81	243,725	17	12,320	81	122,903	81	5,876
Iowa.....	20	641	18	32,600	1	500	20	19,807	17	768
Kansas.....	25	978	20	46,200	3	6,825	24	31,337	25	1,646
Kentucky.....	12	348	11	26,200	8	4,360	12	13,627	12	459
Lockport.....	25	972	23	115,500	6	29,155	23	47,182	22	1,636
Michigan.....	37	1,398	34	117,600	3	8,900	37	57,904	36	2,195
Middle Atlantic.....	4	143	3	70,500	1	33,967	4	11,298	4	199
North Carolina.....	70	2,668	62	259,450	18	29,848	65	120,802	60	4,844
North Georgia.....	8	253	8	9,700	-----	-----	8	3,449	8	263
North Michigan.....	26	782	22	47,500	4	2,264	26	27,514	24	1,157
Ohio.....	16	632	16	42,400	3	3,294	16	19,211	14	887
Oklahoma.....	9	233	7	20,300	2	750	8	8,103	8	609
Rochester.....	39	925	33	87,750	3	1,850	37	33,338	37	1,921
South Carolina.....	50	1,819	44	119,142	10	6,893	48	41,591	42	2,942
South Ohio.....	18	962	14	73,400	1	3,600	17	13,230	18	821
Tennessee.....	6	203	5	14,800	-----	-----	6	1,415	6	129
Willamette.....	4	73	1	4,000	-----	-----	4	6,398	3	80
Wisconsin.....	18	484	14	26,950	3	6,747	15	17,270	16	746

The articles of faith can not be changed except by the consent of the annual conferences, churches, and members. While the church has an itinerant ministry, yet it is by agreement between the ministry and the churches, and this can not be abolished except by vote of the annual conferences, churches, and members. No new conditions of membership can be instituted except by vote of the general and annual conferences, and a majority of the membership. No change in the above can be made except by a two-thirds vote of the three bodies, the General Conference, annual conferences, and local churches.

Admission to full membership in the Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America requires a profession of saving faith in Christ, compliance with the rules, articles of faith, and polity of the church, and baptism by one of the three modes of Christian baptism, and (1) no connection with slavery in any form; (2) the nonuse or manufacture of intoxicants, or aiding or abetting the sale, either directly or indirectly; (3) withdrawal from all secret societies on the ground that the God-ordained relations with "home, state, and church" are sufficient to meet the obligations and duties of mankind toward God and man; and (4) the use, sale, or manufacture of tobacco in any form must be abandoned. The above are the conditions of full membership. Persons may be received as associate members on professing saving faith in Christ, and endeavoring to govern their lives by the general rules of the church. The Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America also recognizes and encourages the baptism of infants.

**WORK**

The missionary activities of the church are carried on through the Missionary Society of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection. All pastors are regarded as home missionary workers and agents, but there are in addition 14 special missionaries in the home field. No help is given to specific churches, but the work is general evangelism. It extends through different parts of the United States and Canada. In Canada work is developing in Ottawa and Quebec. In the United States missionary territory is being developed as follows: Onondaga Indian Mission, N. Y.; Alabama Mission School (colored); Blue Ridge Mountain Work in North Carolina. Mission conferences are as follows: Middle Atlantic States, California, Tennessee, South Georgia, North Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma, Kentucky, North Michigan, and Oregon. The receipts for this work in 1927 were \$10,000. In addition, the various annual conferences have funds of their own which they expend as they deem best, without reference to the Missionary Society and without making any report to the General Conference.

The foreign missionary work is carried on in Africa, with headquarters at Kamabai, near Freetown, Sierra Leone, and they have strong mission stations in the Surat and Sanjan districts in India, and also in Japan. The appropriations by the Missionary Society are, for the most part, merely supplementary to amounts raised in the mission churches or appropriated by the annual conferences. In addition to the mission station at Kamabai, there are three outstations where missionaries reside. In 1927 there were 20 American missionaries in Africa and India; 18 native workers; 3 church organizations, including several congregations and reporting 100 members; 4 church schools, with about 65 students; and 3 general schools open to all. Medical work is now organized with a well-equipped hospital that cares for and treats a large number of patients. All the workers have received more or less private instructions, so as to be able to use simple remedies. The total amount received for the foreign work during the year 1926 was \$53,279, and the property is valued at \$46,583.

The home educational work of the church includes 4 institutions of higher grade in New York, Indiana, Kansas, and South Carolina, with a total of 1,000 students. The property is valued at \$587,400 and there is an endowment of \$196,900. During the year 1926 the contributions for education were \$178,766, part of which was used in erecting buildings.

Young people's work is represented by the young missionary workers' bands, with a membership of 16,336 and an offering in 1926 of \$30,514.