

REFORMED BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

The churches, aside from the Lutheran, that were the direct outcome of the Protestant Reformation, trace their ecclesiastical origin to republican Switzerland, and those leaders in the cause of representative government, Zwingli, Calvin, and Melancthon. Of these the Swiss, Dutch, and many German churches came to be known as Reformed; the Scotch and English as Presbyterian; and the French as Huguenot; while those in Bohemia and Hungary preserved their national names.

In the early colonization of America, Dutch and Germans, as well as Scotch and English, were prominent, and as a result there are 4 Reformed Churches—2 tracing their origin to Holland, 1 to the German Palatinate, and 1 to Hungary. The first church in New Amsterdam was organized by the Dutch in 1628, and for a considerable time the Hollanders were practically limited to the province of New Netherland. Somewhat later a German colony, driven from the Palatinate by the ruthless persecution of Louis XIV, settled in upper New York and Pennsylvania, and as it grew spread westward. Another Dutch immigration, which established its headquarters in Michigan, identified itself with the New York branch, but afterwards a minor part formed its own ecclesiastical organization. The New York branch, known at first as the "Reformed Protestant Dutch Church," later adopted the title "Reformed Church in America"; similarly, the German Reformed Church became, in 1867, the Reformed Church in the United States. The third body is known as the Christian Reformed Church; while a fourth is styled the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America. This denomination was organized in 1924 by certain congregations which refused to accept the "Tiffin Agreement," under whose terms the majority of the churches constituting the former Hungarian Reformed Church in America were formally transferred to the jurisdiction of the Reformed Church in the United States. There are also a number of churches called Netherlands Dutch Church or True Reformed Dutch Church, and some of the Hungarian churches, which have no general ecclesiastical organization and are included under the head of "Independent churches."

In its earlier history each body clung to its ancestral language, a practice which not infrequently checked a natural growth, although it had the advantage of giving to the newcomers a congenial church life, to which is largely due the fact that these communities have grown up loyal to the best interests both of their mother church and of their new country. As conditions changed, the use of English was accepted, and the older churches blended with the general interests of the community.

In their doctrine, polity, and general public life, the Reformed churches remain conservative. New ideas, simply because novel, have not had ready acceptance; yet new forms of organization, such as the various societies for young people and similar enterprises, have found a cordial welcome. In interdenominational relations they have always been friendly, are members of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and early inaugurated foreign mission work. They have stood for high standards in education and scholarship and have furnished many men prominent in public life.

In doctrine they are generally Calvinistic. Their Heidelberg Catechism emphasizes the general comfort of redemption in Christ, while the Westminster Catechism teaches the same and emphasizes the sovereignty of God. The polity is synod-presbyterian, differing from that of the Presbyterian churches only in the names of church offices and some other details. They have a consistory instead of a session, a classis instead of a presbytery, and a general synod instead of a general assembly.

The denominations grouped under the name "Reformed Bodies," in 1926, 1916, and 1906, are listed in the table below, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Since 1916 the Hungarian Reformed Church in America has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Reformed Church in the United States, with the exception of a few churches which did not approve the merger and organized in 1924 as the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE REFORMED BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches		VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
	Number of churches	Number of members	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	2,682	617,551	2,618	\$88,457,147	2,659	\$14,810,436	2,489	465,725
Reformed Church in America.....	717	153,739	690	38,436,822	714	5,524,673	689	124,308
Reformed Church in the United States.....	1,709	361,286	1,680	44,662,875	1,692	7,488,446	1,614	315,343
Christian Reformed Church.....	245	98,534	238	5,061,850	242	1,700,760	178	25,281
Free Magyar Reformed Church in America.....	11	3,992	10	295,600	11	96,557	8	793
1916								
Total for the group	2,745	537,822	2,600	41,137,627	2,684	6,842,542	2,575	454,099
Reformed Church in America.....	715	144,929	690	18,928,383	705	2,746,065	697	123,092
Reformed Church in the United States.....	1,758	344,374	1,663	20,116,336	1,714	3,247,773	1,658	304,250
Christian Reformed Church.....	226	38,668	209	1,658,308	221	715,193	188	24,445
Hungarian Reformed Church in America.....	46	9,851	38	434,600	44	133,511	32	2,312
1906								
Total for the group	2,583	449,514	2,477	30,648,247			2,345	361,548
Reformed Church in America.....	657	124,938	639	15,553,250			639	120,705
Reformed Church in the United States.....	1,736	292,654	1,667	14,067,897			1,569	222,324
Christian Reformed Church.....	174	26,669	160	903,600			133	18,340
Hungarian Reformed Church in America.....	16	5,253	11	123,500			4	179

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

STATISTICS

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

The membership of the Christian Reformed Church includes not only the adult communicant members but also those children who have been baptized in the church but have not yet reached the age of confirmation.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	245	88	157	35.9	64.1
Members	98,534	51,076	47,458	51.8	48.2
Average per church.....	402	580	302		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	47,035	23,416	23,619	49.8	50.2
Female.....	47,848	24,609	23,239	51.4	48.6
Sex not reported.....	3,651	3,051	600	83.6	16.4
Males per 100 females.....	98.3	95.2	101.6		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	30,547	14,407	16,140	47.2	52.8
13 years and over.....	64,252	33,618	30,634	52.3	47.7
Age not reported.....	3,735	3,051	684	81.7	18.3
Per cent under 13 years ³	32.2	30.0	34.5		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	263	88	175	33.5	66.5
Value—Churches reporting.....	238	84	154	35.3	64.7
Amount reported.....	\$5,061,850	\$3,367,500	\$1,694,350	66.5	33.5
Average per church.....	\$21,268	\$40,089	\$11,002		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	160	64	96	40.0	60.0
Amount reported.....	\$1,042,232	\$767,820	\$274,412	73.7	26.3
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	73	18	55		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	224	80	144	35.7	64.3
Amount reported.....	\$1,515,650	\$758,500	\$757,150	50.0	50.0
Debt—Churches reporting.....	84	26	58		
Amount reported.....	\$242,197	\$107,180	\$135,017	44.3	55.7
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	125	48	77	38.4	61.6
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	242	86	156	35.5	64.5
Amount reported.....	\$1,700,760	\$1,014,282	\$686,478	59.6	40.4
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,179,408	\$703,253	\$476,155	59.6	40.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$521,352	\$311,029	\$210,323	59.7	40.3
Average expenditure per church.....	\$7,028	\$11,794	\$4,401		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	178	77	101	43.3	56.7
Officers and teachers.....	1,948	1,137	811	58.4	41.6
Scholars.....	25,281	14,932	10,349	59.1	40.9

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

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 245 active Christian Reformed churches, with 98,534 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 240 churches and the classification by age was reported by 238 churches.

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: CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	245	226	174	99
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	19	52	75	
Per cent.....	8.4	29.9	(¹)	
Members	98,534	38,668	26,669	12,470
Increase over preceding census:				
Number.....	(²)	11,999	14,199	
Per cent.....		45.0	113.9	
Average membership per church.....	402	171	153	126
Church edifices:				
Number.....	263	233	181	106
Value—Churches reporting.....	238	209	160	
Amount reported.....	\$5,061,850	\$1,658,308	\$903,600	\$428,500
Average per church.....	\$21,268	\$7,934	\$5,648	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	160	151	98	
Amount reported.....	\$1,042,232	\$486,408	\$216,287	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	224	184	136	
Amount reported.....	\$1,515,650	\$619,095	\$290,250	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	84			
Amount reported.....	\$242,197			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	242	221		
Amount reported.....	\$1,700,760	\$715,193		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$1,179,408	\$453,803		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$521,352	\$240,962		
Not classified.....		\$20,428		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$7,028	\$3,236		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	178	188	133	
Officers and teachers.....	1,948	1,681	1,424	
Scholars.....	25,281	24,445	18,340	

¹ Per cent not shown, base being less than 100.

² The membership for 1926 includes both communicants and baptized members not yet confirmed; at preceding censuses communicant members only were reported. Because of this fact, the increase from 1916 to 1926 is not shown, as the data are not comparable.

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

Ecclesiastical divisions.—Table 7 presents, for each classis in the Christian Reformed Church, the more important statistical data shown by States in the earlier tables, including number of churches, membership, value of church edifices, debt on church edifices, expenditures, and Sunday schools.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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
United States	245	88	157	98,534	51,076	47,458	47,035	47,848	3,651	98.3
New England:										
Massachusetts.....	1	1		775	775		399	376		106.1
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	3	1	2	776	340	436	357	419		85.2
New Jersey.....	14	13	1	7,266	6,067	1,199	2,856	3,093	1,317	92.3
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	4	4		801	801		398	403		98.8
Indiana.....	4	2	2	1,526	701	825	750	776		96.6
Illinois.....	18	11	7	9,851	7,714	2,137	4,835	5,016		96.4
Michigan.....	100	39	61	48,088	28,789	19,299	22,849	23,205	2,034	98.5
Wisconsin.....	10	4	6	2,911	1,551	1,360	1,411	1,500		94.1
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	17	2	15	4,381	226	4,155	2,342	2,039		114.9
Iowa.....	40	4	36	12,437	1,813	10,624	6,112	6,325		96.6
North Dakota.....	2		2	293		293	156	137		113.9
South Dakota.....	11	1	10	2,694	93	2,601	1,397	1,297		107.7
Kansas.....	2		2	583		583	299	284		105.3
Mountain:										
Montana.....	4		4	972		972	473	499		94.8
Colorado.....	3	1	2	994	801	193	505	489		103.3
New Mexico.....	1		1	421		421	149	272		54.8
Pacific:										
Washington.....	6	1	5	2,253	379	1,874	1,136	1,117		101.7
California.....	5	4	1	1,512	1,026	486	611	601	300	101.7

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States	245	226	174	98,534	38,668	26,669	30,547	64,252	3,735	32.2
New York.....	3	5	6	776	389	298	239	537		30.8
New Jersey.....	14	13	17	7,266	3,067	2,392	1,661	4,288	1,317	27.9
Ohio.....	4	4	4	801	446	382	235	566		29.3
Indiana.....	4	4	3	1,526	719	659	576	950		37.7
Illinois.....	18	14	9	9,851	3,093	2,332	2,895	6,956		29.4
Michigan.....	100	88	66	48,088	20,645	14,719	14,780	31,274	2,034	32.1
Wisconsin.....	10	9	7	2,911	1,344	761	1,014	1,897		34.8
Minnesota.....	17	16	10	4,381	1,205	615	1,652	2,729		37.7
Iowa.....	40	34	31	12,437	4,276	2,990	3,986	8,422	29	32.1
North Dakota.....	2	3	1	293	152	77	119	174		40.6
South Dakota.....	11	11	8	2,694	1,107	499	1,033	1,606	55	39.1
Montana.....	4	5	2	972	351	135	327	645		33.6
Colorado.....	3	4	1	994	262	21	337	657		33.9
Washington.....	6	5	3	2,253	627	284	838	1,415		37.2
California.....	5	4		1,512	164		436	776	300	36.0
Other States.....	4	7	6	1,779	821	505	419	1,360		23.6

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States	245	263	238	\$5,061,850	160	\$1,042,232	224	\$1,515,650	84	\$242,197
New York.....	3	4	3	49,000	2	5,100	3	20,500	1	6,000
New Jersey.....	14	13	13	667,500	11	132,582	12	157,600	4	23,418
Ohio.....	4	4	4	53,500	1	10,000	4	33,000	1	3,000
Indiana.....	4	5	4	92,000	2	5,436	4	27,800	2	1,964
Illinois.....	18	21	18	718,500	12	244,650	16	187,650	4	32,000
Michigan.....	100	110	99	2,387,250	67	396,298	92	605,100	23	54,542
Wisconsin.....	10	10	10	166,000	8	50,775	10	66,000	4	9,350
Minnesota.....	17	17	15	129,500	10	27,550	16	76,500	13	25,100
Iowa.....	40	43	38	437,600	24	89,164	37	201,500	18	50,738
South Dakota.....	11	11	11	122,000	7	33,500	10	39,500	4	12,500
Montana.....	4	4	4	34,500	3	8,087	3	10,500	2	3,687
Colorado.....	3	3	3	39,000	2	10,190	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Washington.....	6	8	6	41,500	5	10,100	6	29,000	3	7,000
California.....	5	4	4	47,000	4	11,800	4	18,600	3	5,500
Other States ¹	6	6	6	77,000	2	7,000	7	42,500	2	7,400

¹ Amount included in figures shown for "Other States," to avoid disclosing the statistics for individual churches.² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 2 churches in Colorado.TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

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

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	245	242	\$1,700,760	\$1,179,408	\$521,352	178	1,948	25,281
New York.....	3	3	20,300	14,520	5,780	3	26	250
New Jersey.....	14	13	140,605	96,934	43,671	13	224	2,673
Ohio.....	4	4	19,317	13,706	5,611	4	32	322
Indiana.....	4	4	23,218	18,374	4,844	3	33	417
Illinois.....	18	18	244,080	181,656	62,424	15	172	2,430
Michigan.....	100	98	787,400	522,229	265,171	86	1,083	14,370
Wisconsin.....	10	10	57,379	45,150	12,229	4	24	214
Minnesota.....	17	17	66,259	49,118	17,141	5	24	332
Iowa.....	40	40	177,719	129,317	48,402	22	175	2,265
South Dakota.....	11	11	38,836	28,410	10,426	5	36	530
Montana.....	4	4	12,151	5,964	6,187	2	4	56
Colorado.....	3	3	14,850	11,090	3,760	3	23	269
Washington.....	6	6	40,594	24,605	15,989	2	9	110
California.....	5	5	32,196	22,391	9,805	5	34	456
Other States.....	6	6	25,856	15,944	9,912	6	49	585

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS, 1926: CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

CLASSIS	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	245	98,534	238	\$5,061,850	160	\$1,042,232	242	\$1,700,760	178	25,281
California.....	6	1,933	5	55,000	4	11,800	6	33,632	6	601
East Friesland.....	16	2,683	15	93,500	5	13,214	16	50,650	15	1,157
Grand Rapids, East.....	24	11,802	24	754,000	18	161,838	23	206,180	19	2,878
Grand Rapids, West.....	24	12,901	23	812,800	15	103,700	24	230,504	23	4,060
Hackensack.....	5	2,067	5	272,000	5	69,300	5	47,224	5	1,460
Holland.....	13	8,440	13	260,500	6	32,150	12	134,341	12	2,948
Hudson.....	13	6,750	12	474,500	9	74,382	12	126,681	12	1,590
Illinois.....	21	11,184	21	806,500	13	249,086	21	265,330	17	2,767
Muskegon.....	27	8,869	27	410,000	20	71,410	27	141,431	23	2,828
Orange City.....	26	7,592	25	237,100	20	55,750	26	110,001	9	864
Pacific.....	10	3,225	10	76,000	8	18,187	10	52,745	4	166
Pella.....	14	4,836	14	195,500	8	43,890	14	70,254	9	1,104
Sioux Center.....	20	6,521	18	245,500	11	48,550	20	81,679	7	646
Wisconsin.....	10	2,911	10	166,000	8	50,775	10	57,379	4	214
Zeeland.....	16	6,820	16	202,950	10	38,200	16	92,729	13	1,998

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

In 1846-47 a colony from Holland settled in Michigan and gave the names of their old provinces to their new homes, such as Zeeland, Vriesland, Holland, etc. Those in Iowa chose the significant name of "Pella" for their place of refuge. Practically all joined the Dutch Reformed Church in 1849, but when this union was formed they made an express condition that "they would be most perfectly free at any time they found an ecclesiastical connection opposed to their religious prosperity and enjoyment to bid (the Reformed Church) a fraternal adieu and be by themselves."

After some years a number of the members and two of the ministers of the Michigan congregations considered that various things in the doctrines and discipline of the church they had joined were opposed to their prosperity and enjoyment, and after considerable friction they withdrew, April 8, 1857. Delegates from six churches met in Holland, Mich., in May, 1857, and effected a separate organization. Two years later the name of "Holland Reformed Church" was adopted as the denominational title, but in 1861 it was changed to "True Dutch Reformed." In 1880 the name "Holland Christian Reformed Church in America" was chosen, but in 1890 the word "Holland" was dropped, and in 1904 the words "in America" were eliminated, so that the official title to-day is "Christian Reformed Church."

At first the growth was slow. Two of the congregations disappeared from the roll the year after organization, and one of the clergymen returned to the Reformed Church, leaving as sole pastor of the denomination the Rev. K. Van den Bosch. Owing to different opinions in regard to ecclesiastical customs, considerable agitation arose among the members. In 1864 the Rev. D. J.

¹ This statement, which is substantially the same as that published in Part II of the Report on Religious Bodies, 1916, has been revised by Rev. Henry Beets, stated clerk, Christian Reformed Church, and approved by him in its present form.

Van der Werp, an earnest preacher and a talented writer, came from the Netherlands to settle as pastor of the church at Graafschap, Allegan County, Mich. Coming into relations with recent immigrants from the Netherlands and from Germany (Bentheim and East Friesland), and finding many who were dissatisfied with the conditions in the Reformed Church, he succeeded within a few years in organizing a number of congregations in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, as well as in Michigan. He also began to train young men for the ministry, thus laying the foundation of the present theological school and Calvin College, which were formally opened in 1876 in Grand Rapids. In 1868 he began the publication of a biweekly paper, *De Wachter* (The Watchman), and through this medium was able to extend the influence of the movement in many directions.

In 1880 the first home missionary was ordained for the organization of churches among the Reformed Hollanders and East Frisians, scattered in different parts of the United States. This home mission work, aided by increasing immigration and a constantly growing number of graduates from the theological school, has been the chief instrument in causing the comparatively rapid growth of the church in recent years.

The denomination was strengthened considerably in 1882 by the accession of half a dozen churches which, with their pastors, had left the Reformed Church because of the refusal of its General Synod to condemn freemasonry and to discipline communicant members who were members of that organization. A further considerable increase came in 1890, when the Classis of Hackensack united with the denomination. This classis was the remnant of the True Reformed Dutch Church, which in 1822 had withdrawn from the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America (then called the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church) because of its alleged departure from Calvinistic teaching and preaching and from the exercise of church discipline.

In their early history the language of the churches was almost exclusively Dutch, but what became known as the "Americanization movement" in Michigan was strengthened by the formation of an English-speaking congregation in Grand Rapids, Mich., and the addition of the Hackensack Classis, which had been using English for many years. In the city congregations in many instances the use of English has increased very fast since the World War, so that practically all of them conduct one or more services each Sunday in the language of our country. Nearly all of the Sunday-school work and catechism teaching is carried on in English. In Iowa and Minnesota about half a dozen country churches still make some use of the German language in public worship.

DOCTRINE

The creeds of the Christian Reformed Church are those of the Reformed Churches which trace their origin to Holland, namely, the Belgic Confession of Faith, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort.

In the congregational worship, the Psalms are sung exclusively, except that a few "Spiritual Songs" are used as a supplement to the Psalter, and in some congregations 52 hymns are used, selected as being appropriate to the 52 Lord's Days of the Heidelberg Catechism.

In the American services the Psalter version used in public praise is that which in 1912 was published by a committee of the United Presbyterian Church, based on the labors of a joint committee of nine American and Canadian denominations.

ORGANIZATION

The church adopted as its constitution the 86 articles of church government (the Church Order) approved by the National Synod of Dort in 1619, in so far as they were suited to American civil conditions. These articles provide for a strictly presbyterian order of polity, including the parity of the ministry and the joint rule of the elders of the different congregations.

The first organization of all the congregations was called a "classis" (presbytery). From 1865 to 1879 general assemblies were held annually. In 1880

the name "synod" was adopted for the annual meeting of all the churches as one body. At present six delegates from each classis—three ministers and three elders—meet biennially as a synod, the highest church court in the organization. This corresponds to the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, with no intermediary court corresponding to the "particular" synod. The number of classes is 15.

WORK

The activities of the church include work among the Indians, under the supervision of the Christian Reformed Board of Missions, appointed by the Synod, with headquarters at Grand Rapids, Mich.; work among the Jews at Paterson, N. J., and Chicago, Ill.; among the Dutch sailors and Dutch immigrants at Hoboken, N. J., and Ellis Island; and home mission work carried on under the auspices of the various classes and of a General Home Missions Committee, organized February 3, 1927.

In 1920 work was begun in China, with headquarters at Jukao, Province of Kiangsu. The number of ordained missionaries in 1927 was 24; the disbursements in 1926 for Indian work amounted to \$113,359; for China work, \$36,761; for home missions, general fund, \$36,500; for Jewish missions, \$33,000; for Seamen's Home and immigration work, \$9,000; for aid to South American Reformed churches, \$2,500; and for "Church Help," \$7,500.

The missionaries for the Indians are located at Rehoboth, Zuni, Black Rock, Crown Point, Toadlena, Tohatchi, Nahachitty, and Farmington, all in New Mexico. In China the main station is at Jukao, Province of Kiangsu. There are about a dozen churches and mission stations in Canada, in the Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia, aided by the General Home Missions Committee.

The chief educational institution is at Grand Rapids, Mich., and includes a theological seminary and Calvin College, with 28 teachers and 325 students; a Junior Reformed College, at Grundy Center, Iowa, opened in 1916, has a faculty of 10 and an enrollment of 94 students. There are in addition 84 parochial or "Christian" schools, many of which are the property of independent societies for Christian instruction, composed almost exclusively of members of the Christian Reformed Church. These enroll a total of 13,500 pupils. The value of the school property at Grand Rapids, Mich., is \$375,000; of the schools for the Indians, \$40,000; of parochial schools, \$2,000,000; of the school at Grundy Center, Iowa, \$100,000. The theological school at Grand Rapids has a special endowment valued at \$85,000, and Grundy College an endowment of \$24,000. The various congregations, in addition to the Sunday schools, have week-day classes for the children and young people, for training in Bible history and doctrine by means of a graded system of catechisms.

One hospital for Indians, at which 350 patients were treated in 1926, is maintained by the Christian Reformed Board of Missions, at Rehoboth, N. Mex. The building is valued at \$25,000. Another hospital is located at Jukao, China.

Several other institutions of a philanthropic character are in part supported by Christian Reformed people, in conjunction with members of the Reformed Church in America. There are homes for aged Hollanders in Grand Rapids, Mich., Pella, Iowa, Paterson, N. J., Chicago, Ill., Muskegon and Kalamazoo, Mich., and Sheldon, Iowa, and, on a similar plan, one Christian psychopathic hospital is maintained at Cutlerville, near Grand Rapids, Mich., another at Goffle Hills, near Paterson, N. J., and a hospital for tuberculosis sufferers (Bethesda Sanitarium) at Denver, Colo.

There are two denominational periodical publications, one an English weekly, "The Banner," one a Dutch weekly, "De Wachter," both published in Grand Rapids, Mich. The "Missionary Monthly," formerly known as "De Heidenwereld," serves the Holland element of both the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in America. It is printed in Grand Rapids, Mich.