

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	303	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

METROPOLITAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION

STATISTICS

Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.—A general summary of the statistics for the Metropolitan Church Association 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 congregations of the Metropolitan Church Association are those persons who, having made profession of conversion, or new birth, have subscribed to the doctrine of the church and continue to live a Christian life.

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

ITEM	Total	In urban territory ¹	In rural territory ¹	PER CENT OF TOTAL ²	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	40	28	12		
Members.....	1,113	970	143	87.2	12.8
Average per church.....	28	35	12		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	443	398	45	89.8	10.2
Female.....	650	552	98	84.9	15.1
Sex not reported.....	20	20			
Males per 100 females.....	68.2	72.1	(³)		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	312	273	39	87.5	12.5
13 years and over.....	779	677	102	86.9	13.1
Age not reported.....	22	20	2		
Per cent under 13 years ⁴	28.6	28.7	27.7		
Church edifices:					
Number.....	5	3	2		
Value—Churches reporting.....	4	2	2		
Amount reported.....	\$201,650	\$200,100	\$1,550	99.2	0.8
Average per church.....	\$50,413	\$100,050	\$775		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1	1			
Amount reported.....	\$38,500	\$38,500		100.0	
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	1	1			
Parsonages:					
Value—Churches reporting.....	1	1			
Amount reported.....	\$3,800	\$3,800		100.0	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1	1			
Amount reported.....	\$1,500	\$1,500		100.0	
Expenditures during year:					
Churches reporting.....	34	24	10		
Amount reported.....	\$107,580	\$100,032	\$6,948	93.5	6.5
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$86,726	\$82,911	\$3,815	95.6	4.4
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$20,854	\$17,721	\$3,133	85.0	15.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,164	\$4,193	\$695		
Sunday schools:					
Churches reporting.....	33	22	11		
Officers and teachers.....	138	97	41	70.3	29.7
Scholars.....	1,618	1,246	372	77.0	23.0

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, the number of females being less than 100.

⁴ Based on membership with age classification reported.

The data given for 1926 represent 40 active organizations of the Metropolitan Church Association, with 1,113 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 39 churches and the classification by age was reported by 38 churches, including 24 which reported members under 13 years of age.

Comparative data, 1906-1926.—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: METROPOLITAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION

ITEM	1926	1916	1906
Churches (local organizations).....	40	7	6
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	33	1	
Per cent ¹			
Members.....	1,113	704	466
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	409	238	
Per cent.....	58.1	51.1	
Average membership per church.....	28	101	78
Church edifices:			
Number.....	5	1	4
Value—Churches reporting.....	4	1	4
Amount reported.....	\$201,650	\$100,000	\$118,300
Average per church.....	\$50,413	\$100,000	\$29,575
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1	1	3
Amount reported.....	\$38,500	\$40,000	\$74,000
Parsonages:			
Value—Churches reporting.....	1		1
Amount reported.....	\$3,800		\$13,000
Debt—Churches reporting.....	1		
Amount reported.....	\$1,500		
Expenditures during year:			
Churches reporting.....	34	4	
Amount reported.....	\$107,580	\$80,635	
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$86,726	\$69,305	
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$20,854	\$11,330	
Average expenditure per church.....	\$3,164	\$20,159	
Sunday schools:			
Churches reporting.....	33	3	4
Officers and teachers.....	138	35	29
Scholars.....	1,618	423	360

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

State tables.—Tables 3, 4, and 5 present the statistics for the Metropolitan Church Association 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 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 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported expenditures, in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. Separate presentation, by States, of the value of church property and the debt on such property is omitted, for the same reason. The States omitted from these tables can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: METROPOLITAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	To- tal	Ur- ban	Ru- ral	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not re- ported	Males per 100 females (¹)
United States	40	28	12	1, 113	970	143	443	650	20	68. 2
New England:										
Massachusetts.....	1	1		32	32		12	20		
Rhode Island.....	2	1	1	4	2	2	1	3		
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	1	1		8	8		3	5		
New Jersey.....	1	1		30	30		15	15		
Pennsylvania.....	2	1	1	31	11	20	10	21		
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	1		1	8		8	3	5		
Illinois.....	4	4		56	56		16	40		
Michigan.....	6	6		207	207		89	118		75. 4
Wisconsin.....	6	4	2	500	476	24	206	274	20	75. 2
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	4	3	1	71	50	21	35	36		
Iowa.....	4	3	1	115	80	35	38	77		
Missouri.....	1	1		5	5		1	4		
South Dakota.....	1		1	14		14	5	9		
South Atlantic:										
Virginia.....	1		1	6		6	3	3		
Florida.....	1	1		5	5		1	4		
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	1		1	2		2		2		
Tennessee.....	1		1	8		8	3	5		
West South Central:										
Oklahoma.....	1		1	3		3		3		
Pacific:										
Washington.....	1	1		8	8		2	6		

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: METROPOLITAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION

[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 re- ported	Per cent under 13 ¹
United States	40	7	6	1, 113	704	466	312	779	22	28. 6
Illinois.....	4	1	2	56	30	110	7	49		
Michigan.....	6			207			92	115		44. 4
Wisconsin.....	6	1	2	500	399	290	103	377	20	21. 5
Minnesota.....	4	1		71	5		47	24		
Iowa.....	4			115			33	82		28. 7
Other States	16	4	2	164	270	66	30	132	2	18. 5

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

TABLE 5.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:
METROPOLITAN CHURCH ASSOCIATION

[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.....	40	34	\$107,530	\$86,726	\$20,854	33	138	1,618
Illinois.....	4	3	4,229	2,217	2,012	3	7	48
Michigan.....	6	6	11,745	9,282	2,463	6	30	367
Wisconsin.....	6	5	74,337	66,498	7,839	6	41	536
Iowa.....	4	4	3,450	2,550	900	4	18	287
Other States.....	20	16	13,819	6,179	7,640	14	42	380

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION ¹

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

This organization, sometimes called the "Burning Bush," is an outgrowth of the Metropolitan Methodist Church, of Chicago, Ill., and was organized in one of the most densely settled districts of that city. It found its impulse in a revival movement in 1894 and has increased until it now has churches in various parts of the country, and it also conducts fairly extensive foreign missionary work. The headquarters of the organization are at Waukesha, Wis.

DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

In doctrine and practice the Metropolitan Church Association resembles the early Methodists. Its one aim has always been to give the gospel free to the poor, indeed to all; and especially to give to the helpless and outcast another chance for a life of usefulness.

It does not emphasize a creed, except such as may be found in the Scriptures themselves. It published a discipline setting forth articles of faith that are purely evangelical in nature and simple enough for a child to comprehend.

In 1918 a charter was secured in the State of Wisconsin, and an organization was perfected among the ordained preachers working under the denomination. A set of by-laws was adopted, providing for government through a board of trustees and an auxiliary board of stewards. The establishment of new classes and churches was also provided for, which are recognized as branches and presided over by ministers appointed by the board of trustees.

The association is conducted as a faith organization, and no one connected with it receives any salary or regular payment of any kind for work done. It has a number of ordained ministers, who do not receive regular salaries, nor do they solicit gifts in any way. Individual members make it a rule of life not to hold any property which can be sold and the proceeds applied to the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ. The Scripture text, "Sell that thou hast, and distribute to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven," is thus made a literal rule of practice throughout the organization. The practice of sharing temporal benefits equally is also a rule in the association. All money received, from whatever source, is turned into the treasury and distributed for the gen-

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. J. H. Barnes, secretary, Metropolitan Church Association, and approved by him in its present form.

eral advancement of the association work. In the conduct of the schools and institutions no charge is made for board or tuition, but all are expected to contribute their work for the general welfare.

WORK

The special feature of the association is its evangelistic work, which is carried on in all parts of the country. A party of from one to five persons may go to some point where evangelistic services are desired and carry on this work, without charge, in a tent or hall hired for the purpose, continuing as long as the interest warrants, and may organize a local class and leave a pastor in charge. During the year 1926 an extensive evangelistic program of this kind was carried out.

The foreign missionary work was also greatly advanced during 1926. One new mission station was opened in the India district and work was opened in Norway. Ten missionaries sailed to take up the work in these fields and to aid in the missions already established. Definite plans were concluded for a new opening in Africa and arrangements made for four missionaries to take up this work.

The mission station at Glasgow, Scotland, began the publication of a paper, *The Message of Victory*, and also opened a Bible and training school. A paper, *The India Burning Bush*, is published by the Metropolitan missions at Siwait, India.

The association conducts a large Bible School and training home for Christian workers at Waukesha, Wis. It operates at the same place an extensive publishing plant where the official organ, *The Burning Bush*, and also the *Gospel Art Calendar*, *Scripture Text Mottoes*, and numerous books, leaflets, and tracts are published.

It conducts an orphans' home at Waukesha, in which there are about 40 children, and these are educated at the private school of the association.