

## LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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### GENERAL STATEMENT

*History.*—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was founded by Joseph Smith, a native of Vermont, in 1830, at Fayette, Seneca County, N. Y. About 10 years previously, when 14 years of age, he had become deeply interested in the question of the salvation of his soul and in the true church of Christ and was particularly disturbed by the variety of denominations and the varied interpretations put upon certain passages of Scripture by the different sects. While in the woods near his father's home, he said that he "had a vision of great light, and two glorious personages appeared before him and commanded him to 'join none of the religious sects, for the Lord was about to restore the gospel, which was not represented in its fullness by any of the existing churches.'"

Three and a half years later he received another vision in which he was instructed as to the second coming of Christ and his own relation to the coming dispensation. He was also directed by an angel to the place where were to be found the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated, and he was instructed to visit this place on the corresponding day each year. He was not permitted, however, to receive the plates until September 22, 1827, which was the first anniversary after he had passed his twenty-first birthday. These plates, which had the appearance of gold, were engraved and contained an explanatory inscription to the effect that they were sacred, abridged records of the ancient inhabitants of America. He translated these records, dictating the translation to Oliver Cowdery and others, who wrote it down. Oliver Cowdery, with David Whitmer and Martin Harris, after the completion of the work, gave to the world their testimony that they had actually seen the plates and beheld the angel in whose keeping they were reposed.

The work of translation was completed in the summer of 1829 and was placed in the hands of the printer in August. Prior to this, on the 15th day of May, 1829, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery stated that "an angel (John the Baptist) appeared to them and conferred upon them the priesthood of Aaron and instructed them to baptize each other by immersion." Later on, they declared, three glorious beings (Peter, James, and John) conferred on them the Melchizedek Priesthood and the Keys of the Apostleship. This was followed in April, 1830, by the organization of the church at Fayette, N. Y., and "the declaration that the ancient gospel had been restored with all its gifts and powers."

Missionaries were sent out, prominent among whom were Oliver Cowdery, Sidney Rigdon, and Parley and Orson Pratt. Numerous churches were organized in different States, and in 1831 headquarters were established at Kirtland, Ohio. From the first the policy of segregating the converts from the "gentiles" was followed, and in 1831 a colony of believers was settled in Jackson County, Mo. Here they met some opposition from their neighbors, which grew violent in the fall of 1833 and culminated in their being driven from the county by mob violence.

They then scattered into other counties of Missouri, although retaining their organization at Kirtland, Ohio. Early in 1838 Joseph Smith removed to Caldwell County, Mo., which was settled almost exclusively by his followers and where other leaders of the church were already established. Here again there was friction between them and the earlier settlers of the adjoining counties, which resulted, in the winter of 1838-39, in their expulsion from the State. Then followed

the settlement at Nauvoo, Hancock County, Ill., which developed rapidly and at one time was the largest city in the State. In a few years, however, the people of the surrounding counties became hostile, and Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were killed by a mob at Carthage, Ill., on the 27th of June, 1844.

After the death of Joseph Smith, the Council of Twelve presided over the church until December, 1847, when, at Winter Quarters, near Omaha, Nebr., the president of the council, Brigham Young, was chosen as the president of the church. A number, however, refused his leadership, and there followed a period of confusion, several organizations being formed, one of which is to-day known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

*Doctrine.*—The doctrines of the Latter-day Saints as set forth by the first president, Joseph Smith, and accepted by both bodies, may be summarized as follows:

They believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and in the Holy Ghost, as individual personages; men will be punished for their own sins, not for Adam's transgression; through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel; these principles and ordinances are faith in Christ, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost; men are called of God to the ministry, by "prophecy and by the laying on of hands" by those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer its ordinances; the same organization that existed in the primitive church continues to-day—apostle, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc. There is also the same gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

The Bible, so far as it is translated correctly, and the Book of Mormon, are both regarded as the word of God. In addition to these, there have been and will be many revelations of great and important things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. There will be a literal gathering of Israel and the restoration of the Ten Tribes. Zion will be built on this continent. Christ will reign personally upon the earth, which will be renewed and receive its paradisaical glory. Freedom for all men to worship God according to the dictates of conscience is claimed, and obedience to rulers and magistrates and observance of law are enjoined.

*Organization.*—The ecclesiastical organization is based upon the priesthood, which is "power delegated to man by virtue of which he has authority to act or officiate in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ as His representative." Its grand divisions are the Melchizedek, or higher priesthood, and the Aaronic, or lesser priesthood. The Melchizedek priesthood is so called after Melchizedek, the King of Salem, who was a great high priest. It holds the power of presidency and the right of authority over all the offices of the church. Its officers are apostles, patriarchs, high priests, seventies, elders, and bishops. The Aaronic priesthood holds the keys of authority in the temporal affairs of the church, and its officers are priests, teachers, and deacons.

The chief or presiding council (quorum) of the church is the first presidency, which consists of three high priests—a president and two counselors or advisers; its jurisdiction and authority are universal, extending over all the affairs of the church in both temporal and spiritual things. The president of the church is regarded as the mouthpiece of God to the church and as alone receiving the law for the church through revelation. The first presidency is also the presidency of the high priesthood and has the right to officiate in all the offices of the church.

The second council (quorum) of the church, standing next to the first presidency, is composed of the twelve apostles. It is their duty, under the direction of the first presidency, to supervise the work of the church in all the world, and especially the missionary labors, to ordain evangelical ministers, and to act as special witnesses to the world of the divine mission of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

The patriarchs are evangelists who hold the right to bless the members of the church with the blessings of prophecy, as was done by Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the early patriarchs. They are supervised by the patriarch of the church. The high priests hold the power of presidency in the stakes of Zion (or districts), under the direction of the first presidency in their respective stakes and wards (parishes) in administering in spiritual things. The seventies are the missionaries of the church and labor in the world under the direction of the twelve apostles. They are organized into quorums of 70 each, under 7 presidents who preside over all the quorums. The elders assist the high priests in their duties in the stakes. All the members of the Melchizedek priesthood have authority under the direction of the presidency to officiate in all the ordinances of the gospel. The labors of the twelve apostles and of the seventies are principally in the world outside the regular church organization, while the labors of patriarchs, high priests, and elders are confined principally to their respective stakes and wards.

The presiding council (quorum) of the Aaronic priesthood is the presiding bishopric, consisting of three bishops who have jurisdiction over all the offices of the Aaronic priesthood and supervise the temporal affairs under the direction of the first presidency.

The general authorities are those officers who have general direction of the whole church or any general division. Thus the first presidency is the presiding council (quorum) over the whole church. The apostles have jurisdiction over the whole church under the direction of the first presidency, but more especially over the missionary enterprises. The presiding patriarch supervises all the patriarchs. The seven presidents preside over all the seventies. The presiding bishopric presides over all the Aaronic or lesser priesthood of the church.

*Statistics.*—The two bodies included in this group in 1926, 1916, and 1906, are shown in the following table, with the principal statistics as reported for the three years:

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS: 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								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	1,867	606,561	1,415	\$18,983,315	1,769	\$3,095,895	1,736	209,593
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.....	1,275	542,194	969	15,513,315	1,250	2,519,042	1,222	178,738
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.....	592	64,367	446	3,470,000	519	576,853	514	30,855
1916								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	1,530	462,329	1,214	7,154,797	1,370	949,104	1,443	181,152
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.....	965	403,388	832	6,283,226	948	804,068	942	152,930
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.....	565	58,941	382	871,571	422	145,036	501	28,222
1906								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	1,184	256,647	903	3,168,548	-----	-----	1,036	130,085
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.....	683	215,796	504	2,645,363	-----	-----	660	113,139
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.....	501	40,851	308	523,185	-----	-----	376	16,946

# CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

## STATISTICS

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

The membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints consists of those who have been received into the church by baptism and confirmation by the laying on of hands; included therein are all who are over 8 years of age.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	1, 275	507	768	39. 8	60. 2
<b>Members</b> .....	542, 194	280, 355	261, 839	51. 7	48. 3
Average per church.....	425	553	341		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	250, 021	118, 153	131, 868	47. 2	52. 7
Female.....	249, 107	123, 042	126, 065	49. 4	50. 6
Sex not reported.....	43, 066	39, 160	3, 906	90. 9	9. 1
Males per 100 females.....	100. 4	96. 0	104. 6		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	115, 242	53, 507	61, 735	46. 4	53. 6
13 years and over.....	383, 886	187, 688	196, 198	48. 9	51. 1
Age not reported.....	43, 066	39, 160	3, 906	90. 9	9. 1
Per cent under 13 years <sup>2</sup> .....	23. 1	22. 2	23. 9		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	969	352	617	36. 3	63. 7
Value—Churches reporting.....	969	352	617	36. 3	63. 7
Amount reported.....	\$15, 513, 315	\$8, 340, 836	\$7, 172, 479	53. 8	46. 2
Average per church.....	\$16, 010	\$23, 696	\$11, 625		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	299	124	175	41. 5	58. 5
Amount reported.....	\$501, 792	\$330, 445	\$171, 347	65. 9	34. 1
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	633	217	416	34. 3	65. 7
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	1, 250	501	749	40. 1	59. 9
Amount reported.....	\$2, 519, 042	\$1, 465, 419	\$1, 053, 623	58. 2	41. 8
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$2, 058, 293	\$1, 185, 876	\$870, 417	57. 7	42. 3
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$462, 749	\$279, 543	\$183, 206	60. 4	39. 6
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2, 015	\$2, 925	\$1, 407		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	1, 222	475	747	38. 9	61. 1
Officers and teachers.....	21, 864	9, 188	12, 676	42. 0	58. 0
Scholars.....	178, 738	87, 312	91, 426	48. 8	51. 2

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

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

The data given for 1926 represent 1,275 active organizations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with 542,194 members. All of the 1,275 churches reported members under 13 years of age. No parsonages were reported for 1926.

In addition to the financial statistics reported by the 1,275 churches, there were 67 tabernacles valued at \$2,645,640, which reported expenditures of \$869,376.

**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 JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	1, 275	965	683	425
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	310	282	258	
Per cent.....	32. 1	41. 3	60. 7	
<b>Members</b> .....	542, 194	403, 388	215, 796	144, 352
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	138, 806	187, 592	71, 444	
Per cent.....	34. 4	86. 9	49. 5	
Average membership per church.....	425	418	316	340
<b>Church edifices:</b>				
Number.....	969	905	624	266
Value—Churches reporting.....	969	832	594	
Amount reported.....	\$15, 513, 315	\$6, 283, 226	\$2, 645, 363	\$825, 506
Average per church.....	\$16, 010	\$7, 552	\$4, 453	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	299	178	104	
Amount reported.....	\$501, 792	\$268, 230	\$75, 793	
<b>Parsonages:</b>				
Value—Churches reporting.....		19	3	
Amount reported.....		\$57, 195	\$1, 700	
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	1, 250	948		
Amount reported.....	\$2, 519, 042	\$804, 068		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$2, 056, 293	\$486, 279		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$462, 749	\$317, 414		
Not classified.....		\$375		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2, 015	\$848		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>				
Churches reporting.....	1, 222	942	660	
Officers and teachers.....	21, 864	18, 066	14, 765	
Scholars.....	178, 738	152, 930	113, 139	

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 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 stake and mission in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 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 JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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 <sup>(1)</sup>
United States.....	1,275	507	768	542,194	280,355	261,839	250,021	249,107	43,066	100.4
New England:										
Vermont.....	1	1		149	149		68	81		
Massachusetts.....	6	6		516	516		258	258		100.0
Rhode Island.....	1	1		37	37		17	20		
Connecticut.....	3	3		154	154		79	75		
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	9	8	1	1,457	1,428	29	733	724		101.2
New Jersey.....	2	2		138	138		59	79		
Pennsylvania.....	8	6	2	975	871	104	400	575		69.6
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	9	9		739	739		348	391		89.0
Indiana.....	10	10		1,061	1,061		443	618		71.7
Illinois.....	13	13		2,368	2,368		667	901	800	74.0
Michigan.....	7	7		1,035	1,035		449	586		76.6
Wisconsin.....	5	4	1	640	591	49	294	346		85.0
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	5	5		617	617		267	350		76.3
Iowa.....	9	9		571	571		243	328		74.1
Missouri.....	12	12		1,877	1,877		845	1,032		81.9
North Dakota.....	2	1	1	197	84	113	68	129		52.7
South Dakota.....	3	2	1	131	113	18	62	69		
Nebraska.....	7	7		763	763		319	444		71.8
Kansas.....	8	5	3	710	515	195	264	446		59.2
South Atlantic:										
Maryland.....	4	2	2	651	460	191	320	331		96.7
District of Columbia.....	1	1		538	538		277	261		106.1
Virginia.....	9	5	4	1,760	477	1,283	838	922		90.9
West Virginia.....	6	3	3	1,398	359	1,039	675	723		93.4
North Carolina.....	5	3	2	1,983	281	1,702	930	1,053		88.3
South Carolina.....	8	3	5	3,090	342	2,748	1,470	1,620		90.7
Georgia.....	10	7	3	3,335	823	2,512	1,670	1,665		100.3
Florida.....	6	3	3	2,554	685	1,869	1,254	1,300		96.5
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	7	3	4	2,074	265	1,809	934	1,140		81.9
Tennessee.....	4	4		2,187	2,187		1,063	1,124		94.6
Alabama.....	4		4	1,809		1,809	900	909		99.0
Mississippi.....	4	2	2	1,508	120	1,388	721	787		91.6
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	2		2	389		389	159	230		69.1
Louisiana.....	2		2	1,127		1,127	409	718		57.0
Oklahoma.....	1	1		641	641		269	372		72.3
Texas.....	18	5	13	2,863	639	2,224	1,453	1,410		103.0
Mountain:										
Montana.....	21	6	15	2,565	1,278	1,287	1,214	1,301	50	93.3
Idaho.....	270	74	196	85,495	35,665	49,830	43,009	40,465	2,021	106.3
Wyoming.....	45	8	37	11,610	2,063	9,547	5,861	5,599	150	104.7
Colorado.....	24	12	12	5,807	2,766	3,041	2,785	2,872	150	97.0
New Mexico.....	10	2	8	1,497	168	1,329	731	766		95.4
Arizona.....	58	15	43	16,891	5,754	11,137	8,722	7,619	550	114.5
Utah.....	544	182	362	337,200	179,568	157,632	153,637	153,085	30,478	100.4
Nevada.....	22	2	20	4,889	456	4,433	2,399	2,240	250	107.1
Pacific:										
Washington.....	10	10		5,091	5,091		2,337	2,754		84.9
Oregon.....	12	7	5	5,892	5,033	859	3,083	2,809		109.8
California.....	43	36	12	23,215	21,069	2,146	7,018	7,580	8,617	92.6

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



TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

[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>
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>1,275</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>542,194</b>	<b>403,388</b>	<b>215,796</b>	<b>115,242</b>	<b>383,886</b>	<b>43,066</b>	<b>23.1</b>
Massachusetts.....	6	3	1	516	272	109	109	407	-----	21.1
Connecticut.....	3	1	-----	154	53	-----	32	122	-----	20.8
New York.....	9	5	4	1,457	598	215	351	1,106	-----	24.1
Pennsylvania.....	8	4	4	975	604	345	252	723	-----	25.8
Ohio.....	9	5	1	739	1,566	196	189	550	-----	25.6
Indiana.....	10	4	3	1,061	667	411	233	828	-----	22.0
Illinois.....	13	6	5	2,368	1,762	518	362	1,206	800	23.1
Michigan.....	7	5	1	1,035	711	108	270	765	-----	26.1
Wisconsin.....	5	-----	4	640	-----	323	162	478	-----	25.3
Minnesota.....	5	4	2	617	439	143	125	492	-----	20.3
Iowa.....	9	4	1	571	396	189	133	438	-----	23.3
Missouri.....	12	6	1	1,877	1,069	162	382	1,495	-----	20.4
South Dakota.....	3	1	-----	131	76	-----	31	100	-----	23.7
Nebraska.....	7	2	2	763	278	65	224	539	-----	29.4
Kansas.....	8	4	2	710	567	356	187	523	-----	26.3
Maryland.....	4	2	2	651	125	58	172	479	-----	26.4
Virginia.....	9	5	1	1,760	1,540	988	304	1,456	-----	17.3
West Virginia.....	6	7	2	1,398	1,732	785	386	1,012	-----	27.6
North Carolina.....	5	12	1	1,983	2,802	976	352	1,631	-----	17.8
South Carolina.....	8	9	1	3,090	2,509	1,101	509	2,581	-----	16.5
Georgia.....	10	6	1	3,335	2,615	386	673	2,662	-----	20.2
Florida.....	6	8	1	2,554	2,608	1,384	517	2,037	-----	20.2
Kentucky.....	7	6	1	2,074	1,553	1,150	418	1,656	-----	20.2
Tennessee.....	4	5	2	2,187	1,572	841	330	1,857	-----	15.1
Alabama.....	4	4	1	1,809	2,137	1,052	248	1,561	-----	13.7
Mississippi.....	4	5	1	1,508	1,622	1,018	252	1,256	-----	16.7
Arkansas.....	2	3	1	389	454	248	206	183	-----	53.0
Louisiana.....	2	4	1	1,127	968	455	138	989	-----	12.2
Oklahoma.....	1	3	1	641	756	382	219	422	-----	34.2
Texas.....	18	8	2	2,863	2,487	873	751	2,112	-----	26.2
Montana.....	21	6	2	2,565	1,460	242	786	1,729	50	31.3
Idaho.....	270	225	144	85,495	72,439	32,169	20,947	62,527	2,021	25.1
Wyoming.....	45	27	28	11,610	9,447	5,203	3,068	8,402	150	26.7
Colorado.....	24	10	9	5,807	3,358	2,194	1,495	4,162	150	26.4
New Mexico.....	10	7	5	1,497	1,484	684	413	1,084	-----	27.6
Arizona.....	58	44	34	10,891	12,496	6,175	4,434	11,907	550	27.1
Utah.....	544	459	339	337,200	257,719	151,032	66,817	239,905	30,478	21.8
Nevada.....	22	13	6	4,889	3,429	1,105	1,412	3,227	250	30.4
Washington.....	10	5	1	5,091	880	56	991	4,100	-----	19.5
Oregon.....	12	10	11	5,802	2,831	1,496	733	5,159	-----	12.4
California.....	48	11	4	23,215	2,634	613	5,344	9,254	8,617	36.6
Other States.....	7	7	-----	1,059	673	-----	295	764	-----	27.9

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

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

[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	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	1,275	969	969	\$15,513,315	299	\$501,792
Indiana.....	10	5	3	5,064		
Illinois.....	13	4	4	84,869		
Minnesota.....	5	3	3	19,937		
Missouri.....	12	6	6	122,089		
Kansas.....	8	4	4	13,850		
Maryland.....	4	3	3	15,638		
Virginia.....	9	3	3	1,975		
West Virginia.....	6	3	3	95,519		
North Carolina.....	5	4	4	3,721		
South Carolina.....	8	6	6	12,515		
Georgia.....	10	5	5	72,425		
Kentucky.....	7	3	3	3,638		
Texas.....	18	5	5	31,986		
Montana.....	21	12	12	41,772		
Idaho.....	270	235	235	2,240,635	94	62,580
Wyoming.....	45	32	32	326,910	8	4,134
Colorado.....	24	13	13	215,624	1	1,337
New Mexico.....	10	5	5	15,697	1	88
Arizona.....	58	43	43	611,696	5	12,169
Utah.....	544	503	503	10,578,068	181	396,951
Nevada.....	22	13	13	74,510	1	328
Washington.....	10	7	7	48,971	2	8,250
Oregon.....	12	8	8	36,535	1	150
California.....	48	27	27	586,927	5	15,805
Other States.....	96	19	19	252,744		

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

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The church was organized by Joseph Smith, with six members, on April 6, 1830. Previous to that time Joseph Smith had, according to his statements, received heavenly visitations on various occasions, whereby he had been commissioned to restore the gospel of Christ in its fullness and to organize the church. He claimed, also, to have received historical records on golden plates of the ancient inhabitants of this western continent, which he translated as the Book of Mormon.

During Joseph Smith's presidency the church grew rapidly in numbers, and converts were made largely in England as well as the United States. Antagonism was aroused against the leaders and members of the church in various places, and finally, in 1844, Joseph Smith, the president of the church, and Hyrum Smith, the patriarch, were shot to death in a jail at Carthage, Ill.

After the death of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young became president of the church, and three years later led a general migration of believers from Illinois to the Salt Lake Valley, Utah, the present headquarters. From this point as a center, the church has extended until it is represented in all but three of the States of the Union.

The comparative isolation of the new location gave less occasion for such disturbances as had hitherto accompanied the history of the church and permitted a more normal development of the community life. Active proselyting was

<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 Bishop Sylvester Q. Cannon, of Salt Lake City, and approved by him in its present form.



TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	1,275	1,250	\$2,519,042	\$2,056,293	\$462,749	1,222	21,864	178,738
Massachusetts.....	6	6	1,319	1,208	111	6	35	160
Connecticut.....	3	3	609	454	155	3	23	85
New York.....	9	9	11,818	11,498	320	8	89	468
Pennsylvania.....	8	6	1,529	1,419	110	8	67	330
Ohio.....	9	9	1,305	1,204	101	6	37	157
Indiana.....	10	10	1,590	1,364	226	7	67	317
Illinois.....	13	13	5,303	4,603	700	12	126	834
Michigan.....	7	7	1,648	1,434	214	4	46	254
Wisconsin.....	5	5	1,383	1,278	105	4	30	195
Minnesota.....	5	5	1,495	1,279	216	4	30	186
Iowa.....	9	9	1,356	976	380	5	29	175
Missouri.....	12	12	48,757	43,011	5,746	10	126	786
Nebraska.....	7	5	1,230	480	750	4	22	250
Kansas.....	8	7	1,507	859	648	7	62	287
Maryland.....	4	3	802	777	25	4	32	287
Virginia.....	9	9	424	222	202	9	96	638
West Virginia.....	6	4	1,849	1,722	127	6	53	517
North Carolina.....	5	5	412	226	186	5	61	498
South Carolina.....	8	8	710	422	288	8	111	629
Georgia.....	10	10	1,123	716	407	10	152	1,041
Florida.....	6	6	910	657	253	6	79	556
Kentucky.....	7	7	548	302	246	7	97	539
Tennessee.....	4	4	485	235	250	4	84	562
Alabama.....	4	3	181	25	156	4	58	382
Mississippi.....	4	4	299	159	140	3	25	117
Texas.....	18	12	6,216	4,154	2,062	17	166	1,290
Montana.....	21	16	3,486	3,031	452	18	193	1,339
Idaho.....	270	270	337,800	282,741	55,059	266	4,677	32,638
Wyoming.....	45	45	45,062	29,051	16,011	41	638	4,041
Colorado.....	24	24	14,378	10,207	4,171	21	294	1,887
New Mexico.....	10	9	13,603	12,354	1,249	10	135	611
Arizona.....	58	58	122,610	104,321	18,289	58	952	7,292
Utah.....	544	544	1,771,329	1,438,457	332,872	540	11,661	107,395
Nevada.....	22	21	13,865	9,807	4,058	22	335	2,161
Washington.....	10	9	5,686	4,837	849	6	83	786
Oregon.....	12	12	9,538	6,922	2,616	11	213	1,831
California.....	48	48	82,301	70,574	11,727	45	717	5,872
Other States.....	15	13	4,576	3,304	1,272	13	163	1,345

carried on and the number of converts increased rapidly. Brigham Young died in 1877, and was succeeded by John Taylor, who held the office of president for 10 years. His successors in office have been Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, and Heber J. Grant.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

The general doctrine and ecclesiastical organization of the church are set forth in the preliminary statement of the Latter-day Saints.

The doctrine of polygamy had for some years been advocated in the church, but in 1852 Brigham Young published the doctrine of celestial marriage (marriage for eternity as well as for time), including plural marriage, announcing that it was based on a revelation to Joseph Smith. This aroused great discussion throughout the country, resulting in various acts of Congress forbidding plural

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STAKES AND MISSIONS, 1926: CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

STAKE AND MISSION	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>542,194</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>\$15,513,315</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>\$501,792</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>\$2,519,042</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>178,738</b>
<b>STAKES</b>										
Alpine	18	9,540	18	156,179	11	4,919	18	27,271	18	3,319
Bannock	10	2,330	9	70,719	4	212	10	14,107	10	862
Bear Lake	12	3,772	12	150,218	2	162	12	17,440	12	1,867
Bear River	14	5,032	13	140,481	2	328	14	11,482	14	1,733
Beaver	7	3,252	7	70,162	1	86	7	4,434	7	1,057
Benson	14	7,734	14	390,075	6	2,440	14	38,507	14	2,577
Big Horn	10	3,133	8	134,811	3	471	10	9,727	8	857
Blackfoot	15	5,105	14	131,490	5	3,149	15	13,403	15	2,055
Blaine	8	2,261	8	110,204	4	4,090	8	12,140	8	849
Boise	11	4,308	9	39,686	1	1,150	11	8,781	11	1,607
Box Elder	13	7,572	13	256,881	4	4,349	13	20,651	13	2,819
Burley	10	3,418	10	76,141	1	200	10	8,270	10	1,262
Cache	8	5,674	8	179,337	4	4,455	8	20,367	8	1,994
Carbon	16	5,378	12	163,025	2	84	16	12,113	16	1,939
Cassia	6	1,629	6	30,458	2	1,672	6	2,435	6	589
Cottonwood	10	7,818	10	343,854	4	8,058	10	81,520	10	1,856
Curlew	10	1,259	7	48,719	1	650	10	4,719	10	477
Deseret	12	5,232	11	103,049	2	1,885	12	26,981	12	2,418
Duchesne	14	3,269	12	61,041	1	20	14	6,464	14	1,255
Emery	11	5,006	8	106,512			11	10,720	10	1,531
Ensign	8	9,596	8	594,596	4	54,193	8	182,493	8	3,201
Franklin	11	4,260	10	193,945	5	13,493	11	57,298	11	1,971
Fremont	14	6,743	14	168,425	10	2,465	14	24,917	14	2,656
Garfield	8	2,593	7	30,944	3	948	8	10,036	8	978
Granite	9	11,158	9	588,386	7	34,748	9	135,431	9	4,356
Grant	14	14,000	14	750,150	13	99,186	14	164,657	14	4,399
Gunnison	7	2,714	4	9,380	4	2,159	7	7,109	7	975
Hyrum	10	4,953	10	230,986	5	1,870	10	30,038	10	1,736
Idaho	11	1,993	7	47,535	2	1,190	11	6,643	11	694
Idaho Falls	14	6,138	11	126,543	6	5,781	14	34,056	14	2,766
Jordan	17	10,543	17	471,156	10	56,461	17	102,990	17	3,491
Juab	5	3,313	4	110,875			5	6,403	5	909
Kanab	7	2,228	6	63,692	1	1,320	7	9,372	7	692
Kolob	7	4,005	6	83,239	2	562	7	20,781	7	1,488
Liberty	12	14,389	12	616,022	6	42,380	12	108,097	12	7,257
Logan	11	5,919	11	244,687	4	1,031	11	43,017	11	2,220
Los Angeles	18	6,955	12	324,731	5	15,805	18	53,934	17	2,980
Lost River	7	1,233	5	43,825	1	519	7	3,979	6	378
Lyman	9	1,964	4	20,673			9	3,560	9	793
Malad	14	4,050	8	76,111	4	1,348	14	11,457	14	1,492
Maricopa	10	4,206	9	233,261	2	8,650	10	30,853	10	2,459
Millard	9	3,630	7	149,608	3	519	9	48,501	8	1,193
Minidoka	9	2,527	9	60,192	3	1,152	9	17,693	9	893
Moapa	9	2,447	4	25,774	1	328	9	8,856	9	1,252
Montpelier	14	3,755	13	84,937	5	546	14	8,928	12	1,285
Morgan	10	2,028	7	54,107	2	620	10	5,259	10	680
Mount Ogden	8	7,027	8	214,004	3	2,123	8	42,060	8	2,083
Nebo	9	4,539	8	77,633	3	1,918	9	12,762	9	1,425
Nevada	7	1,744	5	28,484			7	3,561	7	622
North Davis	7	4,702	7	272,025	3	11,324	7	26,011	7	1,469
North Sanpete	13	7,510	13	198,435	6	1,215	13	26,086	12	2,181
North Sevier	6	2,642	6	54,610	2	726	6	6,175	6	903
North Weber	14	6,274	13	287,088	3	5,544	14	23,435	14	2,150
Ogden	12	8,901	12	387,501	2	3,262	12	36,676	12	3,885

<sup>1</sup> Includes 54,294 members in various States for whom the stake or mission was not reported.

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STAKES AND MISSIONS, 1926: CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS—Continued

STAKE AND MISSION	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS					
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars				
<b>STAKES—continued</b>														
Oneida.....	12	3,710	11	111,009	3	2,279	12	13,833	12	1,508				
Oquirrh.....	5	4,979	5	105,253	2	1,880	5	13,417	5	1,632				
Palmyra.....	8	4,749	8	121,163	2	1,084	8	15,324	8	1,847				
Panguitch.....	6	2,546	5	49,817	1	650	6	8,837	6	939				
Parowan.....	10	5,467	8	100,376	4	877	10	9,718	10	1,927				
Pioneer.....	10	7,649	10	239,654	5	4,246	10	51,792	10	2,707				
Pocatello.....	12	5,683	11	169,862	3	1,407	12	18,378	12	2,342				
Portneuf.....	14	3,118	10	53,013	3	351	14	6,851	14	1,146				
Raft River.....	9	1,723	8	75,521	3	1,683	9	7,865	9	664				
Rigby.....	16	5,160	16	176,210	14	13,750	16	14,666	16	1,982				
Roosevelt.....	12	3,322	6	24,872	1	18	12	8,147	12	1,126				
St. George.....	17	6,808	14	72,354	1	25	17	29,829	17	2,338				
St. Johns.....	7	2,255	5	36,480	1	88	7	10,745	7	795				
St. Joseph.....	20	5,828	13	133,636	3	3,519	20	66,410	20	2,291				
Salt Lake.....	13	10,906	13	413,758	6	10,031	13	61,740	13	2,737				
San Juan.....	4	1,937	6	187,502	1	1,337	4	14,740	4	730				
San Luis.....	4	2,032					4	6,674	4	612				
Sevier.....	6	3,522					6	92,957	2	214	6	7,442	6	1,277
Shelley.....	9	3,188					9	110,616	5	2,897	9	11,308	9	1,170
Snowflake.....	10	2,934					9	58,601			10	13,209	10	928
South Davis.....	8	5,326					8	239,086	2	9,210	8	30,295	8	2,046
South Sanpete.....	7	4,164	7	157,319			7	22,716	7	1,529				
South Sevier.....	8	3,332	8	83,239	1	435	8	6,426	8	1,607				
Star Valley.....	11	3,624	11	114,490	4	1,863	11	24,092	11	1,459				
Summit.....	14	4,740	14	147,647	3	3,757	14	21,823	14	1,417				
Teton.....	18	3,057	15	78,155	5	1,206	18	18,599	17	1,120				
Tintie.....	5	2,784	4	64,583	2	1,036	5	6,829	5	1,134				
Tooele.....	10	4,087	9	111,528	2	97	10	8,494	10	1,159				
Twin Falls.....	5	2,145	5	29,590	3	1,149	5	3,190	5	781				
Uintah.....	10	4,154	9	84,777	3	1,296	10	17,147	10	1,192				
Union.....	7	1,958	7	21,035	1	150	7	5,357	7	775				
Utah.....	16	11,660	16	373,508	9	9,384	16	64,061	16	4,124				
Wasatch.....	9	3,944	9	107,747	4	1,245	9	7,930	9	1,440				
Wayne.....	6	1,907	5	27,591			6	12,878	6	678				
Weber.....	9	7,099	9	239,733	2	923	9	28,610	8	2,400				
Woodruff.....	7	2,931	6	86,077	1	623	7	7,334	7	995				
Yellowstone.....	12	3,799	11	45,683	4	1,266	12	8,781	12	1,320				
Young.....	7	1,235	6	73,720			7	13,576	7	468				
<b>MISSIONS</b>														
California.....	49	6,694	27	433,629			48	35,329	47	4,115				
Central States.....	42	7,216	17	169,050			35	56,409	38	3,091				
Eastern States.....	42	5,006	9	271,870			37	20,236	41	2,165				
North Central States.....	16	1,505	8	34,001			12	3,137	12	683				
Northern States.....	52	4,699	9	97,193			52	12,068	37	1,840				
Northwestern States.....	29	5,479	18	107,280	2	8,250	25	13,590	23	2,908				
Southern States.....	56	20,257	27	146,419			55	5,085	55	4,942				
Western States.....	37	4,183	13	119,100	1	1,800	34	9,466	28	1,817				

<sup>3</sup> Amount for San Juan Stake combined with figures for San Luis Stake, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

marriages. In 1890, President Woodruff issued a manifesto, calling on all the saints to "refrain from contracting any marriages forbidden by the laws of the land." Since that time such marriages have been prohibited by the church, although there have been cases where those already contracted have not been annulled.

The general organization of the church for governmental purposes, aside from the priesthood, which has direct charge of church affairs, includes the ward, the stake or district, and the mission. The general authorities consist of the first presidency of three men, who have charge of all the affairs of the church, the twelve apostles, the presiding patriarch, the seven presidents of seventies, and the presiding bishopric of three men. A stake of Zion is a geographical division composed of a number of wards. At its head are a president and two counselors who are high priests. The ward corresponds to the minor local church or parish. It has its meeting house and is under the care of the bishop and two counselors. A mission consists generally of a group of States, in which active proselyting is carried on by missionaries called from the various wards for approximately two-year periods, and presided over by a president. The general conference composed of officers and members from all parts of the church is held twice a year, in the spring and fall, for instructions from the general authorities and others who may be called upon to speak, and for the presentation and adoption of any church business.

Each bishop presides over a ward in a stake of Zion, and his labors are limited to his own ward. The priests are presided over by the bishop, and it is their duty to assist him, to visit the homes of members of the church, expound the Scriptures, baptize believers, and attend to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The duty of the teacher is to assist the priests, to see that there is no iniquity in the church, and that the members perform their duty. They are without authority to baptize or administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The duty of the deacon is to assist the teachers and also to expound the Scriptures. The priests, teachers, and deacons labor under the direction of the bishop of the ward. These officers, aforementioned, are members of the Aaronic priesthood and have to do with the outward or temporal affairs of the church. The quorums of the Melchizedek priesthood, which have to do with the spiritual labors of the church, are those of elders, seventies, and high priests.

The principal source of revenue of the church is its tithing system, which was instituted by Joseph Smith in 1838. Under it a convert is expected voluntarily to contribute one-tenth of his property to the church and thereafter pay to it one-tenth of his income annually. The proceeds are used for assistance in the building of ward and stake churches and the maintenance of the same, and for schools, temples, missionary work, charity, hospitals, etc.

#### WORK

The general activities of the church are, as stated, under the direction of the higher or Melchizedek priesthood and not in the hands of benevolent societies as in many churches. The Relief Society, however, which works under the supervision of the priesthood, is a benevolent organization of the women of the church and is practically independent in its sphere.

Missionary work in the United States is carried on in practically every State of the Union. The report for 1926 shows 8 stations as general headquarters; 1,213 missionaries; 8,141 male helpers; 265 churches, with 61,408 communicants; contributions to the amount of \$49,668, and church property valued at \$1,356,342.

Foreign missionary work is carried on in Great Britain and Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries, Turkey, South Africa, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Hawaiian Islands, New Zealand, Samoa, the Society Islands, and other islands of the Pacific, also South America. The report for 1926 shows 19 stations as general headquarters; 1,045 missionaries; 6,735 native helpers; 469 churches with 53,089 communicants; 5 schools with 625 pupils; contributions to the amount of \$85,616; and church property valued at \$1,070,703.

The importance of education has always been emphasized by the church, and in 1926 there were 9 church schools in the United States, with 4,461 students, as also 59 seminaries in connection with public high schools, with 10,376 students, while the entire number of students under the care of the church, both at home and abroad, is 14,837, of whom all but 150 belong to the church. These were apportioned in high school and college course departments. There were 270 teachers and 67 teachers employed for special instruction. The school property in the United States was valued at \$2,432,047, and equipment at \$339,416, making a total of \$2,771,463. The amount expended for the school year was \$1,203,583, including \$864,581 contributed by the church. For the previous year the church contributed \$852,961 to educational purposes and for the school year beginning 1926, \$837,810 was contributed.

This department also conducts religion classes once a week, with an enrollment for the year mentioned of 60,702 pupils and 4,034 officers and teachers, and teacher-training classes meeting at least twice a month, with an enrollment of 29,079 teachers in training and 1,500 officers and trainers.

There are 3 main hospitals maintained by the church, together with other smaller institutions. One hospital in Salt Lake City has accommodations for 244 patients; another, at Ogden, Utah, has capacity for 120; the third, at Idaho Falls, Idaho, for 100 patients. There is also a small maternity home at Murray, Utah, with accommodation for 10 patients, and 1 at Carey, Idaho, for 8 more; and there is a children's hospital for 40 patients at Salt Lake City. The number treated at these hospitals in 1926 was 12,310. The amount expended for their support in 1926 was \$608,276. The value of property was estimated at \$1,580,239, and there was an endowment fund of \$12,310.

The auxiliary associations of the church consist of the Relief Society already mentioned, the Sunday school, the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association, and the Primary Association. The Relief Society organization consists of 1,528 societies with 10,348 officers and teachers and 51,279 members. Their receipts for the year 1926 amounted to \$289,025 and their disbursements to \$287,030. The Sunday school organization included 1,452 schools, with 26,250 officers and teachers and 181,623 members in the United States. The young people's societies included 1,038 Young Men's Mutual Improvement Associations with about 7,853 officers and 40,749 members, and 1,024 Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations with 12,317 officers and teachers and 37,634 members, or a total of 2,062 local societies and 98,592 members. These societies have libraries containing altogether 55,633 volumes. Their receipts amounted to \$107,113, and their disbursement for rents, halls, lectures, book supplies, and the ordinary expenses of the societies amounted to \$95,557. The meetings consider religious, literary, and scientific topics, and are intended for the mutual improvement of the young people of the church along religious and secular lines. The Primary Association consists of 984 organizations in the various wards and mission branches, including 12,445 officers and 90,873 members. Their training is of the children from 4 years up to 12 years for boys and 14 years for girls.

A characteristic feature of this church is the extent to which it enters into, molds, and influences every department of the life of the people. It aids them when sick or in poverty, looks after their education, provides their amusements, and ministers to their social needs. It is also closely identified with the economic life of the people through its connection, as an investor, with numerous industrial and commercial ventures. In the organization and management of establishments the principle of cooperation enters to a greater or lesser extent. Moreover, the close association existing among the people, through the unifying influence of the church, has made these cooperative enterprises, in almost every line of economic endeavor, numerous and successful.