

REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STATISTICS

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

In the Reformed Episcopal Church all persons on the rolls as communicants in good and regular standing are counted as members. Baptism is administered to infants.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	69	36	33		
Members.....	8,651	6,853	1,798	79.2	20.8
Average per church.....	125	190	54		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	3,191	2,560	631	80.2	19.8
Female.....	5,460	4,293	1,167	78.6	21.4
Males per 100 females.....	58.4	59.6	54.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	174	111	63	63.8	36.2
13 years and over.....	8,143	6,433	1,710	79.0	21.0
Age not reported.....	334	309	25	92.5	7.5
Per cent under 13 years ³	2.1	1.7	3.6		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	77	44	33		
Value—Churches reporting.....	69	36	33		
Amount reported.....	\$2,455,850	\$2,300,000	\$155,850	93.7	6.3
Average per church.....	\$35,592	\$63,889	\$4,723		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	14	9	5		
Amount reported.....	\$106,894	\$104,953	\$1,941	98.2	1.8
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	40	23	17		
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	11	10	1		
Amount reported.....	\$130,200	\$120,200	\$10,000	92.3	7.7
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2	2			
Amount reported.....	\$3,700	\$3,700		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	8	7	1		
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	67	35	32		
Amount reported.....	\$242,668	\$211,319	\$31,349	87.1	12.9
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$202,181	\$174,570	\$27,611	86.3	13.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$40,487	\$36,749	\$3,738	90.8	9.2
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,622	\$6,038	\$980		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	59	34	25		
Officers and teachers.....	696	543	153	78.0	22.0
Scholars.....	6,174	5,046	1,128	81.7	18.3

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 69 active Reformed Episcopal churches, with 8,651 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all 69 churches, and the classification by age was reported by 66 churches, including, however, only 15 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: REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ITEM	1926	1916	1906	1890
Churches (local organizations).....	69	74	79	83
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-5	-5	-4	
Per cent ²				
Members.....	8,651	11,050	9,682	8,455
Increase ¹ over preceding census:				
Number.....	-2,399	1,368	1,227	
Per cent.....	-21.7	14.1	14.5	
Average membership per church.....	125	149	123	102
Church edifices:				
Number.....	77	74	87	84
Value—Churches reporting.....	69	74	76	
Amount reported.....	\$2,455,850	\$1,702,187	\$1,469,787	\$1,615,101
Average per church.....	\$35,592	\$23,003	\$19,339	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	14	28	23	
Amount reported.....	\$106,894	\$94,198	\$67,143	
Parsonages:				
Value—Churches reporting.....	11	12	14	
Amount reported.....	\$130,200	\$67,000	\$48,950	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	2			
Amount reported.....	\$3,700			
Expenditures during year:				
Churches reporting.....	67	74		
Amount reported.....	\$242,668	\$180,880		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$202,181	\$121,902		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$40,487	\$49,522		
Not classified.....		\$9,456		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,622	\$2,444		
Sunday schools:				
Churches reporting.....	59	70	76	
Officers and teachers.....	696	878	959	
Scholars.....	6,174	8,603	9,864	

¹ A minus sign (-) denotes decrease.
² Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Reformed Episcopal 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 synod in the Reformed Episcopal 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: REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Males per 100 females ⁽¹⁾
United States.....	69	36	33	8,651	6,853	1,798	3,191	5,460	58.4
Middle Atlantic:									
New York.....	4	4	—	518	518	—	213	305	69.8
New Jersey.....	3	1	2	243	103	140	79	164	48.2
Pennsylvania.....	13	13	—	3,200	3,200	—	1,242	1,958	63.4
East North Central:									
Ohio.....	2	2	—	403	403	—	153	250	61.2
Illinois.....	5	5	—	970	970	—	368	602	61.1
South Atlantic:									
Delaware.....	1	1	—	110	110	—	40	70	—
Maryland.....	3	3	—	391	391	—	145	246	58.9
Virginia.....	2	—	2	63	—	63	25	38	—
South Carolina.....	36	7	29	2,753	1,158	1,595	926	1,827	50.7

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: REFORMED EPISCOPAL 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.....	69	74	79	8,651	11,050	9,632	174	8,143	334	2.1
New York.....	4	7	7	518	744	800	4	454	60	0.9
New Jersey.....	3	2	2	243	234	212	45	198	—	18.5
Pennsylvania.....	13	15	14	3,200	4,352	3,564	44	2,907	249	1.5
Ohio.....	2	2	2	403	476	557	25	378	—	6.2
Illinois.....	5	5	8	970	1,501	1,663	4	906	—	0.4
Maryland.....	3	4	3	391	485	332	4	387	—	1.0
South Carolina.....	36	35	38	2,753	3,017	2,252	23	2,730	—	0.8
Other States.....	3	4	4	173	241	212	25	123	25	16.9

¹ Based on membership with age classification reported.

**TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:
REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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

STATE	Total number of churches		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	69	77	69	\$2,455,850	14	\$106,894	11	\$130,200	2	\$3,700
New York.....	4	6	4	194,000	1	2,700	(1)			
New Jersey.....	3	3	3	183,000			(1)			
Pennsylvania.....	13	14	13	1,504,500	3	76,000	5	77,000	1	1,200
Illinois.....	5	7	5	279,000	1	7,500	(1)			
Maryland.....	3	4	3	110,000	1	18,000				
South Carolina.....	36	36	36	59,850	8	2,694	(1)			
Other States ²	5	7	5	125,500			6	53,200	1	2,500

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

² The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 5 churches in New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and South Carolina.

**TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
REFORMED EPISCOPAL 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.	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
United States	69	67	\$242,668	\$202,181	\$40,487	59	696	6,174
New York.....	4	4	19,405	17,135	2,270	3	28	289
New Jersey.....	3	3	26,054	24,317	1,737	3	43	409
Pennsylvania.....	13	13	115,756	94,370	21,386	12	277	2,660
Illinois.....	5	4	27,860	20,748	7,112	5	112	1,125
Maryland.....	3	3	13,340	12,890	450	3	42	234
South Carolina.....	36	35	18,417	12,470	5,947	28	160	1,216
Other States.....	5	5	21,836	20,251	1,585	5	34	241

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

SYNOD	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	69	8,651	69	\$2,455,850	14	\$106,894	67	\$242,668	59	6,174
Chicago.....	7	1,373	7	391,000	1	7,500	6	39,310	7	1,269
New York and Philadelphia.....	26	4,525	26	2,005,000	5	96,700	26	184,941	24	3,689
Special Missionary Jurisdiction of the South.....	36	2,753	36	59,850	8	2,694	35	18,417	28	1,216

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION¹**DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY**

At the sixth conference of the Evangelical Alliance in New York in October, 1873, a communion service was held in the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, in which Dr. Payne Smith, Dean of Canterbury, and Bishop George David Cummins, of Kentucky, participated. This was at the time of the intense discussion in the Protestant Episcopal Church concerning ritual, and Dean Smith and Bishop Cummins were subjected to some very severe and unfriendly criticisms for participating in this union communion service. Bishop Cummins had for some time felt disturbed at the apparently ritualistic tendencies of his church, and the loss—as he thought—of true catholicity, and so keenly did he feel these criticisms as new evidence of these tendencies that, on November 10, he withdrew. A number of others shared his opinions, and on a call from him, 7 clergymen and 20 laymen met in New York City on December 2, and organized the Reformed Episcopal Church. Bishop Cummins was chosen as presiding bishop, and the Rev. Dr. Charles Edward Cheney was elected a bishop and was subsequently consecrated in Chicago.

The name Reformed Episcopal was chosen because of the belief of the founders of the new movement that the same principles were adopted which were the basis of the Anglican Church at the Reformation—which is known in law as the "Reformed Church of England"—and also of the Protestant Episcopal Church when fully organized after the American Revolution.

The Reformed Episcopal Church has identified itself with the various movements for church unity, is a constituent member of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and is in close relation with the Liturgical Free Churches of England.

DOCTRINE

In doctrine the Reformed Episcopal Church declares its belief in the Scriptures as the Word of God and the sole rule of faith and practice; and it accepts the Apostles' Creed, the divine institution of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the doctrines of grace, substantially as set forth in the Thirty-nine Articles of the Protestant Episcopal Church. It rejects the doctrine that the Lord's table is an altar on which the oblation of the body and blood of Christ is offered anew to the Father; that the presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper is a presence in the elements of bread and wine; and that regeneration is inseparably connected with baptism.

ORGANIZATION

The polity accords with that of the Protestant Episcopal Church, except that it looks upon episcopacy as an ancient and desirable form of church government rather than as of divine right. It rejects, as erroneous doctrine and contrary to God's Word, the position that the Church of Christ consists of only one order of ecclesiastical polity; and that Christian ministers are priests in any other sense than that in which all other believers are "a royal priesthood."

The Reformed Episcopal Church recognizes the Christian character of members of other branches of Christ's Church and receives them on letters dimissory. It does not demand the reordination of clergymen, duly ordained in other communions, who enter its ranks. It holds, however, that, through its bishops, who alone have the right to confirm and ordain, it has preserved intact the

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 Rev. William A. Freemantle, secretary of the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church, and approved by him in its present form.

historic succession of the ministry. Unlike the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the bishops do not constitute a separate house in the General Council. They preside over synods or jurisdictions which correspond to dioceses and jurisdictions of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

For worship the church accepts the Book of Common Prayer as revised by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1785, but holds that no liturgy should be imperative or repressive of freedom in prayer, and reserves full liberty to alter, abridge, enlarge, and amend the same, as may seem best, "provided that the substance of the faith be kept entire."

WORK

The Board of Home Missions cares for the weak parishes in the organization, conducts work among Negroes in the South, and provides a part of the salaries of missionary bishops. The report for 1926 shows 19 missionaries employed; 39 churches aided; and contributions for the support of the work, amounting to \$6,147.

The Board of Foreign Missions carries on work in India, in 8 stations, with 6 missionaries and 20 native helpers. There are 17 primary schools; 15 preaching stations; 2 hospitals, in which about 45,000 persons received treatment during the year; and 1 orphanage, with 53 inmates. The property in India is valued at \$20,000, and there is an endowment of \$152,000. The amount contributed for the foreign work in 1926 was \$46,261.

The educational work in the United States is confined to a theological seminary in Philadelphia, with 20 students. The seminary has also a preparatory department. The property is valued at \$90,000, and there is an endowment of \$190,000. The contributions for educational work during the year were \$25,929.

There are 90 Christian Endeavor societies, with 2,250 members.