

# CHURCH OF GOD

(HEADQUARTERS, ANDERSON, IND.)

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Church of God 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 this body consists of those persons who profess union with Christ alone and who worship together in the local congregations, besides a number of scattered adherents.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD (HEADQUARTERS, ANDERSON, IND.)**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PERCENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches</b> (local organizations).....	932	428	504	45.9	54.1
<b>Members</b> .....	38,249	24,643	13,606	64.4	35.6
Average per church.....	41	58	27		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	14,318	9,094	5,224	63.5	36.5
Female.....	23,142	14,772	8,370	63.8	36.2
Sex not reported.....	789	777	12	98.5	1.5
Males per 100 females.....	61.9	61.6	62.4		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	1,416	954	462	67.4	32.6
13 years and over.....	31,862	20,327	11,535	63.8	36.2
Age not reported.....	4,971	3,362	1,609	67.6	32.4
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	4.3	4.5	3.9		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	717	343	374	47.8	52.2
<b>Value—Churches reporting</b> .....	697	335	362	48.1	51.9
Amount reported.....	\$3,541,102	\$2,672,880	\$868,222	75.5	24.5
Average per church.....	\$5,080	\$7,979	\$2,398		
<b>Debt—Churches reporting</b> .....	314	216	98	68.8	31.2
Amount reported.....	\$726,126	\$641,595	\$84,531	88.4	11.6
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	320	104	216	32.5	67.5
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
<b>Value—Churches reporting</b> .....	123	70	53	56.9	43.1
Amount reported.....	\$414,950	\$315,400	\$99,550	76.0	24.0
<b>Debt—Churches reporting</b> .....	63	39	24		
Amount reported.....	\$97,690	\$83,656	\$14,034	85.6	14.4
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	40	20	20		
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	817	395	422	48.3	51.7
Amount reported.....	\$1,115,121	\$844,070	\$271,051	75.7	24.3
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$595,891	\$692,897	\$202,994	77.3	22.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$177,601	\$121,041	\$56,560	68.2	31.8
Not classified.....	\$41,629	\$30,132	\$11,497	72.4	27.6
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,365	\$2,137	\$642		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	819	392	427	47.9	52.1
Officers and teachers.....	6,469	3,728	2,741	57.6	42.4
Scholars.....	61,448	37,687	23,761	61.3	38.7

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

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

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

The data given for 1926 represent 932 active organizations of the Church of God, with 38,249 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 923 churches and the classification by age was reported by 813 churches, including, however, only 247 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

This body, though in existence at prior censuses, has not been previously reported, probably because of an aversion to sectarian organization and titles.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD (HEADQUARTERS, ANDERSON, IND.)

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)
<b>United States.....</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>38,249</b>	<b>24,643</b>	<b>13,606</b>	<b>14,318</b>	<b>23,142</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>61.9</b>
<b>New England:</b>										
Maine.....	1		1	37		37	14	23		
Massachusetts.....	3	3		134	134		51	83		
Rhode Island.....	1	1		5	5		2	3		
<b>Middle Atlantic:</b>										
New York.....	16	13	3	563	542	21	206	357		57.7
New Jersey.....	3	2	1	120	70	50	45	75		
Pennsylvania.....	38	23	15	1,564	1,047	517	580	984		58.9
<b>East North Central:</b>										
Ohio.....	70	40	30	4,085	3,291	794	1,525	2,435	125	62.6
Indiana.....	69	34	35	3,801	2,562	1,239	1,542	2,247	12	68.6
Illinois.....	56	33	23	3,059	2,353	706	1,077	1,982		54.3
Michigan.....	52	37	15	2,322	1,907	415	935	1,387		67.4
Wisconsin.....	11	6	5	344	246	98	134	210		63.8
<b>West North Central:</b>										
Minnesota.....	17	5	12	466	197	269	177	274	15	64.6
Iowa.....	5	3	2	324	257	67	138	186		74.2
Missouri.....	45	12	33	1,821	818	1,003	693	1,128		61.4
North Dakota.....	4	1	3	116	66	50	48	68		
South Dakota.....	10	4	6	314	130	184	129	185		69.7
Nebraska.....	15	7	8	623	290	333	246	377		65.3
Kansas.....	45	21	24	1,376	898	478	501	875		57.3
<b>South Atlantic:</b>										
Maryland.....	8	1	7	397	190	207	159	238		66.8
District of Columbia.....	2	2		104	104		43	61		
Virginia.....	27	8	19	824	240	584	265	486	73	54.5
West Virginia.....	35	10	25	1,197	662	535	419	778		53.9
North Carolina.....	18	7	11	527	322	205	180	347		51.9
South Carolina.....	28	10	18	693	387	306	241	452		53.3
Georgia.....	15	7	8	466	312	154	159	307		51.8
Florida.....	21	10	11	727	419	308	289	429	9	67.4
<b>East South Central:</b>										
Kentucky.....	44	9	35	1,773	788	985	642	1,131		56.8
Tennessee.....	17	7	10	536	305	231	197	339		58.1
Alabama.....	24	11	13	811	519	292	307	504		60.9
Mississippi.....	24	4	20	558	84	474	216	342		63.2
<b>West South Central:</b>										
Arkansas.....	31	7	24	631	258	373	241	390		61.8
Louisiana.....	22	5	17	677	226	451	206	381		77.7
Oklahoma.....	34	16	18	1,750	1,217	533	498	852	400	58.5
Texas.....	18	12	6	925	701	224	329	596		55.2
<b>Mountain:</b>										
Montana.....	2	1	1	34	20	14	17	17		
Idaho.....	6	4	2	162	130	32	32	50	80	
Colorado.....	18	6	12	599	276	323	245	354		69.2
Arizona.....	3	3		112	112		39	73		
Utah.....	1	1		6	6		2	4		
<b>Pacific:</b>										
Washington.....	22	12	10	1,039	633	406	402	637		63.1
Oregon.....	25	12	13	923	602	321	371	552		67.2
California.....	26	18	8	1,704	1,317	387	686	943	75	72.7

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

**State tables.**—Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Church of God by States. Table 2 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches in 1926, classified according to their location in urban or rural territory, and the total membership classified by sex. Table 3 gives for selected States the number and membership of the churches, together with the membership classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property. Table 5 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 4 and 5 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 2.

**TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD (HEADQUARTERS, ANDERSON, IND.)**

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

STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	MEMBERSHIP BY AGE			
			Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
United States.....	932	38,249	1,416	31,862	4,971	4.3
Massachusetts.....	3	134		134		
New York.....	16	563	9	454	100	1.9
New Jersey.....	3	120	2	118		1.7
Pennsylvania.....	38	1,564	40	1,326	198	2.9
Ohio.....	70	4,085	161	3,441	483	4.5
Indiana.....	69	3,801	222	2,913	666	7.1
Illinois.....	56	3,059	159	2,305	595	6.5
Michigan.....	52	2,322	123	2,019	180	5.7
Wisconsin.....	11	344	26	318		7.6
Minnesota.....	17	466	35	431		7.5
Iowa.....	5	324	3	321		0.9
Missouri.....	45	1,821	76	1,669	76	4.4
North Dakota.....	4	116		105	11	
South Dakota.....	10	314	14	295	5	4.5
Nebraska.....	15	623	24	582	17	4.0
Kansas.....	45	1,376	14	1,258	104	1.1
Maryland.....	8	397	15	285	97	5.0
Virginia.....	27	824		606	218	
West Virginia.....	35	1,197	37	1,088	72	3.3
North Carolina.....	18	527	4	523		0.8
South Carolina.....	28	693	2	591	100	0.3
Georgia.....	15	466	31	333	102	8.5
Florida.....	21	727	25	648	54	3.7
Kentucky.....	44	1,773	108	1,571	94	6.4
Tennessee.....	17	536	1	535		0.2
Alabama.....	24	811	21	687	103	3.0
Mississippi.....	24	558	12	388	158	3.0
Arkansas.....	31	631	20	513	98	3.8
Louisiana.....	22	677	22	537	118	3.9
Oklahoma.....	34	1,750	40	1,274	436	3.0
Texas.....	18	925	12	788	125	1.5
Idaho.....	6	162	20	142		12.3
Colorado.....	18	599	15	426	158	3.4
Arizona.....	3	112	9	103		8.0
Washington.....	22	1,039	20	871	148	2.2
Oregon.....	25	923	3	828	92	0.4
California.....	26	1,704	91	1,319	294	6.5
Other States.....	7	186		117	69	

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

**TABLE 4.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF GOD (HEADQUARTERS, ANDERSON, IND.)**

[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
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>932</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>\$3,541,102</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>\$726,126</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>\$414,950</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$97,690</b>
New York.....	16	5	5	94,000	3	11,750	---	(1)	---	---
New Jersey.....	3	3	3	20,000	2	10,100	---	(1)	---	(1)
Pennsylvania.....	38	28	27	175,000	14	37,392	3	22,500	2	9,600
Ohio.....	70	59	58	486,600	29	140,010	7	31,500	2	4,700
Indiana.....	69	59	59	416,235	27	126,790	5	18,500	3	5,500
Illinois.....	56	50	48	295,650	27	70,550	9	26,700	6	9,541
Michigan.....	52	43	42	203,380	26	36,518	10	41,900	5	9,400
Wisconsin.....	11	7	7	51,000	4	23,061	3	5,300	1	970
Minnesota.....	17	8	8	23,300	3	2,650	---	(1)	---	(1)
Iowa.....	5	5	5	16,500	---	---	---	(1)	---	(1)
Missouri.....	45	38	36	121,000	14	22,470	8	16,100	6	1,354
South Dakota.....	10	3	3	10,700	---	---	---	---	---	---
Nebraska.....	15	9	9	52,200	5	13,765	---	(1)	---	(1)
Kansas.....	45	34	33	104,400	13	15,210	8	16,300	3	1,550
Maryland.....	8	7	7	49,700	2	4,900	---	(1)	---	(1)
Virginia.....	27	20	20	62,300	10	10,497	4	15,500	2	4,100
West Virginia.....	35	27	27	124,670	11	9,710	4	9,600	2	4,000
North Carolina.....	18	19	17	34,850	7	4,955	---	(1)	---	---
South Carolina.....	28	25	24	44,200	5	3,552	---	(1)	---	---
Georgia.....	15	11	11	58,617	3	18,050	---	(1)	---	---
Florida.....	21	15	15	99,500	7	8,440	5	33,200	3	1,750
Kentucky.....	44	28	25	186,500	15	27,943	3	15,800	---	---
Tennessee.....	17	11	11	31,700	2	1,075	4	11,000	1	300
Alabama.....	24	21	21	67,450	7	4,283	3	5,000	2	900
Mississippi.....	24	21	21	39,250	4	1,388	---	---	---	---
Arkansas.....	31	16	16	20,900	7	2,942	---	---	---	---
Louisiana.....	22	20	20	29,400	7	5,435	---	(1)	---	(1)
Oklahoma.....	34	26	25	130,900	12	22,630	7	22,500	4	7,000
Texas.....	18	18	16	76,000	8	9,075	5	10,500	3	2,300
Idaho.....	6	4	4	8,900	2	2,500	---	---	---	---
Colorado.....	18	11	10	49,000	4	10,200	3	2,200	1	600
Washington.....	22	17	17	74,200	11	17,585	3	11,000	3	3,000
Oregon.....	25	16	16	53,500	5	4,378	4	11,000	1	2,500
California.....	26	24	23	154,500	11	19,800	7	18,950	2	2,250
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	17	9	8	75,100	7	26,522	18	69,900	11	26,375

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

<sup>2</sup> The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 14 churches in New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana.

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

**HISTORY**

This communion does not claim exclusive right to the name Church of God, but maintains that all who are truly regenerated by the Spirit are members of God's church. The movement was an outgrowth of the holiness agitation in the last century and had its inception about the year 1880, when Daniel S. Warner and other ministers severed their connection with humanly organized churches and maintained that the Scriptural, all-sufficient standard for Christians is membership in the body of Christ alone.

<sup>1</sup> This statement has been prepared by Dr. F. G. Smith, editor-in-chief of the periodicals of the Church of God, (Headquarters, Anderson, Ind.).

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
CHURCH OF GOD (HEADQUARTERS, ANDERSON, IND.)

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

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States...	932	817	\$1,115,121	\$895,891	\$177,601	\$41,629	819	6,469	61,448
Massachusetts.....	3	3	3,321	2,626	695	-----	2	22	295
New York.....	16	14	25,956	20,486	5,470	-----	15	98	691
New Jersey.....	3	3	8,379	6,379	2,000	-----	3	36	255
Pennsylvania.....	38	35	51,611	37,439	8,572	5,600	35	276	2,668
Ohio.....	70	65	162,618	127,289	30,798	4,531	68	636	6,865
Indiana.....	69	64	118,427	95,701	14,704	8,022	66	690	6,573
Illinois.....	56	49	77,469	61,455	14,076	1,938	50	411	4,013
Michigan.....	52	46	69,328	58,817	10,511	-----	46	389	3,624
Wisconsin.....	11	10	12,791	11,103	1,688	-----	7	54	396
Minnesota.....	17	15	9,695	6,558	3,137	-----	14	89	636
Iowa.....	5	5	9,782	8,315	1,467	-----	5	44	366
Missouri.....	45	39	44,113	38,677	5,436	-----	40	285	2,380
North Dakota.....	4	4	4,318	3,519	799	-----	4	28	180
South Dakota.....	10	8	4,753	2,808	1,950	-----	8	47	456
Nebraska.....	15	14	22,049	19,131	2,643	275	15	112	995
Kansas.....	45	41	45,281	36,307	6,914	2,060	39	272	2,133
Maryland.....	8	8	13,963	11,185	2,778	-----	7	79	907
Virginia.....	27	21	25,869	19,901	2,348	3,620	24	173	1,825
West Virginia.....	35	30	32,015	25,659	5,256	1,100	32	266	2,718
North Carolina.....	18	17	11,268	9,034	2,234	-----	15	99	882
South Carolina.....	28	20	6,416	4,794	1,592	30	28	139	915
Georgia.....	15	11	7,738	5,582	956	1,200	11	66	495
Florida.....	21	19	24,062	18,765	3,791	1,506	16	105	936
Kentucky.....	44	33	52,511	47,105	4,551	855	31	207	2,761
Tennessee.....	17	14	9,360	6,675	960	1,725	14	94	1,047
Alabama.....	24	21	14,998	10,928	1,960	2,110	20	128	1,227
Mississippi.....	24	20	6,007	3,923	1,834	250	18	85	766
Arkansas.....	31	27	6,464	4,803	1,661	-----	31	173	1,458
Louisiana.....	22	19	13,732	9,908	3,074	750	16	108	957
Oklahoma.....	34	31	49,864	41,470	8,394	-----	32	308	3,356
Texas.....	18	16	27,673	23,316	4,357	-----	15	132	1,478
Idaho.....	6	6	2,120	1,700	420	-----	5	41	227
Colorado.....	18	15	19,295	14,857	2,438	2,000	16	120	939
Arizona.....	3	3	3,850	2,775	1,075	-----	3	27	214
Washington.....	22	20	29,446	24,125	4,371	950	17	160	1,578
Oregon.....	25	20	22,594	18,595	3,199	800	20	176	1,566
California.....	26	24	39,532	29,723	8,771	1,038	24	246	2,354
Other States.....	7	7	26,453	24,463	721	1,269	7	48	316

#### DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

Doctrinally this movement may be classed as evangelical and orthodox. Its members believe in the trinity, in the inspiration and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures, in the deity of Christ and the all-sufficiency of His sacrifice and atonement for sin, in the office and work of the Holy Spirit, in man's moral agency, and in the supernaturalism of religious experience. According to their view, redemption is wrought in the heart of the individual believer by two definite works of divine grace, the first being termed conversion or regeneration, the second being entire sanctification or the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They also advocate strongly the doctrine of divine healing. They believe in the immortality of the soul, in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment, and in eternal rewards and punishments. They recognize three Scriptural ordinances, baptism by immersion, the Lord's Supper, and feet washing. They have no written creed but recognize the Word of God as their only rule of faith and

practice. As a body they do not believe in participation in war. They denounce secret orders and abstain from the use of all intoxicants and tobacco. They believe in a life of practical holiness and devotion to God.

The most distinctive doctrine held by the adherents of this communion is their view of the church. They emphasize Christian unity. They hold sectarianism to be anti-Scriptural, and claim that it has resulted from two causes in particular—the teaching and practice of unscriptural doctrines and the substitution of the human for the divine in schemes of church organization and government. They regard every effort to organize the church of Christ humanly as being denominational and sectarian, and insist that the divine *charisma* is the only Scriptural basis of ecclesiastical organization and government. According to their view, reformation of the church, to be complete, must not only restore true evangelical doctrine, as has been done in varying degrees during the Protestant epoch, but it must also eliminate ecclesiasticism and restore the ideal of a Spirit-filled, Spirit-directed church made up of all the true disciples of Jesus. They seek to assume the universal attitude by refusing to set up human creed walls or denominational standards of their own, or any other barriers to separate themselves from other Christians; emphasizing only those principles which properly belong to Scriptural, universal Christianity.

Because of these particular beliefs, the Church of God does not regard itself as a church among churches, but rather as a movement within the church. Its followers accept no other church name than Church of God, although they generally speak of the specific movement as "The Reformation," and regard themselves in their work as a sort of leaven diffusing itself through Christian society and the world rather than as a geographically defined body of people seeking to build up another church with a denominational consciousness. This point of view, of union with Christ alone, with no formal adherence to a human organization, makes exact membership of the church indefinite and reliable statistics difficult to obtain. Wherever a number of followers exist they worship together in local congregations; but there are many scattered adherents.

Since the principle of human organization of the church is repudiated, this "reformation movement" recognizes no general ecclesiastical authority, except such as exists in individuals by virtue of divine gifts and qualifications; and they regard such authority as moral and spiritual, not positional, in its nature. The work has, however, an associational character for business, educational, and benevolent purposes. Ministers may meet voluntarily for mutual edification in sectional or national assemblies, but these meetings are consultative and advisory rather than authoritative; in them the ministers can take no general action binding the consciences of individuals or congregations.

#### WORK

From a small beginning, the movement has grown rapidly. It has spread into most of the States of the Union and has established church work in Canada, England, Scotland, Ireland, the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Greece, and Australia, while its foreign missionary work is planted in Japan, China, India, Egypt, British East Africa, Syria, South America, and the British West Indies.

The general promotion and the educational work of the church is carried on by the following boards and agencies: Gospel Trumpet Co., publishers of religious literature, Anderson, Ind.; Board of Church Extension and Home Missions; Board of Sunday Schools and Religious Education; Anderson Bible School and Seminary; Board of Foreign Missions. No record is kept of the total amount spent annually in the home field, but contributions to foreign missions in the fiscal year 1926-27 exceeded \$136,000.

The Gospel Trumpet, their leading periodical in English, is published weekly at Anderson, Ind.; The British Gospel Trumpet is published at Birkenhead, England; and similar papers are published in German, Spanish, Arabic, Greek, and other languages.

A general ministerial assembly, in conjunction with an international camp meeting, is held annually in June, at Anderson, Ind. There are also numerous State and district ministerial assemblies and camp meetings.

The general operating headquarters are located at Anderson, Ind.