

# CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

## STATISTICS

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

The membership of this denomination consists of persons who profess conscious regeneration, and who are also in harmony with the articles of faith of the denomination.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	25	7	18		
<b>Members</b> .....	939	299	640	31.8	68.2
Average per church.....	38	43	36		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	367	90	277	24.5	75.5
Female.....	572	209	363	36.5	63.5
Males per 100 females.....	64.2	43.1	76.3		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....	19	4	15		
13 years and over.....	898	295	603	32.9	67.1
Age not reported.....	22		22		
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	2.1	1.3	2.4		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	19	5	14		
Value—Churches reporting.....	19	5	14		
Amount reported.....	\$22,050	\$7,900	\$14,150	35.8	64.2
Average per church.....	\$1,161	\$1,580	\$1,011		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	6	3	3		
Amount reported.....	\$865	\$294	\$571	34.0	66.0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	9	2	7		
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	24	6	18		
Amount reported.....	\$7,098	\$2,875	\$4,223	40.5	59.5
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$5,472	\$2,205	\$3,267	40.3	59.7
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$1,626	\$670	\$956	41.2	58.8
Average expenditure per church.....	\$296	\$479	\$235		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	23	6	17		
Officers and teachers.....	146	43	103	29.5	70.5
Scholars.....	1,175	410	765	34.9	65.1

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

<sup>3</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 25 active Congregational Holiness churches, with 939 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by all of the 25 churches and the classification by age was reported by 24 churches, including, however, only 7 which reported any members under 13 years of age. No parsonages were reported.

This denomination was organized since the 1916 census of religious bodies and no comparative data are available.

**State tables.**—Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Congregational Holiness Church by States. Table 2 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 3 gives the number and membership of the churches, together with the membership classified as under 13 years of age and 13 years of age and over. Table 4 shows the value of church edifices and the debt on such property. Table 5 presents the church expenditures for 1926, 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 4 and 5 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 2.

**TABLE 2.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS 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 ( <sup>1</sup> )
United States.....	25	7	18	939	299	640	367	572	64.2
South Atlantic:									
South Carolina.....	3	1	2	61	25	36	31	30	
Georgia.....	21	5	16	839	235	604	326	513	63.5
East South Central:									
Alabama.....	1	1		39	39		10	29	

<sup>1</sup> Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

**TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, BY STATES, 1926: CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH**

STATE	Number of churches	Number of members	MEMBERSHIP BY AGE			
			Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
United States.....	25	939	19	898	22	2.1
South Carolina.....	3	61		61		
Georgia.....	21	839	19	798	22	2.3
Alabama.....	1	39		39		

<sup>1</sup> Based on membership with age classification reported.

TABLE 4.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS 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	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
United States.....	25	19	19	\$22,050	6	\$865
Georgia.....	21	17	17	18,050	5	637
Other States.....	4	2	2	4,000	1	228

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
CONGREGATIONAL HOLINESS CHURCH

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.....	25	24	\$7,098	\$5,472	\$1,626	23	146	1,175
South Carolina.....	3	3	1,100	746	354	3	23	180
Georgia.....	21	20	15,998	14,726	11,272	19	117	930
Alabama.....	1	1				1	6	65

<sup>1</sup> Amount for Alabama combined with figures for Georgia, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

## HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION <sup>1</sup>

### DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Congregational Holiness Church was organized January 19, 1921. It was a separation from the Pentecostal Holiness Church, by a number of ministers and entire congregations who desired to establish a church having a congregational form of government, but retaining its holiness belief; the new denomination was accordingly called "The Congregational Holiness Church."

### DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

This denomination acknowledges belief in the Trinity, the inspiration of the Scriptures, justification through repentance and faith, sanctification, divine healing (but does not condemn medical science), the personal second coming of Christ, eternal punishment or eternal glory, the merits of the atonement, and the salvation of the entire church. Baptism, foot washing, and the Lord's Supper are the ordinances of the church, the candidate being allowed liberty of conscience in the mode of baptism and in the matter of foot washing, while all Christians are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper. The crowning blessing of religious experience is believed to be the baptism of the Holy Ghost, manifested by power to speak in other tongues.

The conditions of membership are as follows: The candidate must know he is born of God; must be in harmony with the articles of faith of the denomination;

<sup>1</sup> This statement was furnished by Rev. B. L. Cox, assistant editor, The Gospel Messenger, Piedmont, Ala., and approved by him in its present form.

must abstain from the use of tobacco and slang and "other things that are contrary to holy living"; and must take the Bible as his rule of conduct. No one who belongs to oath-bound secret societies will be received as a member.

The form of government is congregational. The highest governing body of the denomination is the General Association, delegates to which are elected by the annual associations. Church officers are elected annually. Each church is authorized to elect 3 trustees of church property, 1 deacon for every 20 members, or fractional part thereof, and a secretary and treasurer. Each church also has the authority to elect its own pastor by a majority vote of its membership. Women may be licensed to preach, but are not ordained.

#### WORK

The church issues a periodical—The Gospel Messenger—which is published twice a month, as the official organ of the church. It also issues Sunday school literature.

There are no schools or colleges under the management of the church at present.