

METHODIST BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Methodist churches of America, in common with those of England and other lands, trace their origin to a movement started in Oxford University in 1729, when John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, and a number of others began to meet for religious exercises. Finding as they read the Bible that, as John Wesley expressed it, they "could not be saved without holiness, they followed after it, and incited others so to do." During the succeeding years the little company was derisively called "The Holy Club," "Bible Bigots," "Methodists," etc.; and this last term, intended to describe their methodical habits, seems to have been accepted by them almost immediately, as the movement they led soon became widely known as the "Methodist movement." The next step and its outcome are described by John Wesley as follows: "They saw likewise that men are justified before they are sanctified, but still holiness was their object. God then thrust them out to raise a holy people. * * * In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to me in London and desired that I would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come; this was the rise of the United Society."

About this time, the Wesleys came into intimate relations with the Moravians, first on a visit to America¹ and subsequently in London, and at their headquarters in Herrnhut, Saxony, and to the influence of these conferences may be traced much of the spiritual power of the new movement.

The three leaders, although ordained ministers of the Church of England, soon found themselves excluded from many of the pulpits of the Established Church on the ground that they were preachers of new doctrines, and they were obliged to hold their meetings in private houses, halls, barns, and in the fields. As converts were received they were organized into societies for worship, and as the work expanded class meetings were formed for the religious care and training of members. Then the circuit system was established, by which several congregations were grouped under the care of one lay preacher; the itinerancy came into existence, as the lay preachers were transferred from one appointment to another for greater efficiency; and finally, in 1744, the annual conference was instituted, in which Mr. Wesley met all his workers. Thus the principal distinctive features of the Methodist organization grew out of the necessities of the work.

As was natural, the doctrinal position accorded in the main with that of the Church of England, and the Articles of Religion were largely formulated from the Thirty-nine Articles of that church, although no formal creed was accepted save the Apostles' Creed. The stricter doctrines of Calvinism, predestination, and reprobation were cast aside, and the milder emphasis of Arminianism on repentance, faith, and holiness was accepted. As John Wesley said: "The first of these we count as it were the porch of religion; the next, the door; the third, religion itself." This acceptance of Arminianism caused a divergence, though not a permanent breach, between the Wesleys and Whitefield. Whitefield was Calvinistic, though not of the extreme type, and became identified with the Calvinistic Methodists, both the Welsh body² and the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection. He afterwards withdrew from the leadership of the latter body, and gave himself to general revival work in England and America.

¹ See Methodist Episcopal Church, p. 926.

² See Presbyterian bodies, p. 1112.

Though the Wesleys lived and died in full ministerial relations with the Church of England, serious differences arose, as already noted, between that church and the Methodists. In 1745 John Wesley wrote that he was willing to make any concession which conscience would permit, in order to live in harmony with the clergy of the Established Church, but he could not give up the doctrines he was preaching, dissolve the societies, suppress lay preaching, or cease to preach in the open air. For many years he refused to sanction the administration of the sacraments by any except those who had been ordained by a bishop in the apostolic succession, and he himself hesitated to assume authority to ordain; but the Bishop of London having refused to ordain ministers for the Methodist societies in America, which were left by the Revolutionary War without the sacraments, Wesley, in 1784, by the laying on of hands, appointed or ordained men and gave them authority to ordain others. He thus ordained Thomas Coke, D. C. L., who was already a presbyter of the Church of England, to be superintendent of the Methodist societies in America, and set apart for a similar purpose in Great Britain Alexander Mather, who had not been episcopally ordained.

The development of church government, while following the general lines laid down by Wesley, was somewhat different in England and in America. In England the conference remained supreme, and the superintendency was not emphasized. In America the superintendency was in fact an episcopacy which, while not corresponding exactly to the episcopacy of the Church of England, became a very decided factor in church life. In each country, but especially in America, considerable opposition has developed at different times in connection with some features of the parent body, and divisions have resulted. In every case, however, the general principles of the founders have been preserved, and, notwithstanding the various separations, the Wesleyan Methodist Connection in England and the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States remain the strongest representatives of the movement initiated in Oxford nearly two centuries ago.

It is to be noted that the influence of the Methodist doctrine and church organization has not been confined to those bodies which have adopted the name Methodist, but has been manifest in the development of a number of bodies which use modified forms of the episcopal, presbyterial, and congregational systems. In the United States several bodies, including the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Church (now one denomination), the United Brethren bodies, and particularly the large number of organizations emphasizing the doctrine of "holiness," or entire sanctification, claim to be true exponents of the doctrines of the Wesleys, while their polity is generally Methodist in type. On the other hand, the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, with whom Whitefield identified himself, were Presbyterian in polity, though Methodist in every other respect, as are the Wesleyan Methodist and some other Methodist churches in England and America.

STATISTICS

The denominations grouped as Methodists in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed in the following table with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods. Since 1916 there have been some changes. The African American Methodist Episcopal Church has disbanded. Other bodies have been added—the Reformed Methodist Church, the Independent African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Holiness Methodist Church, the last an organization listed in 1916 as the Lumber River Mission under the Evangelistic Associations. For general convenience of reference the Negro bodies have been grouped together in 1926, as in 1916. There were 15 independent churches reported at the 1890 census, with a membership of 2,569; these were not reported as a group, however, at the two succeeding censuses, probably having been absorbed by various denominations.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE METHODIST 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 (dollars)	Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	60,644	8,070,619	56,493	654,736,975	59,483	152,151,978	54,804	6,567,654
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	26,130	4,080,777	25,290	406,165,659	25,790	89,422,307	24,730	3,796,561
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,239	192,171	2,064	16,817,278	2,160	3,137,211	1,917	173,438
Wesleyan Methodist Connection (or Church) of America.....	619	21,910	555	1,804,719	585	773,981	561	34,314
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	80	11,990	79	1,676,800	80	326,598	78	15,190
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	18,096	2,487,694	16,443	161,986,430	17,798	41,651,150	15,525	1,802,464
Congregational Methodist Church.....	145	9,691	110	127,775	120	29,529	80	4,807
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,375	36,374	1,140	4,921,760	1,269	1,617,802	1,026	69,549
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	26	1,229	21	23,900	19	1,234	3	126
Holiness Methodist Church.....	7	459	7	18,500	7	2,073	7	531
Reformed Methodist Church.....	14	390	13	26,300	13	9,176	12	356
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,708	545,814	5,829	32,092,549	6,492	7,600,161	5,884	288,247
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,466	456,813	2,370	18,515,723	2,464	4,757,066	2,429	267,141
Colored Methodist Protestant Church.....	3	533	3	36,000	3	6,685	3	98
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	73	10,169	64	478,951	68	222,621	69	4,240
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	43	4,086	40	476,269	43	99,563	42	2,851
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,518	202,713	2,341	9,211,437	2,477	2,428,234	2,351	103,523
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church.....	48	4,538	45	184,075	44	37,601	42	2,882
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church.....	25	2,265	21	74,800	24	17,282	19	673
Independent African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29	1,003	28	98,050	27	11,704	26	663
1916								
Total for the group	65,686	7,166,451	60,982	317,916,402	64,139	70,887,406	59,191	6,473,500
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29,315	3,717,785	28,134	215,104,014	28,791	43,993,681	27,549	3,872,264
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,473	186,908	2,266	7,944,467	2,393	1,509,243	2,081	177,918
Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.....	579	20,778	514	787,731	525	329,294	500	29,850
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	93	9,353	91	829,035	92	147,695	90	14,918
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	19,184	2,114,479	17,133	62,428,433	18,751	17,139,398	16,308	1,688,559
Congregational Methodist Church.....	197	12,503	195	166,932	139	13,806	147	8,034
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,598	35,291	1,205	2,236,325	1,426	772,038	1,150	58,553
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	24	1,256	18	14,450	16	1,372	6	302
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,633	548,355	6,232	14,631,792	6,516	3,413,395	6,084	311,051
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,716	257,169	2,475	7,591,393	2,641	1,700,737	2,535	135,102
Colored Methodist Protestant Church.....	26	1,967	16	52,733	23	12,129	24	870
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	67	3,624	59	182,305	65	40,664	54	1,982
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	58	3,751	53	205,825	53	47,231	49	2,813
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,621	245,749	2,490	5,619,862	2,613	1,736,692	2,541	167,880
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church.....	47	3,977	47	79,325	41	13,156	42	2,505
African American Methodist Episcopal Church.....	28	1,310	27	6,280	28	13,455	6	200
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church.....	27	2,196	27	35,500	26	3,420	25	699

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE METHODIST BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Con.

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Amount (dollars)	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1906								
Total for the group	64,255	5,749,838	59,077	229,450,996			55,227	4,472,930
Methodist Episcopal Church.....	29,742	2,986,154	27,888	163,357,805			26,809	2,700,742
Union American Methodist Episcopal Church (Colored).....	77	4,347	59	170,150			76	3,372
African Methodist Episcopal Church.....	6,608	494,777	6,299	11,303,489			6,056	292,689
African Union Methodist Protestant Church.....	69	5,592	68	183,697			66	5,266
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.....	2,197	184,542	2,104	4,833,207			2,060	107,692
Methodist Protestant Church.....	2,825	178,544	2,442	6,053,048			2,118	141,086
Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America.....	591	20,043	480	637,117			475	21,463
Methodist Episcopal Church, South.....	17,683	1,638,480	15,859	37,278,424			13,846	1,040,160
Congregational Methodist Church.....	324	14,729	250	194,275			181	8,785
New Congregational Methodist Church.....	35	1,782	33	27,650			27	1,298
Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.....	2,365	172,996	2,264	3,017,849			2,207	92,457
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church (Colored).....	45	3,059	41	37,875			35	1,508
Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America.....	96	7,558	93	630,700			91	13,177
Free Methodist Church of North America.....	1,541	32,838	1,140	1,688,745			1,066	41,443
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church (Colored).....	57	4,397	57	36,965			54	1,792

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion 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 African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church consists of those who upon satisfactory evidence of Christian faith and baptism have been admitted into the local churches. Probationers and baptized children under instruction are also included.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	2,466	650	1,816	26.4	73.6
Members.....	456,813	193,926	262,887	42.5	57.5
Average per church.....	185	298	145		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	167,432	71,423	96,009	42.7	57.3
Female.....	289,381	122,503	166,878	42.3	57.7
Males per 100 females.....	57.9	58.3	57.5		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	57,977	24,724	33,253	42.6	57.4
13 years and over.....	391,960	167,245	224,715	42.7	57.3
Age not reported.....	6,876	1,957	4,919	28.5	71.5
Per cent under 13 years ³	12.9	12.9	12.9		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	2,370	615	1,755	25.9	74.1
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,370	615	1,755	25.9	74.1
Amount reported.....	\$18,515,723	\$13,451,618	\$5,064,105	72.6	27.4
Average per church.....	\$7,813	\$21,873	\$2,886		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	514	245	269	47.7	52.3
Amount reported.....	\$1,837,352	\$1,602,747	\$234,605	87.2	12.8
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	1,851	368	1,483	19.9	80.1
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	478	266	212	55.6	44.4
Amount reported.....	\$1,916,950	\$1,488,050	\$428,900	77.6	22.4
Debt—Churches reporting.....	72	52	20		
Amount reported.....	\$111,973	\$99,943	\$12,030	89.3	10.7
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	403	214	189	53.1	46.9
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	2,464	649	1,815	26.3	73.7
Amount reported.....	\$4,757,066	\$2,576,570	\$2,180,496	54.2	45.8
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$4,091,023	\$2,284,192	\$1,806,831	55.8	44.2
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$662,993	\$292,378	\$370,615	44.1	55.9
Not classified.....	\$3,050		\$3,050		100.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,931	\$3,970	\$1,201		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	2,429	640	1,789	26.3	73.7
Officers and teachers.....	45,087	14,200	30,887	31.5	68.5
Scholars.....	267,141	103,542	163,599	38.8	61.2

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 2,466 active organizations of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, with 456,813 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 2,466 churches and the classification by age was reported by 2,437 churches, including 2,224 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. Careful verification of the 1906 figures for membership indicated that the number of communicants, as reported in 1890, was probably too large.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	2,466	2,716	2,197	1,704
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-250	519	493	
Per cent.....	-9.2	23.6	28.9	
Members	456,813	257,169	184,542	349,788
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	199,644	72,627	-165,246	
Per cent.....	77.6	39.4	-47.2	
Average membership per church.....	185	95	84	205
Church edifices:				
Number.....	2,370	2,495	2,131	1,587
Value—Churches reporting.....	2,370	2,475	2,104	
Amount reported.....	\$18,515,723	\$7,591,393	\$4,833,207	\$2,714,128
Average per church.....	\$7,813	\$3,067	\$2,297	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	514	793	724	
Amount reported.....	\$1,837,352	\$795,437	\$474,269	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	478	485	348	
Amount reported.....	\$1,916,950	\$632,416	\$350,690	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	72			
Amount reported.....	\$111,973			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	2,464	2,641		
Amount reported.....	\$4,757,066	\$1,700,737		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$4,091,023	\$1,299,591		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$662,993	\$349,500		
Not classified.....	\$3,050	\$51,646		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$1,931	\$644		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	2,429	2,535	2,060	
Officers and teachers.....	45,087	18,982	16,245	
Scholars.....	267,141	135,102	107,692	

¹ A minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion 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 African Methodist Episcopal Zion 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: AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Ur- ban	Ru- ral	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States.....	2,466	650	1,816	456,813	193,926	262,887	167,432	289,381	57.9
New England:									
Maine.....	1	1	-----	45	45	-----	11	34	-----
Massachusetts.....	8	8	-----	3,127	3,127	-----	854	2,273	37.6
Rhode Island.....	2	2	-----	374	374	-----	145	229	63.3
Connecticut.....	18	16	2	2,032	1,934	98	773	1,259	61.4
Middle Atlantic:									
New York.....	74	61	13	19,797	18,757	1,040	7,663	12,134	63.2
New Jersey.....	32	22	10	5,625	4,888	737	1,957	3,668	53.4
Pennsylvania.....	75	57	18	20,919	19,586	1,333	8,513	12,406	68.6
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	25	23	2	7,678	7,609	69	2,773	4,905	56.5
Indiana.....	19	19	-----	3,867	3,867	-----	1,294	2,573	50.3
Illinois.....	13	12	1	5,972	5,886	86	2,278	3,694	61.7
Michigan.....	8	8	-----	2,017	2,017	-----	748	1,269	58.9
West North Central:									
Iowa.....	8	7	1	1,647	1,451	196	589	1,058	55.7
Missouri.....	17	8	9	6,873	5,553	1,320	2,832	4,041	70.1
Kansas.....	6	1	5	953	205	748	358	595	60.2
South Atlantic:									
Delaware.....	3	2	1	347	272	75	104	243	42.8
Maryland.....	26	10	16	3,014	1,824	1,190	900	2,114	42.6
District of Columbia.....	7	7	-----	6,448	6,448	-----	2,052	4,396	46.7
Virginia.....	108	27	81	17,592	7,264	10,328	6,322	11,270	56.1
West Virginia.....	13	5	8	900	492	408	336	564	59.6
North Carolina.....	769	118	651	135,698	37,649	98,049	49,635	86,063	57.7
South Carolina.....	185	17	168	38,225	5,840	32,385	14,473	23,752	60.9
Georgia.....	83	15	68	7,887	1,926	5,961	3,074	4,813	63.9
Florida.....	47	19	28	13,647	8,857	4,790	5,155	8,492	60.7
East South Central:									
Kentucky.....	63	17	46	7,174	3,820	3,354	2,705	4,469	60.5
Tennessee.....	96	34	62	15,176	8,536	6,640	5,855	9,321	62.8
Alabama.....	420	60	360	80,446	21,533	58,913	27,833	52,613	52.9
Mississippi.....	162	19	143	18,461	2,665	15,796	6,710	11,751	57.1
West South Central:									
Arkansas.....	89	12	77	14,344	2,873	11,471	5,385	8,959	60.1
Louisiana.....	26	6	20	7,671	2,234	5,437	2,674	4,997	53.5
Oklahoma.....	15	7	8	1,729	840	889	639	1,090	58.6
Texas.....	13	2	11	1,463	223	1,240	560	903	62.0
Mountain:									
Arizona.....	3	2	1	475	440	35	162	313	51.8
Pacific:									
Washington.....	2	2	-----	304	304	-----	123	181	68.0
Oregon.....	1	1	-----	272	272	-----	105	167	62.9
California.....	29	23	6	4,614	4,315	299	1,842	2,772	66.5

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: AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION 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	2,466	2,716	2,197	456,813	257,169	184,542	57,977	391,960	6,876	12.9
Massachusetts.....	8	10	7	3,127	1,527	1,215	280	2,847	-----	9.0
Rhode Island.....	2	2	3	374	290	262	64	310	-----	17.1
Connecticut.....	18	17	16	2,032	1,825	1,229	261	1,771	-----	12.8
New York.....	74	71	75	19,797	9,005	6,149	1,616	18,091	90	8.2
New Jersey.....	32	31	34	5,625	3,478	2,180	818	4,807	-----	14.5
Pennsylvania.....	75	76	67	20,919	14,011	6,263	2,422	18,440	57	11.6
Ohio.....	25	14	9	7,678	1,389	386	1,679	5,999	-----	21.9
Indiana.....	19	19	8	3,867	2,465	1,281	520	3,347	-----	13.4
Illinois.....	13	12	9	5,972	2,184	870	468	5,504	-----	7.8
Michigan.....	8	6	2	2,017	515	60	319	1,698	-----	15.8
Wisconsin.....	-----	2	3	-----	34	86	-----	-----	-----	-----
Iowa.....	8	6	-----	1,647	143	-----	274	1,373	-----	16.6
Missouri.....	17	16	11	6,873	4,046	1,765	593	6,280	-----	8.6
Kansas.....	6	2	1	953	35	6	116	837	-----	12.2
Delaware.....	3	5	4	347	195	167	28	319	-----	8.1
Maryland.....	26	26	14	3,014	2,519	923	234	2,734	46	7.9
District of Columbia.....	7	7	6	6,448	2,732	2,615	417	6,031	-----	6.5
Virginia.....	108	111	75	17,592	9,199	5,474	2,818	14,774	-----	16.0
West Virginia.....	43	8	6	900	338	86	147	753	-----	16.3
North Carolina.....	769	777	673	135,698	74,365	66,356	18,127	117,571	-----	13.4
South Carolina.....	185	192	193	38,225	23,169	19,058	4,768	33,457	-----	12.5
Georgia.....	83	99	68	7,887	5,523	3,630	1,035	6,808	44	13.2
Florida.....	47	113	64	13,647	11,496	3,223	1,595	12,052	-----	11.7
Kentucky.....	63	82	59	7,174	5,578	5,773	1,086	6,088	-----	15.1
Tennessee.....	96	156	117	15,176	8,786	6,651	2,217	12,959	-----	14.6
Alabama.....	420	479	385	80,446	51,284	36,705	10,314	70,132	-----	12.8
Mississippi.....	162	127	144	18,461	7,202	5,602	2,436	15,236	789	13.8
Arkansas.....	89	125	65	14,344	7,668	2,404	1,799	12,545	-----	12.5
Louisiana.....	25	44	44	7,671	2,831	2,539	234	1,587	5,850	12.9
Oklahoma.....	15	16	8	1,729	741	160	244	1,485	-----	14.1
Texas.....	13	20	11	1,463	771	457	204	1,259	-----	13.9
Arizona.....	3	2	-----	475	50	-----	77	398	-----	16.2
Washington.....	2	5	-----	304	72	-----	45	259	-----	14.8
Oregon.....	1	5	1	272	86	40	34	238	-----	12.5
California.....	29	30	14	4,614	1,577	902	682	3,932	-----	14.8
Other States.....	1	3	1	45	40	25	6	39	-----	-----

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported; not shown where base is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Among the early independent Negro Methodist congregations in this country was one organized in New York City in 1796 by James Varick, Abraham Thompson, William Miller, and others, who were members of the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Their desire to have a separate organization in which "they might have opportunity to exercise their spiritual gifts among themselves, and thereby be more useful to one another," was occasioned largely by the "caste

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 S. M. Dudley, secretary-treasurer of the Church Extension and Home Missions Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION 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.....	2,466	2,370	2,370	\$18,515,723	514	\$1,837,352	478	\$1,916,950	72	\$111,973
Massachusetts.....	8	8	8	246,000	3	27,300	3	35,000	1	7,000
Connecticut.....	18	17	17	507,250	5	61,400	5	55,500	—	—
New York.....	74	70	70	2,315,000	23	380,820	42	280,500	2	6,000
New Jersey.....	32	29	29	870,500	15	177,500	14	122,750	2	11,000
Pennsylvania.....	75	72	72	1,870,675	28	224,950	39	202,200	9	15,850
Ohio.....	25	19	19	480,975	11	53,050	8	37,200	2	4,000
Indiana.....	19	19	19	422,250	16	70,920	8	36,500	6	7,821
Illinois.....	13	12	12	342,400	7	99,100	5	16,500	—	—
Michigan.....	8	8	8	149,500	7	20,700	3	27,000	—	—
Iowa.....	8	8	8	47,150	4	2,660	—	(1)	—	—
Missouri.....	17	17	17	327,700	11	26,700	—	(1)	—	—
Kansas.....	6	6	6	30,500	6	9,975	—	(1)	—	—
Delaware.....	3	3	3	38,000	1	2,000	—	—	—	—
Maryland.....	26	24	24	195,300	6	17,275	7	25,850	1	2,500
District of Columbia.....	7	7	7	704,000	2	44,000	3	27,000	—	—
Virginia.....	108	106	106	588,880	27	61,783	16	58,850	7	13,480
West Virginia.....	13	8	8	40,500	2	700	—	(1)	—	—
North Carolina.....	769	768	768	4,276,150	111	168,538	106	354,300	13	17,810
South Carolina.....	185	182	182	599,820	49	46,812	18	37,325	3	715
Georgia.....	83	77	77	177,680	22	10,144	8	11,750	—	—
Florida.....	47	44	44	453,825	5	15,500	11	49,750	1	300
Kentucky.....	63	60	60	430,100	11	51,021	17	39,500	1	400
Tennessee.....	96	91	91	610,255	19	43,268	24	62,950	8	6,428
Alabama.....	420	393	393	1,509,165	35	81,660	68	186,225	7	11,475
Mississippi.....	162	154	154	366,680	41	22,379	19	31,850	4	2,080
Arkansas.....	89	85	85	184,850	20	23,907	17	22,600	1	214
Louisiana.....	26	25	25	275,250	9	31,850	7	22,500	1	300
Oklahoma.....	15	15	15	18,050	1	750	—	(1)	—	—
Texas.....	13	13	13	14,750	3	1,420	3	2,500	—	—
California.....	29	22	22	262,568	9	33,050	13	63,900	2	4,000
Other States ²	9	8	8	160,000	5	26,220	11	106,950	1	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 8 churches in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, West Virginia, and Oklahoma.

prejudice [which] forbade their taking the sacrament until the white members were all served," by the desire for other church privileges denied them, and by the conviction that it would assist in the development of a ministry adapted to their needs. The first church was built in the year 1800 and was called "Zion." The next year it was incorporated as the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and articles of agreement were entered into with the Methodist Episcopal Church by which the latter supplied them with ordained preachers until the year 1820. Meanwhile the organization of the Union Church of Africans² in Wilmington, Del., and of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, as separate and distinct denominations, caused considerable uneasiness, and the Zion Church made application to the Methodist Episcopal Church for the ordination of some of its local preachers as elders. To this no answer was given, and in 1820, as the congregation had developed several preachers of ability, and had fellowship and

² See Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, p. 1020.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION 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.....	2,466	2,464	\$4,757,066	\$4,091,023	\$662,993	\$3,050	2,429	45,087	267,141
Massachusetts.....	8	8	34,140	31,280	2,860	-----	8	123	2,006
Connecticut.....	18	18	37,651	34,323	3,328	-----	18	243	1,596
New York.....	74	74	495,752	453,168	42,584	-----	73	1,458	11,095
New Jersey.....	32	32	160,440	149,252	11,188	-----	31	536	3,713
Pennsylvania.....	75	75	297,780	256,931	40,849	-----	74	1,672	9,312
Ohio.....	25	25	80,504	68,007	12,497	-----	23	381	3,057
Indiana.....	19	19	62,145	53,518	8,627	-----	19	396	2,362
Illinois.....	13	13	78,126	72,930	5,196	-----	13	327	1,964
Michigan.....	8	8	43,169	41,116	2,053	-----	8	103	943
Iowa.....	8	8	7,114	5,979	1,135	-----	8	171	1,003
Missouri.....	17	17	55,866	48,373	7,493	-----	17	539	3,326
Kansas.....	6	6	5,515	4,697	818	-----	6	128	726
Delaware.....	3	3	5,467	4,800	667	-----	3	43	198
Maryland.....	26	26	51,073	46,359	4,714	-----	26	416	2,023
District of Columbia.....	7	7	37,900	31,500	6,400	-----	7	226	2,565
Virginia.....	108	108	175,793	146,614	29,179	-----	108	1,678	8,264
West Virginia.....	13	13	17,366	12,932	4,434	-----	10	151	526
North Carolina.....	769	769	1,256,074	1,061,351	194,723	-----	767	14,025	87,469
South Carolina.....	185	185	192,541	151,754	40,787	-----	183	3,101	20,754
Georgia.....	83	82	57,558	46,044	11,514	-----	77	1,107	4,852
Florida.....	47	47	138,567	121,560	17,007	-----	47	990	8,426
Kentucky.....	63	63	101,528	87,012	14,516	-----	60	1,000	4,027
Tennessee.....	96	96	172,418	142,479	29,939	-----	94	1,940	9,439
Alabama.....	420	420	740,240	635,818	101,372	3,050	415	8,845	49,389
Mississippi.....	162	162	126,459	101,138	25,321	-----	159	2,238	10,422
Arkansas.....	89	89	72,371	60,049	12,322	-----	89	1,627	8,542
Louisiana.....	26	25	70,069	59,254	10,815	-----	25	385	3,004
Oklahoma.....	15	15	10,020	8,372	1,648	-----	15	238	1,113
Texas.....	13	13	10,042	7,926	2,116	-----	13	222	959
Arizona.....	3	3	6,925	5,587	1,338	-----	3	66	291
California.....	29	29	86,036	72,430	13,606	-----	24	586	3,076
Other States.....	6	6	20,417	18,470	1,947	-----	6	126	699

union with churches which had been formed at New Haven, Conn., Philadelphia, Pa., Newark, N. J., and on Long Island, N. Y., it decided to abrogate the agreement with the Methodist Episcopal Church to supply its pulpits.

The first annual conference was held in Mother Zion Church, corner of Church and Leonard Streets, New York City, June 21, 1821. At that time the denomination consisted of 6 churches, 19 preachers, and 1,426 members. As they had no ordained elders, the conference was presided over by the Rev. William Phoebus, of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and the Rev. Joshua Soule (afterwards a bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church) acted as secretary. James Varick, who from his activity and influence, is generally spoken of as the founder of the denomination, was made district chairman.

The second annual conference, which was also the first General Conference, met in Wesley Church, Lombard Street, Philadelphia, May 16, 1822, and was presided over by Abraham Thompson. After some routine business, it adjourned to meet, July 18, in Mother Zion Church, New York City. In the meantime, on June 17, James Varick, Abraham Thompson, and Levin Smith were ordained elders by Dr. James Covell, Sylvester Hutchinson, and William Stillwell, white elders of

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUES OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY CONFERENCES, 1926: AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION 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	2,466	456,813	2,370	\$18,515,723	514	\$1,837,352	2,464	\$4,757,066	2,429	267,141
Alabama.....	80	16,652	76	205,138	1	500	80	165,182	80	9,539
Albemarle.....	67	11,691	67	255,925	25	25,444	67	71,016	65	5,553
Allegheny.....	34	7,653	28	637,100	8	99,550	34	131,399	30	4,240
Arkansas.....	63	10,290	59	114,350	10	8,197	63	49,003	63	5,930
Blue Ridge.....	53	7,532	53	512,050	5	7,700	53	88,369	53	4,541
Cahaba.....	59	14,140	58	149,465			59	91,737	59	9,661
California.....	14	2,202	12	142,568	3	15,750	14	39,651	11	1,510
Cape Fear.....	121	19,210	121	410,875	2	3,000	121	175,780	121	16,197
Central Alabama.....	36	11,080	36	238,130	2	31,000	36	138,611	36	5,730
Central North Carolina.....	149	34,489	148	1,029,200	4	11,740	149	338,695	149	24,000
East Tennessee and Virginia.....	55	5,987	52	236,530	16	15,093	55	60,165	55	3,213
Florida.....	26	8,443	26	190,275	4	9,500	26	78,075	26	4,741
Georgia.....	59	5,179	57	127,550	16	6,215	59	45,164	58	3,422
Indiana.....	16	3,775	16	363,750	13	38,650	16	47,038	16	2,429
Kentucky.....	27	3,671	26	248,100	6	41,910	27	58,062	25	1,848
Louisiana.....	26	7,737	25	284,800	9	30,875	25	72,576	25	2,913
Michigan.....	21	7,681	20	544,200	16	149,800	21	131,587	21	2,592
Missouri.....	34	10,140	34	437,550	22	42,335	34	76,178	34	5,502
New England.....	29	5,578	28	853,250	10	112,800	29	83,360	29	3,929
New Jersey.....	35	5,874	32	940,500	16	179,700	35	172,715	34	3,963
New York.....	46	14,200	42	1,814,300	17	351,220	46	385,252	45	7,457
North Alabama.....	73	9,867	55	374,210	9	22,900	73	120,566	70	5,873
North Arkansas.....	27	4,204	27	71,300	10	15,710	27	24,018	27	2,698
North Carolina.....	92	12,897	92	296,020	19	19,405	92	101,450	92	7,991
Ohio.....	37	8,846	31	772,100	17	88,600	37	116,875	35	3,620
Oklahoma.....	15	1,729	15	18,050	1	750	15	10,020	15	1,113
Oregon-Washington.....	6	835	5	46,000	3	2,120	6	13,699	6	548
Palmetto.....	70	12,092	68	225,000	20	12,949	70	42,713	69	6,444
Pee Dee.....	56	11,643	55	154,875	12	11,045	56	71,182	55	8,327
Philadelphia and Baltimore.....	71	22,243	67	1,910,750	24	162,375	71	285,633	71	9,360
South Alabama.....	46	9,146	45	92,002	2	3,400	46	52,646	46	6,642
South Carolina.....	57	14,607	57	207,945	18	22,918	57	73,849	57	5,845
Southeast Alabama.....	46	5,209	46	125,850	3	1,650	46	50,028	44	3,594
South Florida.....	21	5,204	18	263,550	1	6,000	21	60,492	21	3,685
South Georgia.....	27	2,652	22	49,135	7	5,029	26	11,660	22	1,458
South Mississippi.....	51	8,817	51	200,055	12	10,302	51	47,857	51	5,171
Southwest Rocky Mountain.....	15	2,628	10	134,000	6	17,300	15	48,459	13	1,681
Tennessee.....	61	11,117	59	381,925	11	28,325	61	128,763	59	7,268
Texas.....	13	1,463	13	14,750	3	1,420	13	10,042	13	959
Virginia.....	78	15,165	78	476,400	20	51,340	78	151,502	78	6,939
West Alabama.....	80	14,748	78	324,965	19	22,110	80	128,080	80	8,575
West Central North Carolina.....	131	17,568	131	545,200	32	54,619	131	162,003	131	11,374
Western Kentucky.....	34	2,932	33	166,050	5	9,131	34	38,198	33	1,903
Western New York.....	26	5,403	26	445,700	5	27,400	26	100,775	26	3,430
Western North Carolina.....	166	32,524	166	1,253,980	21	43,230	166	327,406	166	18,194
West Tennessee and Mississippi.....	117	10,070	106	230,305	29	16,345	117	79,535	114	5,539

the Methodist Episcopal Church. At this conference, on July 21, six persons were elected deacons in the forenoon and elders in the afternoon, and James Varick was elected the first superintendent or bishop of the denomination. No other general conference was held until 1828, when Christopher Rush was elected the second bishop of the denomination. After Bishop Varick's death, in 1827, Bishop Rush served alone until 1840, when William Miller was elected as his associate. It was not until 1848 that the present name of the church was adopted.

At the General Conference of 1852 a difference of opinion arose with regard to the parity of the superintendents or bishops, which divided the denomination into two wings, but the breach was healed, and in 1860 the two factions reunited.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church did not begin operations in the South until 1863, when Bishop Joseph J. Clinton sent Elder James W. Hood to North Carolina and Elder Wilbur G. Strong to Florida and Louisiana, though work was not begun until the following January. The appointment to North Carolina was specially fortunate, and churches sprang up rapidly. Men only just emancipated from the yoke of slavery felt themselves called to enter the ministry and to preach the gospel to their own people. Before the year closed the North Carolina Conference was organized, the parent of several large conferences in that and neighboring States. The success in Florida, Louisiana, and Alabama was not so phenomenal, but the missionary effort in these States proved to be most fruitful, especially in Alabama. So successful were the efforts of these early missionaries that when the General Conference met in 1880 at Montgomery, Ala., 15 annual conferences had been organized in the South.

The General Conference of 1880 was an important one. Livingstone College was established at Salisbury, N. C., the Rev. C. R. Harris being its first principal. Two years later, on his return from England, where he had collected \$10,000 for the college, the Rev. Joseph C. Price, considered one of the greatest champions of Negro citizenship, was made president and continued in this office until his death in 1893. The *Star of Zion*, the chief weekly organ of the church, was adopted by this General Conference as a permanent organ of the denomination, and the first organized missionary effort was instituted by the formation of a Board of Missions and a Woman's Missionary Society.

At the General Conference of 1892 the denomination took a forward move by the organization of the departments of missions and education, which have been productive of large and far-reaching results in promoting the cause of education and missions at home and in foreign fields. The founding of the publication house and the placing in it of a printing plant for publishing literature of all kinds used by the church, and for carrying on a general printing business, was one of the notable achievements of the church in that year. The *A. M. E. Zion Quarterly Review*, issued first in 1889, was adopted as a denominational periodical in 1892.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

In doctrine the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is in entire accord with the Methodist Episcopal Church,³ accepting the Apostles' Creed and adhering strictly to the doctrine of the new birth, regeneration followed by adoption, and entire sanctification. It recognizes the Scriptures as written by holy men as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. In polity, also, it is in substantial agreement with that church, having the same system of conferences—quarterly, annual, and general. The itinerancy is maintained throughout all ranks of ministers. A bishop holds office for life or during good behavior, but he may be assigned quadrennially to different districts, and may be retired, when feebleness or general disability warrants it, on half salary. The widows of bishops receive a stipend of \$300 annually.

The membership of the General Conference is made up of an equal number of ministerial and lay delegates, elected by the annual conferences and lay colleges. The bishops are members and have a right to discuss all questions coming before the body, but vote only on the day that each presides. The salaries of bishops and general denominational officers are paid from a general fund secured by an annual assessment of \$2 per member of each church.

³ See Methodist Episcopal Church, p. 228.

WORK

The present departmental organization of the general work of the church dates from the General Conference of 1904.

The work of home missions is carried on under the direction of the Board of Church Extension and Home Missions, these two departments having been combined at the General Conference in 1916. Previous to that time home and foreign missions constituted one department and church extension another. The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society is largely responsible for the home mission work. At present, portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and the States beyond the Mississippi River, especially Oklahoma, are regarded as special mission fields. The board maintains a regular loan fund, an emergency fund, and an annuity fund. A certain amount is apportioned to each pastoral charge to be raised annually for this work. The report for 1926 shows 456 churches aided by the Board of Church Extension and Home Missions, and \$60,000 contributed for the support of this work.

The foreign missionary work is now carried on by the Foreign Mission Board, in Liberia and the Gold Coast Colony, West Africa, in South America, and the West Indies. The report for 1926 shows 94 stations, occupied by 16 American missionaries and 82 native missionaries and helpers; 74 organized churches, with 14,000 members; and 24 schools, of which 22 are in Africa and 2 in South America, with a total enrollment of 2,344 pupils. The total amount contributed for the work in the foreign field was \$102,000, and the value of the property was estimated at \$33,000. These figures include the foreign work of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society.

The educational interests of the church are under the direction of a Board of Education, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., which has supervision over all schools. Money collected for education is sent to the corresponding secretary, who, under the advice of the board, apportions to each school its percentage. Funds for the support of the schools are raised by apportionment to each pastoral charge and by freewill offering from each Sunday school. In addition to this each school has conferences which use Children's Day to obtain support and encouragement for education. The report for 1926 showed 9 colleges and academies, 2,382 students, and 112 teachers. The principal institution is Livingstone College at Salisbury, N. C., with which is connected Hood Theological Seminary for the training of young men for the ministry and work in foreign missions. This institution began its courses of study in 1880 at Salisbury and was the first attempt of the church for the higher or classical training of the Negro. The total value of school property in 1926 was \$748,000 and the amount contributed toward the support of this work was \$102,164.

The young people's work is represented by 3,421 societies, called Varick Christian Endeavor Societies.

The Sunday school department operates under the name of the Department of Religious Education and is the most advanced organization of the church for intellectual and spiritual development among its young people. The Sunday school department also has charge of the publication of all Sunday school literature.

There is also a Ministerial Brotherhood, established in 1904, which requires each minister to pay annually not less than \$2.50 and not more than \$5 for the benefit of the widows and orphans of deceased members of the Brotherhood.

The departments of Education, Church Extension, Home and Foreign Missions, and the Varick Christian Endeavor Union are maintained by a fund that is raised by each church at each annual conference and averages about \$125,000 per annum. There is also a percentage of the general \$2 fund set apart for education, church extension, home missions, and for the widows and orphans of retired ministers.