

EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATIONS

GENERAL STATEMENT

Under this head are included various associations of churches which are more or less completely organized and have one general characteristic, namely, the conduct of evangelistic or missionary work.

In a few cases they are practically denominations, but for the most part, while distinct from other religious bodies, they are dominated by the evangelistic conception rather than by doctrinal or ecclesiastical distinctions. None of them is large, and some are very small and local in their character.

Since 1916 there have been some changes. The Church of God (Apostolic) has been added but the Lumber River Mission is now known as the Holiness Methodist Church and listed with the Methodist bodies. The Church Transcendent and the Voluntary Missionary Society in America have ceased to exist, and no report was received from the Peniel Missions. Two bodies are listed under new names—Apostolic Faith Mission, reported in 1916 and 1906 as Apostolic Faith Movement, and Missionary Bands of the World, formerly reported as Pentecost Bands of the World.

The bodies grouped under the head "Evangelistic Associations" in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed as follows, with the principal statistics as reported for the three censuses.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATIONS, 1926, 1916,
AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group	257	15,763	141	\$1,821,043	198	\$378,034	188	11,839
Apostolic Christian Church	53	5,709	48	476,800	49	36,072	48	2,581
Apostolic Faith Mission	14	2,119	4	273,500	11	60,622	7	578
Christian Congregation	2	150	1	1,000	1	250	2	165
Church of Daniel's Band	4	129	3	4,500	4	667	2	78
Church of God as Organized by Christ	19	375	2	1,400				
Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association	14	495	9	18,500	10	5,363	10	414
Metropolitan Church Association	40	1,113	4	201,650	34	107,580	33	1,618
Missionary Church Association	34	2,498	30	262,343	33	105,326	29	3,822
Missionary Bands of the World	11	241	9	20,000	10	6,588	8	248
Pillar of Fire	48	2,442	23	537,000	32	50,080	36	1,994
Church of God (Apostolic)	18	492	8	24,350	14	5,486	13	341
1916								
Total for the group	207	13,933	134	854,435	170	265,167	145	10,067
Apostolic Church	2	112	2	6,400	2	650	1	60
Apostolic Christian Church	54	4,766	49	265,325	51	29,893	47	3,068
Apostolic Faith Movement	24	2,196	8	40,950	22	38,380	16	711
Christian Congregation	7	645	5	11,500	5	1,650	5	376
Church of Daniel's Band	6	393	4	7,800	4	895	1	22
Church of God as Organized by Christ	17	227	3	1,500	1	50		
Church Transcendent	3	91	1	4,500	1	700	3	84
Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association	12	352	11	21,100	12	3,887	12	502
Lumber River Mission	6	434	6	6,425	4	323	6	358
Metropolitan Church Association	7	704	1	100,000	4	80,635	3	423
Missionary Church Association	25	1,554	20	84,700	21	37,930	21	3,022
Peniel Missions	9	257	2	111,600	8	5,765	4	66
Pentecost Bands of the World	10	218	10	18,500	10	4,420	10	430
Pillar of Fire	21	1,129	8	171,555	21	57,790	12	559
Voluntary Missionary Society in America	4	855	4	2,580	4	2,199	4	386
1906								
Total for the group	179	10,842	115	532,185			136	7,615
Apostolic Christian Church	41	4,558	38	141,550			31	1,932
Apostolic Faith Movement	6	538	1	450			5	245
Christian Congregation	9	395	5	7,200			7	332
Gospel Mission	8	196	4	3,100			7	245
Church of Daniel's Band	4	92	2	2,400			1	50
Hephzibah Faith Missionary Association	10	293	9	11,300			9	402
Lumber River Mission	5	265	5	3,000			5	256
Metropolitan Church Association	6	466	4	118,300			4	360
Missionary Church Association	30	1,256	19	33,135			28	1,916
Peniel Missions	11	703	1	40,250			7	308
Pentecost Bands of the World	16	487	15	69,550			13	477
Pentecostal Union Church	3	230	3	90,600			2	175
Voluntary Missionary Society in America (Colored)	3	425	2	2,400			3	390
Heavenly Recruit Church	27	938	7	8,950			14	527

CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

STATISTICS

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

The membership of the Christian Congregation comprises those persons who have been enrolled in the local congregations upon evidence of Christian character and baptism by water.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations)	2	1	1		
Members	150	100	50	66.7	33.3
Average per church	75				
Membership by sex:					
Male	22		22		
Female	28		28		
Sex not reported	100	100		100.0	
Males per 100 females ³					
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years	50		50		
13 years and over	100	100		100.0	
Age not reported					
Church edifices:					
Number	1		1		
Value—Churches reporting	1		1		
Amount reported	\$1,000		\$1,000		100.0
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting	1		1		
Amount reported	\$250		\$250		100.0
Current expenses and improvements	\$200		\$200		100.0
Benevolences, missions, etc.	\$50		\$50		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting	2	1	1		
Officers and teachers	18	10	8		
Scholars	165	90	75	54.5	45.5

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 Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

The data for 1926 represent 2 active churches of the Christian Congregation, in the State of Indiana, with 150 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by 1 church, which, however, had no members under 13 years of age. There were no parsonages in 1926 and no debt on the 1 church edifice reported.

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

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1906 TO 1926: CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations)	2	7	9
Increase ¹ over preceding census:			
Number.....	-5	-2	
Per cent ¹			
Members	150	645	395
Increase ¹ over preceding census:			
Number.....	-495	250	
Per cent.....	-76.7	63.3	
Average membership per church.....	75	92	44
Church edifices:			
Number.....	1	5	5
Value—Churches reporting.....	1	5	5
Amount reported.....	\$1,000	\$11,500	\$7,200
Average per church.....	\$1,000	\$2,300	\$1,440
Debt—Churches reporting.....			2
Amount reported.....			\$600
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting.....	1	5	
Amount reported.....	\$250	\$1,650	
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$200	\$1,601	
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$50	\$49	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$250	\$330	
Sunday schools:			
Churches reporting.....	2	5	7
Officers and teachers.....	18	53	73
Scholars.....	165	376	332

¹ A minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

¹ Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

This body was organized in the year 1899, at Kokomo, Ind., with the special purpose of securing a broader Christian fellowship and of emphasizing and systematizing works of charity. It has district assemblies and also a general assembly which meets annually.

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 May Puckett Foster, bishop of the Christian Congregation, and approved by her in its present form.