

PRESBYTERIAN BODIES

GENERAL STATEMENT

History.—As the Lutheran churches represent those features of the Reformation emphasized by Luther, so the Presbyterian and Reformed churches represent those emphasized by Calvin. The doctrinal and ecclesiastical system developed at Geneva, modified somewhat in Holland and in France and transferred to Scotland, became solidified there largely under the influence of John Knox in 1530 and found a practical and thoroughly logical presentation in the Westminster Assembly, London, England, 1645–1649. This was not a distinctively Presbyterian body. Called by act of Parliament to consider the state of the entire country in matters of religion, it represented in its membership all English-speaking Christians, although the Anglicans took no active part in its deliberations. It had no ecclesiastical authority, yet its deliverances on doctrine have furnished the basis both for Presbyterian and many non-Presbyterian bodies; and the form of ecclesiastical government it recommended has gone far beyond the country where it was formulated and has had a marked influence not only on church life, but in civil and national development. In England it fostered the development of the Independents who afterwards became the Congregationalists. In Scotland, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it resulted in the development of several Presbyterian bodies, each insisting upon some specific administrative phase; and one of its strongholds was the north of Ireland, where so many Scotch found a more congenial home for the time being, until they should cross the Atlantic.

The distinctively Presbyterian churches of the United States trace their origin chiefly to Great Britain. Whatever of English and Welsh Presbyterianism there was in the Colonies, together with the few French Protestant, or Huguenot, churches, combined at an early date with the Scotch and Scotch-Irish elements to form the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, from which the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church in the United States afterwards separated. The Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church, representing the Calvinistic Methodists of Wales, was united in 1920 with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.¹

Five Presbyterian denominations are directly connected with the Secession and Relief movements of the church in Scotland in the eighteenth century: The United Presbyterian Church of North America; the Associate Synod of North America, known also as the Associate Presbyterian Church; the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, formerly the Associate Reformed Synod of the South; the Synod and the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

In close harmony with these distinctively Presbyterian churches are the Reformed churches, traceable to the influence of immigration from the Continent of Europe: The Reformed Church in America (Dutch) and the Christian Reformed Church, both of which originated in Holland; the Reformed Church in the United States (German), whose beginnings were in Switzerland and Germany; and the Free Magyar Reformed Church in America, representing the State Reformed Church of Hungary. All of these, Presbyterian and Reformed, substantially agree in government, and all maintain similar principles of the Calvinistic system, whether expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith, the

¹ See Methodist bodies, p. 914.

Canons of the Synod of Dort, or the Heidelberg Catechism. The Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the world holding the Presbyterian system, whose special purpose is to secure cooperation by the different denominations in general church work, has grown out of this concord, as has also the Council of the Reformed Churches in the United States holding the Presbyterian system, organized for the same general purpose.

Doctrine and organization.—Presbyterianism as a doctrinal system has as its fundamental principles the undivided sovereignty of God in His universe, the sovereignty of Christ in salvation, the sovereignty of the Scriptures in faith and conduct, and the sovereignty of the individual conscience in the interpretation of the Word of God. As a polity, it recognizes Christ as the only head of the church and the source of all power, and the people of Christ as entitled under their Lord to participation in the government and action of the church. As polity and as doctrine, it maintains the right of private judgment in matters of religion, the membership in the Church Universal of all who profess the true religion, the validity of church organization, and the power of each association of organizations to prescribe its own terms of communion. It further holds that ministers are peers one of another, and that church authority is positively vested, not in individuals, such as bishops or presbyters, but in representative courts, including the session, the presbytery, and the synod; and in the case of some bodies, especially the larger ones, the general assembly. This principle of coordinate representative authority, by which the individual member of the church has his own share in the conduct of that church, while at the same time he recognizes not merely the headship of Christ but the fellowship in Christ, has given to the system a peculiar hold wherever there has been representative government and has exerted a strong influence modifying both individualistic and hierarchical tendencies. Its advocates call attention to the resemblance between its polity and the political constitution of the United States, in which country it has had its strongest influence, its courts corresponding closely to the local, State, and national organizations.

Statistics.—The denominations grouped as the Presbyterian bodies in 1926, in 1916, and in 1906 are listed in the summary table, with the principal statistics as reported for the three periods.

Certain changes are to be noted. The union between the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, under discussion in 1906, was consummated, but a considerable number of the Cumberland Presbyterian churches refused to adopt the plan and continued the old organization. This explains the decrease in the statistics of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which is shown for both 1916 and 1926. The body reported in 1906 as the Associate Reformed Synod of the South changed its name in 1913 to Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. The single organization reported in 1906 by the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States and Canada later joined the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod; the single organization reported in 1906 by the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Covenanted) was listed in 1916 with the Independent churches. In 1920, the five synods of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church were absorbed into the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906

DENOMINATION AND CENSUS YEAR	Total number of churches	Number of members	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR		SUNDAY SCHOOLS	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Number of scholars
1926								
Total for the group.....	14,848	2,625,284	13,852	\$443,572,158	14,259	\$87,535,390	13,222	2,001,928
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	8,947	1,894,030	8,437	338,152,743	8,656	63,230,663	8,237	1,407,298
Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	1,097	67,938	986	3,321,287	961	759,021	765	48,052
Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	178	10,868	162	353,825	167	80,304	152	5,223
United Presbyterian Church of North America.....	901	171,571	879	29,714,845	890	6,642,820	871	148,668
Presbyterian Church in the United States.....	3,469	451,043	3,148	67,798,658	3,330	15,612,028	2,959	367,795
Associate Synod of North America (Associate Presbyterian Church).....	11	329	10	28,800	11	8,841	6	150
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.....	143	20,410	139	2,428,100	142	809,883	137	15,998
Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.....	89	7,166	79	1,427,100	89	851,179	83	7,495
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod.....	13	1,929	12	346,800	13	40,651	12	1,259
1916								
Total for the group.....	15,840	2,255,626	14,328	192,989,599	14,661	40,058,907	13,978	1,947,421
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	9,639	1,611,251	8,677	150,239,123	9,059	30,166,158	8,848	1,381,653
Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	1,313	72,052	1,150	1,935,072	1,009	830,905	903	53,431
Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	136	13,077	130	230,426	127	39,497	133	7,471
Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church.....	134	14,566	126	1,012,000	120	173,977	127	10,789
United Presbyterian Church of North America.....	991	160,726	952	13,543,213	974	3,094,945	976	156,072
Presbyterian Church in the United States.....	3,365	357,760	3,041	28,924,915	3,101	5,809,909	2,744	313,165
Associate Synod of North America (Associate Presbyterian Church).....	12	490	12	26,400	12	8,114	5	137
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.....	133	15,124	128	667,650	133	178,138	128	13,411
Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.....	103	8,185	98	1,131,600	103	225,263	100	9,436
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod.....	14	2,386	14	279,200	14	32,001	14	1,765

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN BODIES, 1926, 1916, AND 1906—Continued

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
1906								
Total for the group	15,471	1,830,555	14,160	150,189,446			13,048	1,511,175
Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.....	7,927	1,179,566	7,405	114,882,781			7,393	1,045,056
Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	2,846	195,770	2,451	5,803,960			1,817	120,311
Colored Cumberland Presbyterian Church.....	196	18,066	192	203,778			192	6,952
Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church.....	147	13,280	145	761,350			136	11,347
United Presbyterian Church of North America.....	964	130,342	943	10,760,208			948	115,963
Presbyterian Church in the United States.....	3,086	266,345	2,734	15,488,489			2,301	189,767
Associate Synod of North America (Associate Presbyterian Church).....	22	786	19	28,825			9	289
Associate Reformed Synod of the South.....	141	13,201	134	436,550			126	9,732
Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.....	113	9,122	110	1,258,105			103	9,613
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America, General Synod.....	27	3,620	26	365,400			22	2,013
Reformed Presbyterian Church (Covenanted).....	1	17						
Reformed Presbyterian Church in the United States and Canada.....	1	440	1	200,000			1	132

SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America 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 Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church consists of those persons who have been received into the church upon public profession of faith and are in good standing. Baptism is administered to infants, but public profession of faith is not usually made before the thirteenth or fourteenth year.

TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	89	44	45		
Members	7,166	3,653	3,513	51.0	49.0
Average per church.....	81	83	78		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	2,802	1,331	1,471	47.5	52.5
Female.....	4,292	2,322	1,970	54.1	45.9
Sex not reported.....	72		72		
Males per 100 females.....	65.3	57.3	74.7		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	219	86	133	39.3	60.7
13 years and over.....	6,875	3,567	3,308	51.9	48.1
Age not reported.....	72		72		
Per cent under 13 years ³	3.1	2.4	3.9		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	97	43	54		
Value—Churches reporting.....	79	37	42		
Amount reported.....	\$1,427,100	\$1,035,600	\$391,500	72.6	27.4
Average per church.....	\$18,065	\$27,989	\$9,321		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	9	6	3		
Amount reported.....	\$59,900	\$23,100	\$36,800	38.6	61.4
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	63	29	34		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	34	9	25		
Amount reported.....	\$140,400	\$40,600	\$90,800	35.3	64.7
Debt—Churches reporting.....	7		7		
Amount reported.....	\$10,200		\$10,200		100.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	24	7	17		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	89	44	45		
Amount reported.....	\$351,179	\$213,209	\$137,970	60.7	39.3
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$239,569	\$144,380	\$95,189	60.3	39.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$106,475	\$68,829	\$37,646	64.6	35.4
Not classified.....	\$5,135		\$5,135		100.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,946	\$4,846	\$3,066		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	83	40	43		
Officers and teachers.....	1,044	577	467	55.3	44.7
Scholars.....	7,495	4,320	3,175	57.6	42.4

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

² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

³ Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 89 active organizations of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, with 7,166 members. The classification of membership by sex and by age was reported by 88 churches, including, however, only 42 which reported any 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.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations)	89	103	113	115
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-14	-10	-2	
Per cent.....	-13.6	-8.8	-1.7	
Members	7,166	8,185	9,122	10,574
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-1,019	-937	-1,452	
Per cent.....	-12.4	-10.3	-13.7	
Average membership per church.....	81	79	81	92
Church edifices:				
Number.....	97	102	116	115
Value—Churches reporting.....	79	98	110	
Amount reported.....	\$1,427,100	\$1,131,600	\$1,258,105	\$1,071,400
Average per church.....	\$18,065	\$11,547	\$11,437	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	9	8	12	
Amount reported.....	\$59,900	\$30,511	\$48,650	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	34	27	23	
Amount reported.....	\$140,400	\$74,400	\$52,800	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	7			
Amount reported.....	\$10,200			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	89	103		
Amount reported.....	\$351,179	\$226,263		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$239,569	\$148,144		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$106,475	\$75,919		
Not classified.....	\$5,135	\$1,200		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,946	\$2,187		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	83	100	103	
Officers and teachers.....	1,044	1,204	1,270	
Scholars.....	7,495	9,496	9,613	

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian 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 presbytery in the Reformed Presbyterian Synod 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: SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females ⁽¹⁾
United States.....	89	44	45	7,166	3,653	3,513	2,802	4,292	72	65.3
New England:										
Vermont.....	1		1	60		60	29	31		
Massachusetts.....	3	3		185	185		69	116		59.5
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	10	5	5	692	488	204	228	464		49.1
New Jersey.....	1	1		37	37		15	22		
Pennsylvania.....	24	13	11	2,100	1,343	757	786	1,314		59.8
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	8	3	5	463	131	332	172	291		59.1
Indiana.....	3	2	1	173	158	15	78	95		
Illinois.....	4	2	2	342	120	222	136	206		66.0
Michigan.....	2		2	104		104	49	55		
Wisconsin.....	1		1	19		19	10	9		
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	1		1	56		56	25	31		
Iowa.....	7	1	6	636	11	625	257	307	72	83.7
Missouri.....	1	1		74	74		21	53		
Nebraska.....	2	1	1	159	80	79	59	100		59.0
Kansas.....	9	2	7	1,065	193	872	468	597		78.4
South Atlantic:										
Florida.....	1	1		61	61		30	31		
East South Central:										
Alabama.....	1	1		126	126		56	70		
West South Central:										
Oklahoma.....	1		1	133		133	56	77		
Mountain:										
Colorado.....	3	3		276	276		116	160		72.5
Pacific:										
Washington.....	1	1		115	115		30	85		
Oregon.....	1	1		14	14		4	10		
California.....	4	3	1	276	241	35	108	168		64.3

¹ Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Presbyterian Church of Scotland was organized by John Knox on his return from a conference with Calvin at Geneva in 1560. As it became evident that the Stuart dynasty was bitterly opposed to the organization, because of its asserted independence of state control, a movement was started in 1580, though apparently not fully organized, for covenanting together in defense of the Presbyterian Church, and this movement secured a quasi indorsement from James VI. The idea of covenanting was not new to Scotland. An earlier visit of John Knox, in 1556, had called forth the Dun Band or Covenant. In less than a century and a half no fewer than 31 Covenants were subscribed, the last of which was the Children's Covenant of 1683. "Some were local, while others were of national interest and importance; but whether local or national, they focus to a large extent, the historical events of the period." These covenants gave a name to their subscribers, which is still given to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America; i. e., "The Church of the Covenanters," or

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 Mr. James S. Tibby, secretary and treasurer of the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, and approved by him in its present form.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1906 TO 1926, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926, 1916, or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1906	1926	1916	1906	Un-der 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States.....	89	103	113	7,166	8,185	9,122	219	6,875	72	3.1
Vermont.....	1	1	3	60	59	99	4	56	-----	-----
Massachusetts.....	3	3	3	185	242	341	-----	185	-----	-----
New York.....	10	13	16	692	1,163	1,446	5	687	-----	0.7
Pennsylvania.....	24	29	30	2,100	2,335	2,709	51	2,049	-----	2.4
Ohio.....	8	10	13	463	510	629	22	441	-----	4.8
Indiana.....	3	3	3	173	237	305	2	171	-----	1.2
Illinois.....	4	5	6	342	390	512	3	339	-----	0.9
Michigan.....	2	2	3	104	123	173	-----	104	-----	-----
Iowa.....	7	6	8	636	630	899	9	555	72	1.6
Missouri.....	1	3	2	74	192	111	1	73	-----	-----
Nebraska.....	2	2	3	159	134	170	13	146	-----	8.2
Kansas.....	9	11	10	1,065	1,201	907	67	998	-----	6.3
Colorado.....	3	4	4	276	245	255	6	270	-----	2.2
California.....	4	3	3	276	215	92	17	259	-----	6.2
Other States.....	8	8	6	561	509	474	19	542	-----	3.4

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

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES		VALUE OF PARSONAGES		DEBT ON PARSONAGES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	89	97	79	\$1,427,100	9	\$59,900	34	\$140,400	7	\$10,200
New York.....	10	10	10	236,500	2	12,000	3	11,500	2	3,500
Pennsylvania.....	24	30	23	688,100	4	43,100	9	49,600	-----	-----
Ohio.....	8	9	6	71,000	-----	-----	3	12,500	-----	-----
Illinois.....	4	5	4	69,500	-----	-----	3	12,500	1	1,000
Iowa.....	7	10	6	64,500	-----	-----	5	20,500	1	1,000
Kansas.....	9	11	9	58,000	1	1,500	6	22,000	2	3,500
Colorado.....	3	3	3	42,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
California.....	4	3	3	37,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other States.....	20	16	15	160,500	2	3,300	5	11,800	1	1,200

“The Covenanter Church.” Two of the later covenants claim special mention. On the 28th of February, 1638, in Grayfriars Church, Edinburgh, the Kings Confession or Covenant of 1581, with important additions, to adapt it to the times, was renewed. Not less than 60,000 people were present and entered enthusiastically into the compact. During the following days it was signed by multitudes in all parts of Scotland.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926: SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

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

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR				SUNDAY SCHOOLS			
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States.....	89	89	\$351,179	\$239,569	\$106,475	\$5,135	83	1,044	7,495
Massachusetts.....	3	3	9,800	7,800	2,000	-----	2	15	110
New York.....	10	10	46,363	33,683	12,680	-----	10	110	737
Pennsylvania.....	24	24	140,285	92,302	47,983	-----	23	332	2,394
Ohio.....	8	8	18,934	15,144	3,790	-----	8	72	583
Indiana.....	3	3	7,938	5,958	1,980	-----	2	28	160
Illinois.....	4	4	15,254	11,579	3,675	-----	4	62	463
Iowa.....	7	7	20,037	11,715	5,887	2,435	6	72	504
Kansas.....	9	9	31,062	18,178	10,184	2,700	9	142	1,037
Colorado.....	3	3	12,815	8,875	3,940	-----	3	37	244
California.....	4	4	12,265	7,610	4,655	-----	3	38	355
Other States.....	14	14	36,426	26,725	9,701	-----	13	136	908

TABLE 7.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, VALUE OF EDIFICES, DEBT, EXPENDITURES, AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY PRESBYTERIES, 1926: SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

PRESBYTERY	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.....	89	7,166	79	\$1,427,100	9	\$59,900	89	\$351,179	83	7,495
Central Canada.....	1	56	4	144,000	-----	-----	4	113,940	1	30
Colorado.....	3	276							3	244
Illinois.....	6	579	5	39,500	-----	-----	6	19,818	5	508
Iowa.....	7	486	6	72,000	-----	-----	7	16,722	6	442
Kansas.....	15	1,647	15	126,000	1	1,500	15	51,079	15	1,496
New York.....	12	846	9	217,700	2	7,300	12	53,110	11	762
Ohio.....	10	547	8	75,300	-----	-----	10	21,994	9	615
Pacific Coast.....	6	405	5	116,500	1	3,000	6	21,539	5	657
Philadelphia.....	4	517	24	1703,100	-----	-----	4	30,368	4	374
Pittsburgh.....	22	1,679					4	43,100	22	114,717
Rochester.....	3	128	3	33,000	1	5,000	3	7,892	3	187

† Figures are combined to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

Anticipating hostile action from the king, the Covenanters prepared for war, and the two following years were signalized by constant hostilities, which continued until 1640, when an agreement was signed for commissioners to settle the points in dispute, and the "Solemn League and Covenant" was received by "the English Parliament and the Assembly of Divines in 1643." This covenant consisted in an oath to be subscribed by all sorts of persons in both kingdoms, whereby they bound themselves to preserve the Reformed religion in the Church of Scotland, and to reform religion in England and Ireland "in doctrine, worship, discipline, and government, the example according to the word of God and practice of the best Reformed churches"; and to "endeavor to bring the churches

of God in the three kingdoms to the nearest conjunction and uniformity in religion, confession of faith, form of church government, directory for worship, and catechising"; to "without respect of persons, endeavor the extirpation of popery, prelacy (that is, church government by archbishops * * * and all other ecclesiastical officers depending on that hierarchy), * * * and whatsoever shall be found contrary to sound doctrine and the power of godliness"; to "preserve the rights and privileges of the parliaments, and the liberties of the kingdoms, and to preserve and defend the king's majesty's person and authority in the preservation and defense of the true religion and liberties of the kingdoms"; to "endeavor the discovery of * * * incendiaries and malignants * * * hindering the reformation of religion and dividing the king from his people, * * * that they may be brought to public trial and receive condign punishment"; finally, to "assist and defend all those that enter into this league and covenant * * * and not suffer ourselves to be divided and withdrawn from this blessed union, * * * whether to make defection * * * or to give ourselves to a detestable indifferency or neutrality in this cause."

This covenant was signed by members of both Houses and by civil and military officers, and, very reluctantly, by Charles II, in 1650, when he was hoping to recover the English throne. After his restoration, a majority in the House of Commons in 1661, ordered it to be burned by the common hangman. In the same year the Scottish Parliament renounced the covenant and declared the king supreme. The Covenanters protested against these wrongs, and, under the name of "Conventiclers" and sometimes "Hamiltonians," were subjected to a fierce and cruel persecution. Without having any special ecclesiastical organization, they formed societies for worship, meeting often in houses, barns, and caves, and continued to do this even after the accession of William and Mary in 1689. At that time there was established what was known as the revolution settlement, which again made the Presbyterian Church the state church of Scotland. Some, however, believing that in this settlement Reformation principles had been seriously compromised, refused to recognize any longer the authority of the General Assembly, and identified themselves with the Covenanters of the previous years; but it was not until 1743 that they perfected an organization called the Reformed Presbytery of Scotland.

The first minister of this body came to this country from Scotland in 1752. As others joined him they constituted, in 1774, the Reformed Presbytery. Eight years later, 1782, this Presbytery united with the Associate Presbytery² in the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. As in the case of the Associate Presbytery, there were some who were dissatisfied, and in 1798 the Reformed Presbytery was reorganized in Philadelphia, Pa. At the meeting of the presbytery held in 1800 it was stated that in some of the congregations there were members who owned slaves, and it was resolved that no slaveholder should be retained in their communion. This action was enforced, and accounts for the fact that at the time of the Civil War there were only three Reformed Presbyterian congregations south of Mason and Dixon's line, and these were in the border States.

By 1809 the presbytery had grown so that a synod was constituted in Philadelphia, Pa. Somewhat later there arose a difference of opinion as to the practical relation of the members to the Government of the United States, which culminated in 1833 in a division of the church. One party, the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Old Light), refused to allow its members to vote or hold office under the present constitution. The other, the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (New Light), imposed no such restrictions on its members. The discussion resulted in the framing of a new covenant embody-

² See Associate Synod of North America, p. 1176, and United Presbyterian Church of North America, p. 1159.

ing the engagements of the National Covenant of Scotland and of the Solemn League and Covenant, so far as applicable in this land, and, in 1871, in Pittsburgh, Pa., the synod engaged for the first time in the act of covenanting.

DOCTRINE

The synod maintains that God is the source of all legitimate power; that He has instituted civil government for His own glory and the good of men; that He has appointed His Son, the Mediator, to headship over the nations; and that the Bible is the supreme law and rule in national as well as in all other things. Its members pledge themselves to "promote the interests of public order and justice; to support cheerfully whatever is for the good of the commonwealth in which we dwell"; and to "pray and labor for the peace and welfare of our country, and for its reformation by a constitutional recognition of God as the source of all power, of Jesus Christ as the Ruler of Nations, of the Holy Scriptures as the supreme rule, and of the true Christian religion." They, however, "refuse to incorporate by any act with the political body until this blessed reformation has been secured," and explain thus their refusal to vote or hold office.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are accepted as the very Word of God, and as the supreme standard in all matters relating to faith and practice. Their teachings with reference to doctrine are summarized in the subordinate standards, the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, and the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony; and their teachings with reference to order and worship are summarized, in substance, in the Westminster Form of Church Government and Directory for Worship. The covenant of 1871 is recognized as binding on those who took it and on those they represented.

Only members in regular standing are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The children of church members only are admitted to the ordinance of baptism. The metrical version of the Psalms alone is used in the service of praise. Instruments of music are not allowed in worship. Connection with secret societies is prohibited.

ORGANIZATION

Presbyterianism is considered as the "only divinely instituted form of government in the Christian Church." The church courts are the session, the presbytery, and the synod, there being no general assembly. The officers are of two classes, elders and deacons. Elders include both those who rule and those who also teach; the deacons care for the poor, and are usually intrusted with the temporalities. To the latter office women are eligible. In the church courts the ruling elder and the minister are on an equality.

WORK

The missionary work of the church is carried on in the home department by the Home Mission Board, with offices in Pittsburgh, Pa., and the foreign department by the Foreign Mission Board, with offices in Philadelphia, Pa.

The home mission work is chiefly among weak congregations of the denominations, the Indians of Oklahoma, and the Negroes of Alabama. There is also a Jewish mission in Philadelphia. The report for 1926 shows 2 persons employed in the Indian work, 16 in the southern work, and 2 in the Jewish mission; 29 churches aided; and contributions amounting to \$20,847.

The foreign missionary work is carried on in southern China, northern Syria, Asia Minor, and Cyprus. The report for 1926 shows 6 stations occupied by missionaries, and 10 outstations; 45 American missionaries, including wives; 49 native helpers; 3 organized churches, with 871 church members; 1 theological school, with 12 students; and 19 other schools, with 1,025 pupils; and 5 hospitals,

treating annually 5,811 patients. In 1926 collections for foreign work totaled \$38,070, or \$5.22 per member, which is claimed to be the largest amount per capita contributed by any denomination for foreign missions. The church has an endowment fund of \$104,523 for the foreign mission work.

The educational work in the United States includes 1 college, with 1,538 students; 1 theological seminary, with 7 students; and an enrollment in the southern mission of 584 pupils. The amount contributed in 1926 toward the support of the college and seminary was \$17,370. A large part of the expense of the mission schools is included in the amount contributed for home missions. The value of property devoted to educational work is \$789,200, and the endowment, \$478,896.

The church has a home for the aged, with 30 inmates. The amount contributed for its support in 1926 was \$1,590. It has property valued at \$50,000, and an endowment of \$41,880.

There are 70 young people's societies, with a membership of 1,826.