

## SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL BODIES

### GENERAL STATEMENT

The movement away from the state churches in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark has found expression in the United States in the formation of three bodies, as follows: The Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America, the Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America, and the Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association of North America.

The bodies included in the group in 1926, 1916, and 1906 are listed below, with the principal statistics as reported for the two periods. The Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America was organized as the Swedish Evangelical Free Mission; and other slight changes in names will be noted between the last two censuses.

#### SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE SCANDINAVIAN EVANGELICAL 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
<b>1926</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	505	48,785	481	\$7,490,579	486	\$1,954,860	443	56,177
Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America.....	357	36,838	340	5,301,379	344	1,402,398	312	41,050
Swedish Evangelical Free Church of the United States of America.....	107	8,166	101	1,228,700	102	329,644	95	11,250
Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association of North America.....	41	3,781	40	960,500	40	222,818	36	3,877
<b>1916</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	458	37,816	439	3,053,838	441	722,535	431	41,701
Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America.....	324	29,164	310	2,295,172	311	522,352	305	30,937
Swedish Evangelical Free Church.....	102	6,208	98	480,966	98	144,303	95	8,672
Norwegian—Danish Free Church.....	32	2,444	31	277,700	32	55,880	31	2,092
<b>1906</b>								
<b>Total for the group</b> .....	407	27,712	379	1,638,675			373	32,504
Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America.....	281	20,760	261	1,225,220			258	24,888
Swedish Evangelical Free Mission.....	126	6,952	118	413,455			115	7,616

# NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association 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.

In the Norwegian and Danish Free Church all persons on the rolls as communicants in good standing are counted as members.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	
				Urban	Rural
Churches (local organizations).....	41	28	13		
<b>Members</b> .....	3,781	3,212	569	85.0	15.0
Average per church.....	92	115	44		
Membership by sex:					
Male.....	1,495	1,251	244	83.7	15.3
Female.....	2,186	1,861	325	85.1	14.9
Sex not reported.....	100	100		100.0	
Males per 100 females.....	68.4	67.2	75.1		
Membership by age:					
Under 13 years.....	33	1	32		
13 years and over.....	3,618	3,081	537	85.2	14.8
Age not reported.....	130	130		100.0	
Per cent under 13 years <sup>3</sup> .....	0.9	( <sup>4</sup> )	5.6		
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	42	29	13		
Value—Churches reporting.....	40	27	13		
Amount reported.....	\$960,500	\$914,000	\$46,500	95.2	4.8
Average per church.....	\$24,013	\$33,852	\$3,577		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	25	21	4		
Amount reported.....	\$118,073	\$115,123	\$2,950	97.5	2.5
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	13	5	8		
<b>Parsonages:</b>					
Value—Churches reporting.....	10	6	4		
Amount reported.....	\$53,900	\$41,900	\$12,000	77.7	22.3
Debt—Churches reporting.....	5	2	3		
Amount reported.....	\$13,450	\$9,000	\$4,450	66.9	33.1
Churches reporting "no debt" on parsonage.....	5	4	1		
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	40	27	13		
Amount reported.....	\$222,818	\$204,813	\$18,005	91.9	8.1
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$167,506	\$156,092	\$11,414	93.2	6.8
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$52,587	\$48,721	\$3,866	92.6	7.4
Not classified.....	\$2,725		\$2,725		100.0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$5,570	\$7,586	\$1,385		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	36	26	10		
Officers and teachers.....	460	398	62	86.5	13.5
Scholars.....	3,877	3,443	434	88.8	11.2

<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.

<sup>4</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1303

The data given for 1926 represent 41 active Norwegian and Danish Free churches, with 3,781 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 40 churches and the classification by age was reported by 39 churches, including, however, only 3 which reported any members under 13 years of age.

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

**TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1926 AND 1916: NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA**

ITEM	1926	1916
<b>Churches (local organizations)</b> .....	41	32
Increase over preceding census:		
Number.....	9	
Per cent <sup>1</sup> .....		
<b>Members</b> .....	3,781	2,444
Increase over preceding census:		
Number.....	1,337	
Per cent.....	54.7	
Average membership per church.....	92	76
<b>Church edifices:</b>		
Number.....	42	31
Value—Churches reporting.....	40	31
Amount reported.....	\$960,500	\$277,700
Average per church.....	\$24,013	\$8,958
Debt—Churches reporting.....	25	23
Amount reported.....	\$118,073	\$85,138
<b>Parsonages:</b>		
Value—Churches reporting.....	10	5
Amount reported.....	\$53,900	\$13,300
Debt—Churches reporting.....	5	
Amount reported.....	\$13,450	
<b>Expenditures during year:</b>		
Churches reporting.....	40	32
Amount reported.....	\$222,818	\$55,880
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$167,506	\$39,941
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$52,587	\$13,987
Not classified.....	\$2,725	\$1,952
Average expenditure per church.....	\$5,570	\$1,746
<b>Sunday schools:</b>		
Churches reporting.....	36	31
Officers and teachers.....	460	274
Scholars.....	3,877	2,092

<sup>1</sup> Per cent not shown where base is less than 100.

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Norwegian and Danish Free 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 censuses of 1926 and 1916, 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.

**TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION 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 <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>41</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3,781</b>	<b>3,212</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>1,495</b>	<b>2,186</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>68.4</b>
<b>New England:</b>										
Massachusetts.....	2	2	---	152	152	---	57	95	---	---
Connecticut.....	3	3	---	197	197	---	77	120	---	64.2
<b>Middle Atlantic:</b>										
New York.....	5	5	---	823	823	---	346	477	---	72.5
New Jersey.....	1	1	---	104	104	---	46	58	---	---
<b>East North Central:</b>										
Illinois.....	4	4	---	973	973	---	371	602	---	61.6
Michigan.....	1	1	---	48	48	---	17	31	---	---
Wisconsin.....	6	5	1	499	409	90	181	218	100	83.0
<b>West North Central:</b>										
Minnesota.....	9	3	6	495	263	232	187	308	---	60.7
Iowa.....	1	---	1	52	---	52	20	32	---	---
North Dakota.....	5	2	3	287	145	142	127	160	---	79.4
Nebraska.....	1	---	1	38	---	38	18	20	---	---
<b>Pacific:</b>										
Washington.....	2	2	---	98	98	---	39	59	---	---
Oregon.....	1	---	1	15	---	15	9	6	---	---

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

**TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, 1926 AND 1916, AND MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926, BY STATES: NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA**

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

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES		NUMBER OF MEMBERS		MEMBERSHIP BY AGE, 1926			
	1926	1916	1926	1916	Under 13 years	13 years and over	Age not reported	Per cent under 13 <sup>1</sup>
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>41</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3,781</b>	<b>2,444</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3,618</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Connecticut.....	3	1	197	130	---	197	---	---
New York.....	5	5	823	631	---	823	---	---
Illinois.....	4	4	973	665	---	973	---	---
Wisconsin.....	6	7	499	264	32	367	100	8.0
Minnesota.....	9	2	495	70	1	494	---	0.2
Iowa.....	1	3	52	112	---	52	---	---
North Dakota.....	5	3	287	113	---	257	30	---
Nebraska.....	1	3	38	80	---	38	---	---
Other States.....	7	4	417	379	---	417	---	---

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

NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1305

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926:  
NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION 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.....	41	42	40	\$360,590	25	\$118,973	10	\$53,900	5	\$13,480
New York.....	5	6	5	184,000	5	44,950	—	—	—	—
Illinois.....	4	5	4	244,000	3	30,000	—	(1)	—	—
Wisconsin.....	6	6	6	92,500	4	5,200	4	24,400	2	5,300
Minnesota.....	9	9	9	113,200	4	11,850	—	(1)	—	(3)
North Dakota.....	5	5	5	51,000	3	9,700	—	(1)	—	—
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	12	11	11	275,800	6	16,873	6	29,500	3	8,180

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

<sup>2</sup> The figures for parsonages (value and debt) include data for 3 churches in Illinois, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
NORWEGIAN AND DANISH EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH ASSOCIATION 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.....	41	40	\$222,818	\$167,506	\$52,587	\$2,725	36	460	2,877
Connecticut.....	3	3	16,248	7,174	9,074	—	3	33	187
New York.....	5	5	49,942	40,541	9,401	—	5	100	1,101
Illinois.....	4	4	86,721	69,957	16,764	—	4	90	949
Wisconsin.....	6	5	14,763	11,657	3,106	—	5	79	505
Minnesota.....	9	9	15,719	8,714	4,280	2,725	7	58	416
North Dakota.....	5	5	14,254	13,024	1,230	—	4	21	183
Other States.....	9	9	25,171	16,439	8,732	—	8	79	536

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

DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

The Norwegian and Danish Free Church movement traces its origin to the spiritual awakening that swept over Norway in the early part of the nineteenth century, and to the conditions which made it necessary for those who were brought under the influence of the movement later to separate from the State Church and organize what were called Free Churches.<sup>2</sup> Similar movements were spreading in other countries, with which the movement from Norway and Denmark has found bonds of fellowship, especially that earlier movement in England, which resulted in the founding of the Congregational denomination.

<sup>1</sup> 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. E. S. Eielsen, secretary of the Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association, and approved by him in its present form.

<sup>2</sup> See Scandinavian Evangelical bodies, p. 1289.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century there was a sufficient number of Norwegian and Danish Free churches in the United States to organize into two associations, one in the Eastern States and one in the Middle West. Recently there have been organized district associations in North Dakota and on the Pacific coast. These associations, as well as each church, held bonds of fellowship with the Congregational denomination.

In the year 1910 representatives of the two associations met in Chicago and organized the Norwegian and Danish Evangelical Free Church Association of North America, still maintaining the Eastern and Western associations as district organizations to look after local work. In the national organization all the churches, represented by delegates, and with their pastors and teachers, meet annually for conference and business.

#### DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION

In doctrine, the association is strictly evangelical, believing the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, and accepting without question its authority in all things. The local churches have the congregational form of government.

#### WORK

Home missionary work is now being carried on through four district associations, working in harmony with the national organization, and partly, also, through the Congregational Home Missionary Society. Foreign missionary work is carried on in South Africa, South America, India, and China, conducted through the Scandinavian Missionary Alliance.

Two orphanages are conducted, one in Jersey City and one in Chicago. A school is located in Minneapolis, Minn. In connection with a full theological course, this school also furnishes business and academic courses.