

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Evangelical 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 this denomination consists of persons who are on the register of communicants in each local church, having subscribed to the doctrine of the church.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	2,054	575	1,479	28.0	72.0
Members	206,080	107,727	98,353	52.3	47.7
Average per church.....	100	187	66		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	85,058	43,221	41,837	50.8	49.2
Female.....	121,022	64,506	56,516	53.3	46.7
Males per 100 females.....	70.3	67.0	74.0		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	10,410	5,956	4,454	57.2	42.8
13 years and over.....	186,910	97,067	89,843	51.9	48.1
Age not reported.....	8,760	4,704	4,056	53.7	46.3
Per cent under 13 years ²	5.3	5.8	4.7		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	2,036	586	1,450	28.8	71.2
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,989	572	1,417	28.8	71.2
Amount reported.....	\$25,380,761	\$16,800,976	\$8,579,785	66.2	33.8
Average per church.....	\$12,761	\$29,372	\$6,055		
Debt—Churches reporting	411	252	159	61.3	38.7
Amount reported.....	\$3,872,447	\$3,376,961	\$495,486	87.2	12.8
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	1,353	279	1,074	20.6	79.4
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,165	500	665	42.9	57.1
Amount reported.....	\$5,299,245	\$3,100,150	\$2,199,095	58.5	41.5
Debt—Churches reporting	191	102	89	53.4	46.6
Amount reported.....	\$419,686	\$315,833	\$103,853	75.3	24.7
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	814	345	469	42.4	57.6
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	2,036	573	1,463	28.1	71.9
Amount reported.....	\$5,951,009	\$3,636,561	\$2,314,448	61.1	38.9
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$4,636,483	\$2,880,758	\$1,755,725	62.1	37.9
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,303,462	\$755,803	\$547,659	58.0	42.0
Not classified.....	\$11,064		\$11,064		100.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,923	\$6,347	\$1,582		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	2,000	572	1,428	28.6	71.4
Officers and teachers.....	30,041	12,585	17,456	41.9	58.1
Scholars.....	280,195	143,527	136,668	51.2	48.8

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 Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 2,054 active Evangelical churches, with 206,080 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 2,054 churches and the classification by age was reported by 1,951 churches, including 1,194 which reported members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1890-1926.—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1916, 1906, and 1890. The figures are not entirely comparable for the various periods, however, by reason of the division between this church and the United Evangelical Church and their partial merger at a subsequent date.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: EVANGELICAL CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916 ¹	1906 ¹	1890 ¹
Churches (local organizations)	2,054	1,635	1,755	2,310
Increase ² over preceding census:				
Number.....		-120	-555	
Per cent.....		-6.8	-24.0	
Members	206,080	120,756	104,898	133,313
Increase ² over preceding census:				
Number.....		15,858	-28,415	
Per cent.....		15.1	-21.3	
Average membership per church.....	100	74	60	58
Church edifices:				
Number.....	2,036	1,582	1,617	1,889
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,989	1,565	1,609	
Amount reported.....	\$25,380,761	\$8,317,978	\$5,819,620	\$4,785,680
Average per church.....	\$12,761	\$5,315	\$3,617	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	411	271	204	
Amount reported.....	\$3,872,447	\$771,943	\$374,969	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,165	762	680	
Amount reported.....	\$5,299,215	\$1,932,269	\$1,297,666	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	191			
Amount reported.....	\$419,686			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	2,036	1,615		
Amount reported.....	\$5,951,009	\$1,939,368		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$4,636,483	\$1,197,884		
Renevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,303,462	\$717,151		
Not classified.....	\$11,064	\$24,333		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$2,923	\$1,201		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	2,000	1,535	1,571	
Officers and teachers.....	30,041	19,897	19,977	
Scholars.....	280,195	172,129	121,822	

¹ Figures given are those for the Evangelical Association as then constituted. Because of this fact, the increase in churches and members from 1916 to 1926 is not shown, as the data are not comparable.

² A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Evangelical 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 conference in the Evangelical 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: EVANGELICAL CHURCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Ur- ban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States	2,054	575	1,479	206,080	107,727	98,353	85,058	121,022	70.3
New England:									
Maine.....	2		2	98		98	31	67	
Massachusetts.....	10	10		711	711		273	438	62.3
Rhode Island.....	1	1		190	190		75	115	65.2
Middle Atlantic:									
New York.....	62	37	25	7,762	5,754	2,008	3,025	4,737	63.9
New Jersey.....	6	5	1	811	674	137	312	499	62.5
Pennsylvania.....	544	141	403	59,971	34,279	25,692	24,127	35,844	67.3
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	171	57	114	22,990	14,129	8,861	9,237	13,753	67.2
Indiana.....	98	33	65	12,268	7,403	4,865	4,937	7,331	67.3
Illinois.....	136	46	90	16,951	8,880	8,071	7,013	9,938	70.6
Michigan.....	128	35	93	11,529	5,877	5,652	4,605	6,924	66.5
Wisconsin.....	176	42	134	16,107	7,333	8,774	7,296	8,811	82.8
West North Central:									
Minnesota.....	107	24	83	8,671	3,107	5,564	3,885	4,786	81.2
Iowa.....	116	24	92	11,185	4,022	7,163	4,797	6,388	75.1
Missouri.....	15	5	10	1,344	725	619	576	768	75.0
North Dakota.....	68	5	63	3,103	542	2,561	1,408	1,695	83.1
South Dakota.....	47	4	43	2,350	413	1,937	1,067	1,283	83.2
Nebraska.....	88	15	73	6,669	1,695	4,974	2,863	3,806	75.2
Kansas.....	77	14	63	7,431	2,405	5,026	3,107	4,324	71.9
South Atlantic:									
Maryland.....	28	14	14	3,141	2,391	750	1,224	1,917	63.8
District of Columbia.....	1	1		100	100		40	60	
Virginia.....	2		2	45		45	12	33	
West Virginia.....	7		7	349		349	126	223	56.5
East South Central:									
Kentucky.....	2	2		457	457		188	269	69.9
West South Central:									
Oklahoma.....	15	4	11	914	404	510	395	519	76.1
Texas.....	11	7	4	995	655	340	377	618	61.0
Mountain:									
Montana.....	14	2	12	660	88	572	274	386	71.0
Colorado.....	28	9	19	2,306	1,007	1,299	994	1,312	75.8
Pacific:									
Washington.....	21	8	13	1,573	876	697	693	880	78.8
Oregon.....	54	13	41	3,181	1,667	1,514	1,156	2,025	57.1
California.....	19	17	2	2,218	1,943	275	945	1,273	74.2

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: EVANGELICAL 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.....	2,054	1,635	1,755	206,030	120,756	104,898	10,410	186,910	8,760	5.3
Massachusetts.....	10	11	10	711	602	590	37	593	81	5.9
New York.....	62	65	64	7,762	6,420	5,597	297	7,167	298	4.0
New Jersey.....	6	7	9	811	751	762		811		
Pennsylvania.....	544	208	233	59,971	14,674	13,294	2,965	52,140	4,866	5.4
Ohio.....	171	164	186	22,990	18,029	14,932	1,292	21,432	266	5.7
Indiana.....	98	111	111	12,268	10,876	8,787	850	11,023	395	7.2
Illinois.....	136	106	126	16,951	9,408	8,660	925	15,881	145	5.5
Michigan.....	128	137	139	11,529	9,599	7,575	472	10,965	92	4.1
Wisconsin.....	176	214	222	16,107	14,076	13,280	531	15,363	213	3.3
Minnesota.....	107	121	126	8,671	7,864	7,450	248	8,288	135	2.9
Iowa.....	116	85	110	11,185	5,847	5,429	695	9,914	576	6.6
Missouri.....	15	19	22	1,344	1,416	1,081	40	1,304		3.0
North Dakota.....	68	63	53	3,103	2,290	1,688	53	2,970	80	1.8
South Dakota.....	47	42	51	2,350	1,752	1,642	83	1,967	300	4.0
Nebraska.....	88	59	66	6,669	2,944	3,200	397	6,204	68	6.0
Kansas.....	77	81	88	7,431	6,210	4,841	517	6,565	349	7.3
Maryland.....	28	6	8	3,141	520	540	155	2,788	198	5.3
West Virginia.....	7	7	7	349	232	189	16	325	8	4.7
Oklahoma.....	15	12	18	914	491	386	77	837		8.4
Texas.....	11	12	14	995	683	611	91	904		9.1
Montana.....	14	8		660	95		59	482	119	10.9
Colorado.....	28	15	9	2,306	868	345	171	2,086	49	7.6
Washington.....	21	32	22	1,573	1,586	942	177	1,338	58	11.7
Oregon.....	54	24	37	3,181	1,480	1,601	134	2,853	194	4.5
California.....	19	18	15	2,218	1,389	872	87	1,861	270	4.5
Other States.....	8	8	9	890	654	604	41	849		4.6

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The great religious awakening which took place in the United States at the close of the eighteenth century was at first largely confined to the English-speaking communities. It was inevitable, however, that others should feel the effect of the new spirit; and a number of leaders arose, through whose influence varying types of religious life developed, eventuating in different church organizations. In eastern Pennsylvania there were a large number of German-speaking people, descendants of those who in the preceding century had fled from the Rhenish provinces of the Palatinate. Among them was Jacob Albright, who was born in Pottstown, Pa., in 1759, and died in 1808. Baptized in infancy, and confirmed in the Lutheran communion, he was later converted under the influence of a Reformed minister; but coming into connection with the Methodists, he declared his adherence to them and was licensed to exhort. More and more his interests were directed toward his own people. The leaders of the Methodist Church did

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 Bishop J. F. Dunlap, D. D., of the Board of Bishops of the Evangelical Church, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
EVANGELICAL 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.....	2,654	2,036	1,989	\$25,380,761	411	\$3,872,447	1,165	\$5,299,245	191	\$419,686
Massachusetts.....	10	10	10	158,100	8	22,957	3	27,000	2	6,500
New York.....	62	61	60	1,196,963	26	244,200	45	253,300	13	46,725
New Jersey.....	6	6	6	181,000	6	31,200	6	38,000		
Pennsylvania.....	544	543	532	7,113,903	98	1,253,305	246	1,202,400	40	85,236
Ohio.....	171	170	169	3,274,850	42	665,103	105	505,950	17	30,357
Indiana.....	98	98	97	1,457,500	17	226,950	59	244,600	7	20,517
Illinois.....	136	137	135	2,400,200	25	266,708	101	479,600	13	48,700
Michigan.....	128	126	124	1,651,545	32	420,237	78	379,650	25	60,532
Wisconsin.....	176	177	170	2,219,400	28	212,707	80	478,400	8	13,937
Minnesota.....	107	107	105	870,350	11	34,370	57	230,300	4	11,530
Iowa.....	116	116	115	1,057,725	17	93,746	88	342,250	9	10,990
Missouri.....	15	14	14	135,200	2	13,100	10	38,000	1	3,000
North Dakota.....	68	82	66	303,100	10	19,152	29	98,300	4	6,800
South Dakota.....	47	46	45	232,500	2	19,000	22	103,000	1	1,000
Nebraska.....	88	81	81	570,150	17	24,288	60	221,100	9	8,456
Kansas.....	77	74	74	610,600	8	35,300	54	154,275	9	15,650
Maryland.....	28	28	27	403,140	13	102,245	14	72,900	3	12,065
West Virginia.....	7	7	6	23,800	1	6,000	(1)			
Oklahoma.....	15	14	14	72,500	3	5,500	8	24,400	3	3,000
Texas.....	11	11	11	92,350	7	25,164	9	32,400	1	1,123
Montana.....	14	13	13	38,000	5	8,000	8	23,975	4	4,550
Colorado.....	28	19	19	209,700	10	57,980	16	60,000	5	7,300
Washington.....	21	21	21	137,700	6	13,185	17	46,875	3	1,970
Oregon.....	54	48	48	396,785	8	39,500	27	77,770	2	1,800
California.....	19	19	19	348,800	6	18,850	16	131,300	6	8,748
Other States ²	8	8	8	224,900	3	13,700	7	24,500	2	200

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 2 churches in West Virginia.

not wish to engage in distinctively German work, as they believed that the German language in the United States would soon become extinct; and therefore Albright, who had begun to preach in 1796, felt called upon to devote himself particularly to work among these people in their own language. Under his direction 20 converts from among them united, in 1800, to pray with and for each other. It had not been his purpose to found a new church; but the language conditions and the opposition manifested by some Methodists to the modes of worship used by his converts made a separate ecclesiastical organization necessary. There was no schism; it was simply the development of a movement for the religious and spiritual awakening of the German communities in Pennsylvania.

It was not, however, until 1803 that an ecclesiastical organization was effected at a general assembly held in eastern Pennsylvania, when Mr. Albright was set apart as a minister of the gospel and ordained as an elder. The act of consecration was performed by the laying on of hands and solemn prayer by two of his associates. The claim that this act was an ordination was opposed by the ecclesiastics of other denominations, but the Association held to its position and asserted that Albright's credentials were from a higher authority than that of the ecclesiastical succession.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
EVANGELICAL 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.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	2,054	2,036	\$5,951,009	\$4,636,483	\$1,303,462	\$11,064	2,000	30,041	280,195
Massachusetts.....	10	10	27,162	23,774	3,388	—	10	112	949
New York.....	62	61	285,036	235,297	49,539	200	61	910	8,752
New Jersey.....	6	6	38,429	29,501	8,928	—	6	108	809
Pennsylvania.....	544	541	1,651,984	1,255,975	385,145	10,864	518	8,199	83,870
Ohio.....	171	171	673,500	534,393	139,107	—	171	3,076	31,180
Indiana.....	98	98	337,938	274,051	63,887	—	97	1,749	15,591
Illinois.....	136	135	577,539	453,813	123,726	—	135	2,514	22,623
Michigan.....	128	127	338,043	278,446	59,597	—	127	1,906	19,640
Wisconsin.....	176	176	438,663	349,485	89,178	—	165	2,042	18,613
Minnesota.....	107	104	232,435	178,782	53,653	—	106	1,448	10,653
Iowa.....	116	114	302,330	220,473	81,857	—	113	1,485	13,204
Missouri.....	15	15	33,755	23,163	10,592	—	15	248	1,930
North Dakota.....	68	68	84,077	64,656	19,421	—	68	626	5,069
South Dakota.....	47	46	68,601	51,634	16,967	—	45	436	3,766
Nebraska.....	88	88	172,290	124,664	47,626	—	87	1,248	8,912
Kansas.....	77	77	199,598	149,901	49,697	—	76	1,111	10,019
Maryland.....	28	27	105,708	91,675	14,033	—	28	492	4,651
West Virginia.....	7	6	3,814	3,169	645	—	7	86	656
Oklahoma.....	15	15	21,654	16,488	5,166	—	15	189	1,444
Texas.....	11	11	26,920	20,876	6,044	—	11	182	1,673
Montana.....	14	13	24,177	20,425	3,752	—	13	190	1,133
Colorado.....	28	27	64,535	50,038	14,497	—	28	425	3,657
Washington.....	21	21	41,074	31,958	9,116	—	20	259	2,202
Oregon.....	54	52	86,407	72,513	13,894	—	51	584	4,822
California.....	19	19	83,227	55,131	28,096	—	19	306	3,131
Other States.....	8	8	32,113	26,202	5,911	—	8	110	1,246

His training in the Methodist Episcopal Church influenced him in organizing the new movement, and many characteristic Methodist features, such as the circuit system and the itinerancy, were adopted. The first field of operations included the counties of Bucks, Berks, and Northampton, and extended into portions of Northumberland and Centre Counties. The first annual conference was held in Lebanon County, Pa., in November, 1807. Albright was elected bishop, and articles of faith and the book of discipline were adopted, but a full form of church government was not devised for some years. The first general conference convened in Buffalo Valley, Union County, Pa., in October, 1816, at which time the denomination took the name Evangelical Association.

Although, in the beginning, the activities of the church were carried on in the German language only, the scope was soon widened by taking up work in the English language also; and of late years English has become the dominant language, practically displacing the German. The denomination spread into the Central States, and throughout the Northern and Western States from New England to the Pacific coast, and north into Canada.

For some years the missionary idea, which has always been a dominant purpose of the denomination, found its expression in local work; but in 1839 a general missionary society was organized, and a woman's society followed in 1883. In 1854 the church first reached out to Europe, and commenced an important work both in Germany and Switzerland. In 1876 Japan was occupied, and since then missions have been established in China and Russia. As early as 1815, a church

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: EVANGELICAL CHURCH

CONFERENCE	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
Total	2,054	206,080	1,989	\$25,380,761	411	\$3,872,447	2,036	\$5,951,009	2,000	280,195
Atlantic.....	26	4,052	25	877,500	22	251,100	26	209,617	26	4,789
California.....	19	2,218	19	348,800	6	18,850	19	83,227	19	3,131
Central Pennsylvania.....	274	28,056	268	3,124,515	49	547,467	272	716,715	264	40,001
Colorado.....	28	2,306	19	209,700	10	57,980	27	64,535	28	3,657
Des Moines.....	24	2,271	23	146,225	3	2,592	23	45,314	23	2,695
East Pennsylvania.....	100	10,322	97	1,428,278	22	175,212	99	391,411	90	15,017
East Pennsylvania United.....	24	6,500	24	856,000	8	91,359	24	197,247	24	8,115
Illinois.....	92	12,817	91	1,994,100	20	248,308	91	479,779	90	17,062
Illinois United.....	37	3,195	36	343,400	2	15,900	37	81,175	37	4,535
Indiana.....	120	15,068	120	1,739,700	25	241,807	120	407,920	120	18,853
Iowa.....	88	8,780	88	900,000	13	90,754	87	252,161	87	10,387
Kansas.....	105	9,780	100	824,600	13	53,900	105	257,663	104	13,290
Michigan.....	140	12,081	136	1,704,545	34	424,807	139	348,478	139	20,607
Minnesota.....	106	8,652	104	866,850	11	34,370	103	231,765	105	10,586
Nebraska.....	104	7,238	96	601,850	22	32,288	103	193,811	102	10,148
New England.....	13	999	13	201,400	9	30,957	13	36,816	13	1,385
New York.....	49	5,730	48	725,963	17	98,400	48	171,384	48	6,144
North Dakota.....	69	3,122	67	306,600	10	19,152	69	84,747	69	5,136
Ohio.....	152	21,566	149	3,154,350	37	653,876	152	645,300	152	29,112
Oregon.....	61	3,724	55	445,485	10	41,555	59	102,361	58	5,671
Pittsburgh.....	173	17,071	169	1,945,150	26	473,412	171	387,429	167	24,474
South Dakota.....	47	2,350	45	232,500	2	19,000	46	68,601	45	3,766
Texas.....	11	995	11	92,350	7	25,164	11	26,920	11	1,673
Washington.....	14	1,030	14	89,000	4	11,130	14	25,120	13	1,353
Wisconsin.....	178	16,157	172	2,221,900	29	213,107	178	441,513	166	18,608

publishing house was founded, and what is said to be the oldest German religious paper in the United States, Der Christliche Botschafter, was founded in 1836.

A division, in 1891, resulting in the organization of the United Evangelical Church, took from the denomination a large number of ministers and members.

Both denominations continued their separate existence until the end of the second decade of the separation when the growing conviction that the two churches should be reunited began to find articulate expression. The General Conference of the Evangelical Association of 1907 and that of the United Evangelical Church in 1910 took definite steps toward a reapproachment by the appointment of commissions on church union and federation. These commissions, after a series of meetings, agreed upon a partial basis of union in 1918, which basis was ratified by the General Conference of the United Evangelical Church in 1918 and by the General Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1919.

Commissions were again appointed which, in joint session in 1921, completed the basis of union; it was submitted to the annual conferences of both denominations, receiving the required constitutional majority in both churches. At a special session of the General Conference of the Evangelical Association, and at a regular session of the General Conference of the United Evangelical Church, meeting simultaneously during the month of October, 1922, the adoption of the Discipline and the Basis of Union was consummated, and on October 14, 1922, in

the General Conference of the Evangelical Church, the two churches were united under the name of the Evangelical Church.

However, the union did not include the entire body of the United Evangelical Church, as certain dissenting organizations, largely in the East Pennsylvania Conference, decided to remain outside the merger and to retain the original name.

DOCTRINE

In doctrine the Evangelical Church is Arminian, and its articles of faith correspond very closely to those of the Methodist Episcopal Church. They emphasize the divinity as well as perfect humanity of the Son of God and the true divinity of the Holy Ghost; and hold that the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments reveal the will of God so far as is necessary for salvation. Christian perfection is defined as "a state of grace in which we are so firmly rooted in God that we have instant victory over every temptation the moment it presents itself, without yielding in any degree; in which our rest, peace, and joy in God are not interrupted by the vicissitudes of life; in which, in short, sin has lost its power over us, and we rule over the flesh, the world, and Satan, yet in watchfulness." Entire sanctification is the basis of this perfection, which, however, constantly admits of a fuller participation in divine power and a constant expansion in spiritual capacity.

ORGANIZATION

The polity of the Evangelical Church is connectional in form. Bishops are elected by the General Conference for a term of four years, but are not ordained or consecrated as such. They are eligible for reelection and are general overseers of the work of the church. They preside at annual conferences and, as a board, decide all questions of law in the interval between General Conference sessions. The General Conference, which meets quadrennially, has been, since 1839, a delegated body. Previous to that time all elders of the church were members. The annual and quarterly conferences correspond to the similar bodies in the Methodist Episcopal Church; the annual conferences consisting of the ministers within certain territorial bounds and a limited number of laymen; and the quarterly conferences consisting of the officers of the local congregations. Presiding elders are elected for four years by the annual conference. Pastors are appointed annually, on the itinerant system, the time limit being seven consecutive years in any field, except a missionary conference. The property of local congregations is controlled and managed by trustees for the use of the ministry and membership, and subject to the doctrine and polity of the denomination.

WORK

The general missionary work both home and foreign is under the care of a missionary society, whose members become such by the payment of dues. It carries on its work through a board, whose membership consists of the officers of the society (who are also the officers of the board); one ministerial delegate from each annual conference society; two delegates from the Woman's Missionary Society, the missionary executive secretaries; and eight laymen who are elected by the General Conference. The annual conferences are practically organized as branch societies for missionary work. All transactions of the missionary society are reviewed at the General Conference. The Woman's Missionary Society has 1,169 local societies, with a total membership of 36,722, and works under the general direction of the Board of Missions. This general board makes the annual appropriations for mission conferences in the United States and foreign lands, and these conferences in turn divide their respective appropriations among the various mission stations.

Appropriations for home mission work are directed to the support of the missionaries and the provision of homes for them. A considerable amount of work is done in the West and Northwest, including the western provinces of Canada—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta—and in the large cities of the United States. Of late, work has developed among the foreign nationalities in the United States, there being now 4 missions among Italians. The total number of missionaries reported in the home department in 1926 was 705, the number of churches aided was 1,087, and the contributions for the work were reported as \$312,131.

In close sympathy with the Board of Home Missions is the work of the Board of Church Extension in assisting needy mission congregations to erect church buildings by means of temporary loans at a minimum rate of interest. For this work, in 1926, there was contributed \$22,000. There is a general fund amounting to \$354,475, a special fund of \$24,900, and another for churches in Europe of \$30,000, making a total of \$409,375.

Foreign missions are carried on through both the Board of Missions and the Woman's Missionary Society. The fields occupied are Japan, China, Germany, Poland, Latvia, France, Africa, Switzerland, Russia, and Canada. The most distinctively foreign mission work is that in China and Japan, in each of which countries there is a principal station, with various substations and churches connected with it. In 1926, in connection with the missions in these two countries, there were reported 54 organized congregations, with 3,551 members; 4 training schools, with 264 students; and 31 primary and day schools, with 3,056 pupils. In addition, there were in Europe, generally under the care of native preachers, 424 churches, with 32,928 members; and in Canada, 122 churches, with 9,892 members. The total number of American missionaries employed was 82, chiefly in Asia, and there were 725 native workers, including deaconesses, most of them in Europe. In the foreign field there were also 25 hospitals and dispensaries, with 37,500 patients, and 1 orphanage, with 45 inmates. The total amount contributed for foreign missions by the churches in 1926 was \$292,012, of which \$52,613 went to assist the work in Europe, \$94,429 that in Japan, \$141,262 that in China, and \$3,708 that in Africa. The contributions for the work in Canada are special and are not included in the regular contributions. The property in Europe is valued at \$1,759,000, that in Japan at \$304,000, and that in China at \$101,000, making a total of \$2,164,000. The general receipts of the missionary society for both the home and foreign fields have shown a steady increase since 1916, and in 1926 amounted to \$804,730. The average contribution in the whole denomination in 1926 for home and foreign missionary purposes was \$3.25 per member.

The educational work of the denomination in the United States in 1926 included 5 institutions of higher grade, with 1,603 students. The current income for educational work at home was \$311,180; great emphasis was placed upon raising a fund for endowments, which were materially increased. The value of property is estimated at \$3,164,100, and there is an endowment of \$1,209,814.

The institutional or philanthropic enterprises of the church include 2 orphanages, 5 homes for the aged, and 4 hospitals, with a deaconess home. The total number of inmates during 1926 is given as 4,250. The property of orphanages and homes is valued at \$1,750,000, and the endowment is \$450,000. The deaconess home is the center of a great work in the church. There the deaconesses are trained as nurses, pastors' assistants, and missionary workers among the poor.

Aside from these institutions there is a charitable society, whose funds, amounting to \$65,000, are in the form of a permanent endowment, the proceeds from

which are applied to the support of aged ministers, or such as are in broken health, and to the support of families of deceased ministers.

The young people of the church are enrolled in what is known as the **Evangelical League of Christian Endeavor**, which in 1926 had in the United States 1,795 societies, with 55,269 members. These societies contributed \$74,052, of which \$12,675 was appropriated for missionary work and the remainder for various other purposes. There were also 688 similar societies with 21,988 members, in foreign lands, making the total enrollment of the league 2,483 societies, with 77,257 members.