

SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

The movement away from the state churches in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark has found expression in the United States in the formation of three bodies, as follows: The Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America, the Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America, and the Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association of North America.

The bodies included in the group in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed below, with the principal statistics as reported for the two periods. The Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America was organized as the Swedish Evangelical Free Mission; and other slight changes in names will be noted between the last two censuses.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

| DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR | Total number of churches | Number of members | VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES | | EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR | | SUNDAY SCHOOLS | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Churches reporting | Amount | Churches reporting | Amount | Churches reporting | Number of scholars |
| 1926 | | | | | | | | |
| Total for the group | 505 | 48,785 | 481 | \$7,490,579 | 486 | \$1,954,860 | 443 | 56,177 |
| Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America..... | 357 | 36,838 | 340 | 5,301,379 | 344 | 1,402,398 | 312 | 41,050 |
| Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America..... | 107 | 8,166 | 101 | 1,228,700 | 102 | 329,644 | 95 | 11,250 |
| Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association of North America..... | 41 | 3,781 | 40 | 960,500 | 40 | 222,818 | 36 | 3,877 |
| 1916 | | | | | | | | |
| Total for the group | 458 | 37,816 | 439 | 3,053,838 | 441 | 722,535 | 431 | 41,701 |
| Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America..... | 324 | 29,164 | 310 | 2,295,172 | 311 | 522,352 | 305 | 30,937 |
| Swedish Evangelical Free Church..... | 102 | 6,208 | 98 | 480,966 | 98 | 144,303 | 95 | 8,672 |
| Norwegian—Danish Free Church..... | 32 | 2,444 | 31 | 277,700 | 32 | 55,880 | 31 | 2,092 |
| 1906 | | | | | | | | |
| Total for the group | 407 | 27,712 | 379 | 1,638,675 | | | 373 | 32,504 |
| Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America..... | 281 | 20,760 | 261 | 1,225,220 | | | 258 | 24,888 |
| Swedish Evangelical Free Mission..... | 126 | 6,952 | 118 | 413,455 | | | 115 | 7,616 |

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States 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 requirements for membership in the Swedish Evangelical Free Church are that the applicant be a true believer and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

| ITEM | Total | In urban territory ¹ | In rural territory ¹ | PER CENT OF TOTAL ² | |
|---|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | | | | Urban | Rural |
| Churches (local organizations)..... | 107 | 37 | 70 | 34.6 | 65.4 |
| Members..... | 8,166 | 4,994 | 3,172 | 61.2 | 38.8 |
| Average per church..... | 76 | 135 | 45 | | |
| Membership by sex: | | | | | |
| Male..... | 3,293 | 1,876 | 1,417 | 57.0 | 43.0 |
| Female..... | 4,195 | 2,696 | 1,559 | 62.8 | 37.2 |
| Sex not reported..... | 678 | 482 | 196 | 71.1 | 28.9 |
| Males per 100 females..... | 78.5 | 71.2 | 90.9 | | |
| Membership by age: | | | | | |
| Under 13 years..... | 16 | 2 | 14 | | |
| 13 years and over..... | 7,168 | 4,618 | 2,550 | 64.4 | 35.6 |
| Age not reported..... | 932 | 374 | 608 | 38.1 | 61.9 |
| Per cent under 18 years ³ | 0.2 | (*) | 0.5 | | |
| Church edifices: | | | | | |
| Number..... | 103 | 36 | 67 | 35.0 | 65.0 |
| Value—Churches reporting..... | 101 | 35 | 66 | 34.7 | 65.3 |
| Amount reported..... | \$1,228,700 | \$859,200 | \$369,500 | 69.9 | 30.1 |
| Average per church..... | \$12,165 | \$24,549 | \$5,598 | | |
| Debt—Churches reporting..... | 22 | 14 | 8 | | |
| Amount reported..... | \$114,812 | \$108,442 | \$6,370 | 94.5 | 5.5 |
| Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice..... | 73 | 20 | 53 | | |
| Parsonages: | | | | | |
| Value—Churches reporting..... | 56 | 18 | 38 | | |
| Amount reported..... | \$223,350 | \$92,300 | \$131,050 | 41.3 | 58.7 |
| Debt—Churches reporting..... | 9 | 3 | 6 | | |
| Amount reported..... | \$14,801 | \$8,351 | \$6,450 | 56.4 | 43.6 |
| Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage..... | 44 | 14 | 30 | | |
| Expenditures during year: | | | | | |
| Churches reporting..... | 102 | 36 | 66 | 35.3 | 64.7 |
| Amount reported..... | \$329,644 | \$212,437 | \$117,207 | 64.4 | 35.6 |
| Current expenses and improvements..... | \$264,054 | \$174,924 | \$89,130 | 66.2 | 33.8 |
| Benevolences, missions, etc..... | \$65,590 | \$37,513 | \$28,077 | 57.2 | 42.8 |
| Average expenditure per church..... | \$3,232 | \$5,901 | \$1,776 | | |
| Sunday schools: | | | | | |
| Churches reporting..... | 95 | 34 | 61 | | |
| Officers and teachers..... | 1,082 | 595 | 487 | 55.0 | 45.0 |
| Scholars..... | 11,250 | 6,146 | 5,104 | 54.6 | 45.4 |

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.

⁴ Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The data given for 1926 represent 107 active Swedish Evangelical Free churches, with 8,166 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 99 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 80 churches, including, however, only 3 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

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

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

| ITEM | 1926 | 1916 | 1906 |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Churches (local organizations)..... | 107 | 102 | 126 |
| Increase ¹ over preceding census: | | | |
| Number..... | 5 | -24 | |
| Per cent..... | 4.9 | -19.0 | |
| Members..... | 8,166 | 6,208 | 6,952 |
| Increase ¹ over preceding census: | | | |
| Number..... | 1,958 | -744 | |
| Per cent..... | 31.5 | -10.7 | |
| Average membership per church..... | 76 | 61 | 55 |
| Church edifices: | | | |
| Number..... | 103 | 98 | 121 |
| Value—Churches reporting..... | 101 | 98 | 118 |
| Amount reported..... | \$1,228,700 | \$480,966 | \$413,455 |
| Average per church..... | \$12,165 | \$4,908 | \$3,504 |
| Debt—Churches reporting..... | 22 | 35 | 42 |
| Amount reported..... | \$114,812 | \$49,405 | \$73,293 |
| Parsonages: | | | |
| Value—Churches reporting..... | 56 | 43 | 31 |
| Amount reported..... | \$223,350 | \$74,840 | \$54,026 |
| Debt—Churches reporting..... | 9 | | |
| Amount reported..... | \$14,801 | | |
| Expenditures during year: | | | |
| Churches reporting..... | 102 | 98 | |
| Amount reported..... | \$329,644 | \$144,303 | |
| Current expenses and improvements..... | \$264,054 | \$110,097 | |
| Benevolences, missions, etc..... | \$65,590 | \$27,582 | |
| Not classified..... | | \$6,624 | |
| Average expenditure per church..... | \$3,232 | \$1,472 | |
| Sunday schools: | | | |
| Churches reporting..... | 95 | 95 | 115 |
| Officers and teachers..... | 1,082 | 910 | 932 |
| Scholars..... | 11,250 | 8,672 | 7,616 |

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Swedish Evangelical Free 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.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

| GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE | NUMBER OF CHURCHES | | | NUMBER OF MEMBERS | | | TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | Total | Urban | Rural | Total | Urban | Rural | Male | Female | Sex not reported | Males per 100 females (1) |
| United States | 107 | 37 | 70 | 8,166 | 4,994 | 3,172 | 3,293 | 4,195 | 678 | 78.5 |
| Middle Atlantic: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pennsylvania..... | 1 | 1 | ----- | 129 | 129 | ----- | 51 | 78 | ----- | ----- |
| East North Central: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Illinois..... | 10 | 9 | 1 | 1,782 | 1,749 | 33 | 632 | 765 | 385 | 82.6 |
| Michigan..... | 2 | 2 | ----- | 154 | 154 | ----- | 69 | 85 | ----- | ----- |
| Wisconsin..... | 12 | 2 | 10 | 431 | 208 | 223 | 186 | 245 | ----- | 75.9 |
| West North Central: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota..... | 31 | 6 | 25 | 2,023 | 1,092 | 931 | 835 | 1,122 | 66 | 74.4 |
| Iowa..... | 9 | 2 | 7 | 614 | 278 | 336 | 240 | 319 | 55 | 75.2 |
| Missouri..... | 1 | 1 | ----- | 27 | 27 | ----- | 12 | 15 | ----- | ----- |
| South Dakota..... | 6 | 1 | 5 | 331 | 31 | 300 | 157 | 174 | ----- | 90.2 |
| Nebraska..... | 17 | 2 | 15 | 1,167 | 205 | 962 | 503 | 589 | 75 | 85.4 |
| West South Central: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Texas..... | 5 | 2 | 3 | 308 | 216 | 92 | 135 | 173 | ----- | 78.0 |
| Mountain: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colorado..... | 4 | 3 | 1 | 453 | 370 | 83 | 190 | 263 | ----- | 72.2 |
| Utah..... | 1 | 1 | ----- | 17 | 17 | ----- | 5 | 12 | ----- | ----- |
| Pacific: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washington..... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 119 | 97 | 22 | 7 | 15 | 97 | ----- |
| Oregon..... | 1 | 1 | ----- | 27 | 27 | ----- | 10 | 17 | ----- | ----- |
| California..... | 5 | 3 | 2 | 584 | 394 | 190 | 261 | 323 | ----- | 80.8 |

¹ 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: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES 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 ¹ |
| United States | 107 | 102 | 126 | 8,166 | 6,208 | 6,952 | 16 | 7,168 | 982 | 0.2 |
| Illinois..... | 10 | 9 | 17 | 1,782 | 1,294 | 1,542 | ----- | 1,752 | 30 | ----- |
| Michigan..... | 2 | 2 | 3 | 154 | 154 | 150 | ----- | 154 | ----- | ----- |
| Wisconsin..... | 12 | 8 | 9 | 431 | 177 | 192 | ----- | 386 | 45 | ----- |
| Minnesota..... | 31 | 22 | 19 | 2,023 | 1,271 | 1,220 | 2 | 1,791 | 230 | 0.1 |
| Iowa..... | 9 | 10 | 17 | 614 | 530 | 756 | 14 | 415 | 185 | 3.3 |
| South Dakota..... | 6 | 10 | 9 | 331 | 381 | 509 | ----- | 331 | ----- | ----- |
| Nebraska..... | 17 | 17 | 25 | 1,167 | 1,003 | 1,239 | ----- | 1,038 | 129 | ----- |
| Kansas..... | ----- | ----- | 3 | ----- | ----- | 41 | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Texas..... | 5 | 4 | 4 | 308 | 158 | 201 | ----- | 217 | 91 | ----- |
| Colorado..... | 4 | 7 | 7 | 453 | 419 | 518 | ----- | 370 | 83 | ----- |
| Washington..... | 2 | 2 | 3 | 119 | 123 | 92 | ----- | 22 | 97 | ----- |
| California..... | 5 | 5 | 5 | 584 | 378 | 97 | ----- | 492 | 92 | ----- |
| Other States..... | 4 | 6 | 5 | 200 | 320 | 335 | ----- | 200 | ----- | ----- |

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[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..... | 107 | 103 | 101 | \$1,228,700 | 22 | \$114,812 | 56 | \$223,350 | 9 | \$14,801 |
| Illinois..... | 10 | 10 | 10 | 395,000 | 6 | 55,300 | (1) | | | |
| Wisconsin..... | 12 | 10 | 9 | 32,700 | 1 | 500 | 3 | 11,000 | 1 | 1,000 |
| Minnesota..... | 31 | 29 | 29 | 240,500 | 7 | 19,370 | 12 | 52,300 | 4 | 7,901 |
| Iowa..... | 9 | 9 | 9 | 109,000 | 1 | 400 | 7 | 27,000 | | |
| South Dakota..... | 6 | 6 | 6 | 65,500 | | | 5 | 16,500 | | |
| Nebraska..... | 17 | 17 | 17 | 124,100 | 1 | 500 | 14 | 55,750 | 1 | 1,800 |
| Texas..... | 5 | 5 | 5 | 36,500 | 1 | 5,500 | 3 | 10,500 | 1 | 500 |
| Colorado..... | 4 | 5 | 4 | 63,000 | 1 | 11,000 | 3 | 12,800 | | |
| California..... | 5 | 5 | 5 | 98,400 | 2 | 21,000 | 4 | 15,000 | | |
| Other States ¹ | 8 | 7 | 7 | 64,000 | 2 | 1,242 | 5 | 22,500 | 2 | 3,600 |

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

² The figures for value of parsonages include data for 1 church in Illinois.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: SWEDISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

[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..... | 107 | 102 | \$329,644 | \$264,054 | \$65,590 | 95 | 1,082 | 11,250 |
| Illinois..... | 10 | 10 | 98,525 | 83,122 | 15,403 | 9 | 217 | 2,624 |
| Wisconsin..... | 12 | 11 | 10,117 | 7,674 | 2,443 | 10 | 66 | 531 |
| Minnesota..... | 31 | 29 | 68,092 | 53,802 | 14,290 | 29 | 278 | 2,996 |
| Iowa..... | 9 | 9 | 36,364 | 30,673 | 5,691 | 7 | 67 | 725 |
| South Dakota..... | 6 | 5 | 12,863 | 7,735 | 5,128 | 5 | 42 | 615 |
| Nebraska..... | 17 | 17 | 33,787 | 23,551 | 10,236 | 15 | 176 | 1,873 |
| Texas..... | 5 | 5 | 8,522 | 6,738 | 1,784 | 4 | 26 | 301 |
| Colorado..... | 4 | 4 | 17,315 | 14,183 | 3,132 | 4 | 68 | 564 |
| California..... | 5 | 4 | 28,066 | 23,117 | 4,949 | 5 | 90 | 672 |
| Other States..... | 8 | 8 | 15,993 | 13,459 | 2,534 | 7 | 52 | 349 |

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

At the time of the union of the Swedish Ansgarii Synod and the Mission Synod in 1885, forming the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America, a number of congregations did not share in the consolidation, but united in an organization known as the Swedish Evangelical Free Mission, more recently known as the Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America. The first general conference was held at Boone, Iowa, at which plans were made for work, particularly in Utah.

The Swedish Evangelical Free Church has no written confession of faith, but accepts the Bible as the Word of God and the only perfect rule of faith and practice. Regarding doctrinal questions, such as the atonement, baptism, and the holy communion, ministers are at liberty to believe according to their convictions. The qualifications for membership are conversion and a Christian life.

The local congregations are self-governing. An annual conference is held, to which the local congregations send delegates, and at which regulations are made concerning charitable institutions, schools, etc.; but these regulations are advisory in character, and the congregations are privileged either to accept or to reject them. In addition to the conference there is a society of ministers and missionaries, organized in 1894, which has for its object the supervision of doctrine and conduct, the reception of worthy candidates, and the rejection of those who are unworthy.

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. Andrew Modig, general secretary of the Swedish Evangelical Free Church, and approved by him in its present form.